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## OCCUPATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

### **Healthy Development Measurement Tool: A Health Impact Assessment Method to Support Healthy Cities and Neighborhoods**

Health Impact Assessment (HIA) refers to the methods used to inform policy-makers about how policies, plans, programs, or projects can affect health, health behaviors, and social resources necessary for health. HIA reflects growing scientific understanding that optimal health cannot be achieved by health services and individual behaviors alone but also through healthful neighborhood conditions including adequate housing; access to public transit, schools, parks and public spaces; safe routes for pedestrians and bicyclists; meaningful and productive employment; unpolluted air, soil, and water; and, cooperation, trust, and civic participation.

For the past two years, the SF Department of Public Health has facilitated the Eastern Neighborhoods Community Health Impact Assessment (ENCHIA), in order understand how development in several San Francisco neighborhoods can help create conditions for optimal health. Involving a Community Council of over 20 diverse organizations, the ENCHIA developed a vision of a healthy San Francisco, identified measurable community health planning objectives, produced data and maps to assess how San Francisco is meeting these objectives, and researched urban policy strategies to support health.

The experience and research of ENCHIA is now being integrated into a **Healthy Development Measurement Tool** to support evidence-based and health-oriented planning and policy-making. As currently drafted, the components of the **Tool** include:

- **Twenty-two Healthy City Vision Objectives** organized into four elements that, if achieved, would result in greater and more equitable health assets and resources for San Francisco residents.
- **Measurable Community Health Indicators** for each of the 22 objectives to help measure progress towards the objectives and evaluate the benefits of projects, plans, and policies.
- **Baseline Data** for each indicator to inform us how we are doing today.
- **Development Targets** to provide specific planning and development criteria that advance community health objectives.
- **Evidence-based Health Justifications** that provide a rationale for why achieving each target would improve human health.

The Tool is currently undergoing external technical review by local agencies and national experts. Following that review and pilot testing, participants in the ENCHIA process envision that this *Tool* will ultimately be used in a comprehensive way by many city agencies in comprehensive planning, in plan and project review, and in agency specific planning and budgeting. The Department of Public Health is committed to developing and maintaining this tool, supporting pilot applications in San Francisco, and monitoring community health indicators. The specific next steps for the project are outlined on the following page.

## **Next Steps for the Healthy Development Measurement Tool**

- 1) Produce a working final version of the *Healthy Development Measurement Tool* developed through ENCHIA.
  - Solicit and integrate comments from over 60 national technical reviewers and 14 City agencies
- 2) Develop *Healthy Development Measurement Tool* “User Guide” based on pilot testing.
  - Finalize data sources and data collection / manipulation methods
  - Apply / pilot test tool to at least one case at the project and plan level
  - Develop Tool application user guide for project and plan review based on pilot case study
- 3) Educate City agencies and non-ENCHIA organizations about the Tool and its potential uses.
  - Meet with Director of Planning, Board of Supervisors, SF City agencies to update on ENCHIA products, the HDMT, and its applications
  - Conduct outreach with non-ENCHIA participants to gain buy-in into process and Tool utilization; tell them about ENCHIA and its products, get input into the Tool, understand priority opportunities for application
  - Communicate Tool development and application lessons learned to APA, APHA, and other professional and community venues
  - Develop and conduct training on the tool for potential users
- 4) Develop the Tool into as web-based application for maintenance and dissemination.
  - Identify desired functionality of web application
  - Recruit consultant to develop and/or maintain web application
  - Develop web application
- 5) Apply the Tool to appropriate and constructive opportunities in San Francisco land use and transportation planning.
  - Establish a technical working group for application of the Tool
  - Identify priority constructive opportunities for Tool application through outreach
  - Apply Tool to projects and plans
  - Review assessment with technical working group
  - Disseminate findings to stakeholders and decision-makers
  - Monitor results
  - Document case studies