Optional | 12 points

Resident Health and Well-Being: Health Action Plan

Requirements

At pre-design and continuing throughout the project life cycle (design, construction, operations), collaborate with public health professionals and community stakeholders to assess, identify, implement and monitor achievable actions to enhance health-promoting features of the project and minimize features that could present risks to health. As compared to satisfying the requirements of Criterion 1.2a, compliance with this criterion requires a more rigorous association with public health professionals and more robust follow-up actions. Specifically, comply with Step 1 and Step 2 outlined here:

Step 1: Create a Health Action Plan

Purpose

Conduct additional research on resident health factors identified in 1.2a. Using public health data and community input, characterize how the project may impact—both positively and negatively—social, environmental and economic outcomes for residents and, in turn, promote or produce unintended negative consequences for health. Based on the best available evidence, prioritize actions that will protect and promote health in response to these potential social, environmental and economic impacts.

Participants

The primary participants are those on the project team, which will be guided by input from community stakeholders likely to be affected by the project, as well as technical assistance from public health professionals (ideally those with Health Impact Assessment [HIA] expertise). As described in Criterion 1.2a, community stakeholders may include community members who live in or may be served directly by the project; individuals who live, work or learn in the neighborhood surrounding the project; and those who provide services or programming in the building or in the neighborhood surrounding the project. Public health professionals may include those with expertise in public health or community health. Faculty or graduate students of public health programs, and staff of local health departments, public health institutes and/or community-based public health organizations are suggested examples of partners. See Resources for more suggested contacts.

Process

Gather information and solicit feedback regarding critical health aspects affecting the community (including social, environmental and economic factors that impact health). Hold a series of meetings with key stakeholders, including public health professionals and community stakeholders to facilitate collaboration and develop a plan for analyzing the project’s potential impacts on health, including:

- Conduct a scoping conversation with public health professionals and community stakeholders to identify the project’s potential connections to health. Prior to this scoping conversation, project teams could review and familiarize themselves with the connections between building design, construction and operation; neighborhood characteristics; and health. See the Resources section in Criterion 1.2.a for information about these connections to health.
• Gather evidence (including existing data sources, new qualitative research and/or public hearings, meetings with public health professionals) about the project’s potential connections to health and the baseline health of the community groups that could be impacted by the project.

• Outline the distribution of health issues among impacted communities and describe how different groups may be disproportionately impacted by the project (positively and negatively).

• Identify actions that could be taken to enhance health-supportive features of the project and those that could minimize potential health risks. Identify actions that can be taken within the project’s design, construction or operation that will promote health equity. As listed in Resources, Promoting Equity Through the Practice of Health Impact Assessment can provide guidance.

• Using the list of actions produced, prioritize actions to protect and promote health in consultation with public health professionals and community stakeholders. In identifying priority actions, project teams and stakeholders should use factors that include the actions’ likelihood of having significant effects on health and equity, responsiveness to community concerns, and feasibility of implementation to guide the prioritization process. Teams should consider the extent to which the actions will address health impacts of higher concern as well as the feasibility of implementation (in terms of cost, resources, technical constraints, etc.). Teams should provide a rationale for the selected strategies, as shown in the sample table found in Recommendations.

**Products**

• A description of key health issues (including social, environmental and economic factors) identified by stakeholders in the scoping conversation for assessing the project’s connections to health. See Recommendations for a sample chart that captures this information.

• A description of how engaging public health professionals and community stakeholders informed the list of key health issues to be addressed by this project. Submit separately from sample chart seen in Recommendations.

• List (or asset map) of public health and community stakeholders involved. Submit separately from sample chart seen in Recommendations.

• List of potential actions to protect and promote health. See Recommendations for a sample chart that captures this information.

• List of selected interventions; description of reasons for implementing selected actions and rationale for not selecting the other identified potential interventions for implementation; and summary of how the selected actions may address health equity. See Recommendations for a sample chart that captures this information.

**Step 2: Project Implementation and Monitoring**

**Purpose**

Integrate the list of selected interventions and a plan for monitoring and evaluating your progress into the plan for project development.
Process
• Document and demonstrate how the analysis in Step 1 informed building and site design decisions, including modifications that were made in response to the findings and recommended actions that were identified in the information-gathering and health action plan phases.
• Develop a monitoring plan with performance metrics to evaluate the project’s impact on resident health throughout the project life cycle (design, construction and operations).

