Health Impact Assessment
A Tool to Make Your Community Healthier

Health is affected by the conditions where we live, learn, work, and play:
- Transportation
- Food
- Health Care
- Economic Stability
- Housing
- Education
- Social Engagement
- Neighborhood Environment

These social determinants can be impacted by government policies and physical changes in our communities, such as a new development.

Health Impact Assessments (HIAs)

What is an HIA?
An HIA is a tool that assess and reports how a policy or project will impact the health of people living in the surrounding area, and makes recommendations on how to make the policy or project more health friendly.

HIA Goal:
To give a voice to community concerns, provide decision-makers with recommendations, and help ensure that health is protected and inequities are reduced.

When to perform HIA?
Before a project starts or a policy is finalized.

Who performs HIA?
Trained public health professionals from universities or health departments.

What is the HIA Process?
1. When a policy or development project is under consideration...
2. An HIA is automatically required or a community can request one be completed.
3. Public Health Professionals measure the project’s impact.
4. They review the project or policy, discuss with stakeholders and residents, and determine what action is needed to ensure the health of the affected community.
5. They report these findings to decision-makers.

Outcomes
- Transparency: the plans, dealings, and expected results of the project are clear to the community.
- Accountability: politicians and developers are held to certain agreed upon project standards.
- Equity: the health of marginalized, under-represented groups is prioritized.