

## Community of Practice for Health Impact Assessment

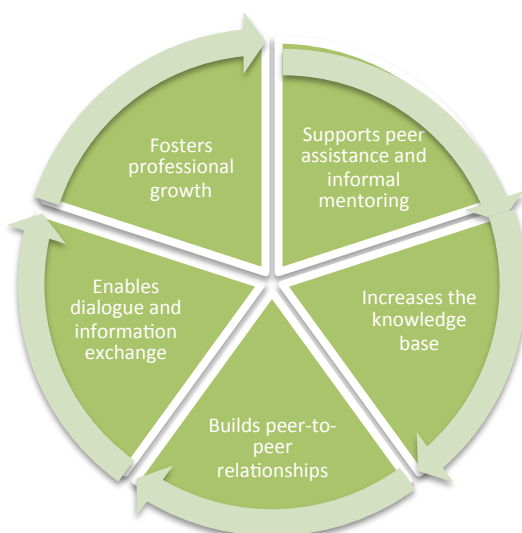


### Background

With a growing number of public health challenges and a recognized need to address the root causes of health outcomes, local health departments (LHDs) have been using health impact assessment (HIA), and other Health in All Policies (HiAP) approaches, to work strategically and innovatively with non-traditional partners to promote and protect the public's health by informing decision outcomes that do not routinely consider health. HIA provides a structured framework to integrate health considerations in proposed policies, programs, and plans. LHDs are important partners in HIA practice in the United States. Currently, a third of all HIAs are led by or involve a LHD.<sup>1</sup> The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) has had a long history of supporting efforts to promote HIA practice at LHDs.

### What is Health Impact Assessment?

Health impact assessment (HIA) is a structured process that brings together scientific data, public health expertise, and stakeholder input to assess the potential health and wellbeing consequences of a proposed policy, project, plan, or program that does not have health as its primary objective and to craft health-based recommendations. It is often seen as one component of an overall Health in All Policies approach towards decision-making that emphasizes collaborations and partnerships across sectors.



With support from Health Impact Project, NACCHO is continuing to foster HIA practice and leadership among LHD-based practitioners by instituting a Community of Practice (CoP), made up of HIA practitioners from across the country. The goal of the CoP is to promote the use of HIA among LHDs by providing a peer-to-peer collaborative environment to connect practitioners, share relevant information and innovative models of practice and lessons learned, and increase access to technical assistance, webinars, and other educational information or skill-building opportunities.

**Figure 1: NACCHO's Community of Practice Model**

### Benefits of CoP Membership:

- Participating in the CoP would provide you and your local health department an opportunity to improve and shape the HIA field, particularly practice at local health departments nationwide.
- You and your LHD would also be given a chance to network and learn from other local health department-based practitioners, contribute to developing needed resources, and build your subject matter expertise in HIA.
- You will also have increased access to technical assistance and timely access to information, such as upcoming funding opportunities.
- Additionally, CoP members will be given the opportunity to travel to the Washington DC to participate in the National HIA Meeting and an in-person CoP planning meeting in June 2015. Scholarships may be available.

### Community of Practice

NACCHO's Community of Practice (CoP) model is a peer-to-peer collaborative learning and sharing environment geared toward enhancing local health departments' utilization of innovative strategies and sparking ideas and conversations among practitioners.

### Criteria for participation:

- **Experience:** LHD-based practitioner has been involved in completing at least one HIA or is in the process of completing their first HIA.
- **Commitment to HIA and other Health in All Policies (HiAP) approaches:** LHD and health officer have a demonstrated commitment to conducting HIAs and other HiAP approaches.
- **Contribution to the field of LHD-based HIA practitioners:** Openness and willingness to share lessons learned, insights, obstacles, and successes with other LHD-based practitioners. Willingness to participate in advancing the field of LHD-based HIA practice and in defining and developing CoP work products and deliverables.
- **Commitment to participating:** Participation of LHD staff member with support for participation from the LHD health officer, which includes periodic meetings, webinars, and other communications. Members must be willing to serve on the CoP for at least one year.

### Interested in participating in the CoP?

For more information about the application process, please refer to NACCHO's HIA webpage: <http://www.naccho.org/topics/environmental/health-impact-assessment/index.cfm>

**Deadline to apply is 5:00 PM EDT, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015.**

## Components of the CoP:

The program will facilitate interaction and discussion among participants through:

- Potential travel to the National HIA Meeting and an in-person CoP meeting in Washington, DC in June 2015;
- Regular communication through periodic conference calls, emails, and use of an online web portal;
- Strategic visioning process and development of a scope of work;
- The design and creation of needed HIA resources as identified by the CoP, including webinars;
- Publication of an e-newsletter; and
- Increased and improved online presence focused on promoting HIA resources among all LHDs.
- The CoP will run from April 2015 through September 2016.

For more information and to stay up-to-date, visit NACCHO's HIA webpage at <http://www.naccho.org/topics/environmental/health-impact-assessment/index.cfm>

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<sup>1</sup> Based on analysis of Health Impact Project's HIA in the United States database, 1999 through July 2014.

**NACCHO**

National Association of County & City Health Officials

*The National Connection for Local Public Health*

[www.naccho.org](http://www.naccho.org)



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The mission of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is to be a leader, partner, catalyst, and voice for local health departments.

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