Product
The plan should include:
• A summary of which modifications were made in response to the findings and recommended actions identified in the earlier phases. See Recommendations for a sample chart that captures this information.
• The performance metrics to be monitored. Include design metrics (metrics to determine how well the design team integrated the selected strategies into the project in a manner that will promote positive health outcomes), operations metrics (metrics that can be measured on a routine basis while the building is in operation to determine whether or not the building is performing as intended), and health metrics (metrics regarding resident health factors and, where possible, incidence or prevalence of key health outcomes in the resident and/or community population). See Recommendations for a sample chart that captures this information.
• Specific information on indicators, data sources, frequency, and roles and responsibilities for monitoring different information as per the sample chart in Recommendations in this section.
• Identify the individual or organization responsible for implementing and monitoring the selected strategy as well as the rate of how often the associated performance metrics will be monitored. See Recommendations for a sample chart that captures this information.

RATIONALE
Health Impact Assessments (HIAs) identify the potential effects of a proposed policy, project or program and offer practical options for maximizing health benefits and minimizing health risks. The process outlined in Criterion 1.2b does not include all steps of an HIA, but builds upon core HIA elements to allow project teams to identify and address important health issues. This process facilitates the identification of ways to optimize a project’s impacts on the health and engagement of key stakeholders, including public health experts and community stakeholders, throughout the project life cycle through a more cost-effective approach. To learn more about HIA, please reference the National Resource Council guidance on HIAs (see Resources section).
### RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Step 1: Create a Health Action Plan

**EXAMPLE OF PARTIAL PRODUCT FOR CRITERION 1.2B, STEP 1:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Health Issue and Population Group</th>
<th>Potential Interventions</th>
<th>Examples of Strategies</th>
<th>Was This Strategy Elected? (Yes/No)</th>
<th>If Selected, Indicate How This Strategy Will Be Implemented</th>
<th>Rationale for Selecting or Rejecting the Example Strategy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Incidence of Childhood Asthma</td>
<td>Eliminate or reduce use of potential asthmagens</td>
<td>Prioritize the specification of hard surface flooring</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Specification of linoleum for kitchens; cork flooring for bedrooms</td>
<td>High-impact strategy in terms of addressing health issue; also a flooring choice that reduces ongoing maintenance and replacement costs. Given the disparities in asthma rates by race, ethnicity and income in our community, this strategy will also help to address health equity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above-Average Prevalence of Childhood Obesity</td>
<td>Prioritize features that promote physical activity</td>
<td>Street infrastructure improvements to safely accommodate users of all ages, abilities and transportation modes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Our project team does not have the capacity to affect local transportation infrastructure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above-Average Prevalence of Childhood Obesity</td>
<td>Prioritize features that promote physical activity</td>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>We will be including a 100-square-foot playground as part of our project</td>
<td>This feature will provide a local, safe space for the families living in our development to play and socialize. Otherwise, closest playspace is 2 miles from project; not easily accessible. Given the disparities in childhood obesity rates by race, ethnicity and income in our community, this strategy will also help to address health equity.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Project teams may also want to identify programming features you intend to provide to residents, such as nutritional classes, cooking courses, etc.

#### Step 2: Implement and Monitor

**Definitions**

*Potential Performance Metrics:* List of methods that could be used to evaluate the impact of the selected strategies on the population need.

*Design Metrics:* Metrics to determine how well the design team, at the design stage, integrated the selected strategies into the project in a manner that will promote positive health outcomes.

*Operations Metrics:* Metrics that can be measured on a routine basis while the building is in operation to determine whether or not the building is performing as intended.
**Health Metrics:** Metrics regarding resident health factors and, where possible, incidence or prevalence of key health outcomes in the resident and/or community population.

**Selected Performance Metrics:** List of the specific Potential Performance Metrics that will be implemented.

**Roles, Responsibilities and Responsible Individual(s) and/or Organization(s):** List of the roles and responsibilities necessary to measure the Selected Performance Metrics, including the specific individual and/or organization selected to fill that role and/or responsibility. Identify individual(s) or organization(s) that would be accountable to take action if any adverse results are found.

**Frequency:** The rate of how often the Selected Performance Metrics will be evaluated.

### EXAMPLE OF PRODUCT FOR CRITERION 1.2B, STEP 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POPULATION NEED</th>
<th>SELECTED INTERVENTION(S)</th>
<th>SELECTED STRATEGY</th>
<th>POTENTIAL PERFORMANCE METRICS</th>
<th>SELECTED PERFORMANCE METRICS</th>
<th>RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUAL(S) AND/OR ORGANIZATION(S)</th>
<th>FREQUENCY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High incidence of childhood asthma</td>
<td>Eliminate or reduce use of potential asthmagens</td>
<td>Specification of linoleum for kitchens, cork flooring for bedrooms, etc.</td>
<td><strong>Design Metrics</strong> No carpet is specified in the project plans and specs. All flooring materials specified are hard surfaces.</td>
<td><strong>Design Metrics</strong> No carpet is specified in the project plans and specs. All flooring materials specified are hard surfaces.</td>
<td><strong>Design Metrics</strong> Architect to certify that no carpet was utilized in the project design/specifications. John Smith, ACME Inc., 123.456.7890</td>
<td><strong>Design Metrics</strong> To be certified on final plan set before construction start. <strong>Operations Metrics</strong> To be measured once each quarter. <strong>Health Metrics</strong> Annual survey</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Design Metrics**

Property manager will engage an IEQ consultant to measure formaldehyde levels in air once each quarter.

