

## 7.9 Conduct Health Impact Assessments

5 Points

20 Points

25 Points

### Objective

Integrate public health and equity considerations when developing and implementing projects, initiatives, and policies in sectors where the connection to health may not be immediately obvious.

A **Health Impact Assessment** (HIA) is a process that uses data, analysis and stakeholder input to determine the potential health impacts of a proposed policy, plan, program or project. A HIA also provides recommendations on monitoring and managing those effects.

### What to Do

Ideally, this Action will be led by your municipality's health department or health district, in collaboration with relevant municipal leaders and community stakeholders. If multiple health departments and districts collaborate to implement this action, each participating municipality will receive points.

*The more you do, the more points you earn.*

1. Have your elected officials and/or staff members participate in training on performing health impact assessments. Then have them give a presentation at a public meeting to your municipality's elected officials about health impact assessments and how your community can conduct one. **(5 points)**

**Submit:** The names and contact information of the individuals who attended the training; and the name of the training, the date it occurred and the organization that provided the training.

2. Conduct a health impact assessment (HIA) on a proposed project, initiative or policy in your community, facilitating opportunities for meaningful community engagement and public input at each step in the process. HIAs consider a broad view of health, including the social determinants. To complete the HIA, perform the following steps, which were adapted from the Health Impact Project's description of the [HIA Process](#). **(20 points)**

*All elements must be completed to receive credit.*

**a. Screening.** Through a partnership of your Sustainability Team and your municipality's public health department or regional health district, identify specific proposed projects, programs or policy decisions that an HIA could address. Consider feasibility in terms of available resources (like funding, time, data, and stakeholder interest), the importance of potential health outcomes, and the likelihood that the HIA may provide new and important information on previously unrecognized health issues. An HIA should always be conducted prospectively.

**b. Scoping.** With stakeholders, create specific objectives for the HIA, including a determination of the health effects to be addressed and populations to be impacted.

**c. Assessing.** Describe the baseline health of affected communities and the potential impacts of the decision. In the baseline health analysis, discuss the social determinants of health, like community walkability and food access. Explain how health risks and benefits fall among different subgroups, stratified by race and ethnicity, income, age and chronic illness status, among other possible groupings. You may obtain this information from your municipal health department's or district's community

health needs assessment, if any.

**d. *Recommending.*** Develop practical solutions for implementation within the political, economic or technical limitations of the project or policy you're assessing. These may include minimizing or mitigating potentially adverse health consequences or maximizing positive health impacts.

**e. *Reporting.*** To facilitate the adoption of your HIA's recommendations, strategically disseminate the findings to decision-makers, affected communities, and other stakeholders.

**f. *Monitoring and Evaluating.*** Monitor the changes in health or health risk factors and evaluate the efficacy of the HIA process and the measures your community implements.

**Submit:** A copy of the health impact assessment, evidence that the health impact assessment was strategically disseminated (either via email, in-person meeting(s), other channels, or some combination thereof), and a link to the health impact assessment on your municipality's website.

## Potential Municipal and Community Collaborators

Staff from your local health and planning departments may collaborate with other municipal departments and community collaborators relevant to each specific project undertaken.

## Funding

Below are potential funding sources specific to this Action. For a complete listing of potential funding opportunities to assist with implementing Sustainable CT Actions, please visit the [Sustainable CT Grants Portal](#), which is searchable by Action. Please also visit the [Sustainable CT Resources for Certification](#) page for opportunities for technical assistance and other supports.

- The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation provides [grant opportunities](#) for communities seeking to promote and conduct health impact assessments.

## Resources

### *Toolkits, Calculators, Guidance Documents*

- [National Center for Healthy Housing, "Health Impact Assessments"](#)
- [Health Impact Assessment for Healthy Places: A Guide for Planning and Public Health](#)
- [Promoting Equity through the Practice of Health Impact Assessment](#)
- [The Value of Health Impact Assessment to Community Partners](#)
- [Health Impact Assessments Study: A Report by the CT Academy of Science and Engineering for the CT General Assembly](#)

### *Organizations and Relevant Programs*

- [Health Impact Society](#)
- [Health Impact Project](#)

## Benefits

In addition to promoting health and well-being, the HIA process promotes equity across residential sectors, facilitates community building, and builds cross-disciplinary collaborations among your municipal staff.

## CT Success Stories

- [New-Britain Hartford Busway Project Rapid Health Impact Assessment](#)
- [New Haven, Route 34 East-Downtown Crossing Health Impact Assessment](#)

**Credit for Past Action**

- The training must have occurred within 3 years prior to application submission.
- The assessment must have been completed within 5 years prior to application submission.