

## HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT GENERIC SCREENING TOOL

Specific policy, program or project to be assessed: \_\_\_\_\_

Health impact assessment requires a broad definition of health. These are the definitions we have used in our own work.

*Health is more than not being sick. Health is a resource for everyday life—the ability to realize hopes, satisfy needs, change or cope with life experiences, and participate fully in society. Health has physical, mental, social and spiritual dimensions.<sup>1</sup>*

*Health is a product of individual factors (such as genes, beliefs, coping skills, and personal behaviors) combined with collective conditions (factors in the physical, social and economic environment.) The social and economic environment is a major determinant of population health that has not been a focus of most health improvement efforts in Minnesota.<sup>2</sup>*

The purpose of screening is to filter out projects that are either not appropriate or beyond the user's capabilities at this time. Circle one response for each question.

| <i><b>Tendency<br/>to do an<br/>HIA</b></i> | <b>To your knowledge:</b>   | <i><b>Tendency<br/>not to do an<br/>HIA</b></i> |
|---|---|---|
| Yes   | Are there potential positive and/or negative health impacts of the policy, program, or project to be assessed that need further investigation?  | No/ maybe                                       |
| No/ maybe                                   | Are there any major political obstacles/barriers to successfully completing a health impact assessment on this policy, program or project?  | Yes   |
| Yes/ maybe                                  | Are the individuals and organizations with a stake in this policy, program or project likely to buy into the HIA process?   | No  |
| Yes   | Is your organization willing to act as the lead agency in conducting the health impact assessment on this policy, program or project, <u>OR</u> have you contacted another organization that will?          | No  |
| Yes   | Are the combined resources of the lead agency and its partners likely to be sufficient to complete an HIA on this policy, program or project, or can resources be accessed?                                 | No  |
| Yes   | Can a health impact assessment on this policy, program, or project be completed within a time frame that is useful for influencing decision-making?   | No  |
| High<br>High                                | What is your sense of the likelihood that the health impacts of this policy, program or project might be intensified for disadvantaged groups?<br>Positive health impacts and/or<br>Negative health impacts | Moderate/ low<br>Moderate/ low                  |
| Yes/ maybe                                  | Is there already some discussion (a “buzz”) at the <u>policy</u> level about potential (or suspected) health impacts of this policy, program or project?  | No  |
| Yes/ maybe                                  | Is there already some discussion (a “buzz”) at the <u>community</u> level about potential (or suspected) health impacts of this policy, program or project?   | No  |
| Yes/ maybe                                  | Is there some reason to suspect that health issues not considered in the planning process of this policy, project or program might become more visible by doing an HIA?                                     | No  |
| No  | Is there already so <u>much</u> evidence, data, or experience out there regarding this policy, program or project that an HIA might be a waste of resources?  | Yes   |
| No  | Is there so <u>little</u> evidence, data, or experience regarding this policy, program or project that an HIA might not be possible?  | Yes   |

Please list just a few of the health impacts that you intuitively sense may occur as a result of the policy, program or project. Do not worry about specific details or evidence of these suspected impacts—those will be explored in depth in the appraisal stage.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

In looking over the answers you gave above, please summarize briefly why you do or do not think that this policy/program/project would be a good candidate for HIA at this time.

RESPONSE/RATIONALE: \_\_\_\_\_

If you do recommend that this policy, program or project is a good candidate for HIA at this time, which type of appraisal do you suggest, based on what you have recorded during the screening process? (See *Resource for Health Impact Assessment* for definitions and details of these choices, found at: [http://www.londonhealth.gov.uk/pdf/r\\_hia2.pdf](http://www.londonhealth.gov.uk/pdf/r_hia2.pdf))

| Which type of appraisal do you suggest for the proposed policy, program or project? |              |                  |                   |
|---|--------------|------------------|-------------------|
|   | Rapid HIA    | Intermediate HIA | Comprehensive HIA |
| Prospective   |              |                  |                   |
| Retrospective   |              |                  |                   |
| Concurrent  | Not possible |                  |                   |

RATIONALE: \_\_\_\_\_

References

1. Minnesota Health Improvement Partnership Social Conditions and Health Action Team. 2001. *A Call to Action*. St. Paul MN. P.3

2. Minnesota Health Improvement Partnership Social Conditions and Health Action Team. 2001. *A Call to Action*. St. Paul MN. P.4

This Screening Tool was adapted by the Minnesota Department of Health from:  
 London’s Health. 2000. *Resource for Health Impact Assessment, Section Two*. London: NHS Executive. Pp. 5-7.