**Health Metrics**

Housing provider will annually collect self-reported rates of asthma incidents among residents and track them over the life of the project. Or, housing provider will work with local hospital or health system to track and monitor rates of admission and re-admission for asthma incidents.

Johnny Rocket, XYZ Company, 456.678.6789
### Example of Product for Criterion 1.2B, Step 2 (Continued)

#### Information Identified in Step 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Need</th>
<th>Selected Intervention(s)</th>
<th>Selected Strategy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Above average prevalence of childhood obesity</td>
<td>Prioritize physical activity promoting features; add outdoor lighting to playgrounds to allow use for more hours; add bike racks and storage</td>
<td>Add lighting to exterior park/playground areas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### New Table Cells in Step 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selected Performance Metrics</th>
<th>Responsible Individual(s) and/or Organization(s)</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Design Metrics Specific type of light used</td>
<td>Architect to certify that specs include appropriate lighting fixtures. John Smith, ACME Inc., 123.456.7890</td>
<td>Design Metrics To be certified on final plan set before construction start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations Metrics Area is well lit during all hours of operation</td>
<td>Maintenance technician to measure lighting density once each quarter. Jane Doe, Company Inc., 234.456.5678</td>
<td>Operations Metrics To be measured once each quarter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Metrics Self-reported rates of physical activity among residents; frequency of events/opportunities for physical activity and participation rates in these events; operations staff monitor playground use by keeping tally</td>
<td>Residential Services Coordinator Beth Smith 123.456.7890</td>
<td>Health Metrics Quarterly tracking of events and number of participants</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Transparency

- Share your Step 2 table through the Green Building Information Gateway (gbig.org) and the Health Impact Project (healthimpactproject@pewtrusts.org).

- Produce an acknowledgment page or letter(s) of support from public health professionals and community stakeholders. Receive documentation from community stakeholders regarding their involvement in the identification and prioritization of actions to protect and promote health (completed in Step 2) and their level of support for the health action plan. Note that project teams need to obtain consent from any community and team members to be listed in the acknowledgments page.

- Note where health-related items have been incorporated into project documentation, including plans and specifications.
RESOURCES

- Data sources for measuring baseline health: Provided in the Resources section of Criterion 1.2a. See also the Human Impact Partners resources listed below.

- The American Planning Association and the National Association of County and City Health Officials webinar, “Planning for Healthy Places with Health Impact Assessments”: This online course explains the value of and the steps involved in conducting an HIA. http://advance.captus.com/Planning/hia2/home.aspx

- The Mariposa Healthy Living Toolkit: This toolkit provides a guide for assessing the health conditions of residents and identifying opportunities to improve health during community redevelopment projects. http://mithun.com/special/Mariposa_Healthy_Living_Initiative/

- Health Impact Project’s interactive map of HIAs: This interactive map allows users to sort and analyze data on completed and in-progress HIAs in the U.S. www.pewtrusts.org/en/projects/health-impact-project

- The Surgeon General’s National Prevention Strategy: Healthy Communities factsheet: This document outlines actions that different organization types can take to support healthy and safe community environments. www.surgeongeneral.gov/initiatives/prevention/strategy/healthy-safe-environments.pdf


- Promoting Equity through the Practice of HIA: This document highlights strategies for and case examples of promoting equity through Health Impact Assessments. www.pewtrusts.org/en/-/media/Assets/External-Sites/Health-Impact-Project/PromotingEquityHIA_final.pdf

- Human Impact Partners: www.humanimpact.org/capacity-building/hia-tools-and-resources/
  Some suggested tools and resources for your use are:
  - Roles for Collaborators: This document provides examples of different partners that might be involved in a Health Impact Assessment and their roles.
  - Rapid HIA Model: This document provides guidance for conducting a Health Impact Assessment within a short timeline, while maintaining a high level of stakeholder engagement.
  - Data sources table: This table outlines data sources that may be useful in a Health Impact Assessment.

- Mithun Cultural Audit Tool: The Cultural Audit attempts to collect diverse community input from a broad constituency and helps to form a more inclusive picture of the community. http://stage2.mithun.com/projects/type/culturalaudit/
