

# Health Impact Assessment Information Sheet

## Why do a health impact assessment (HIA)?

Many of our urgent health problems are shaped by conditions in the places where we live, work, and play. In order to improve health, we want to routinely consider health when making policies that shape the world outside the doctor's office.

## What is a health impact assessment?

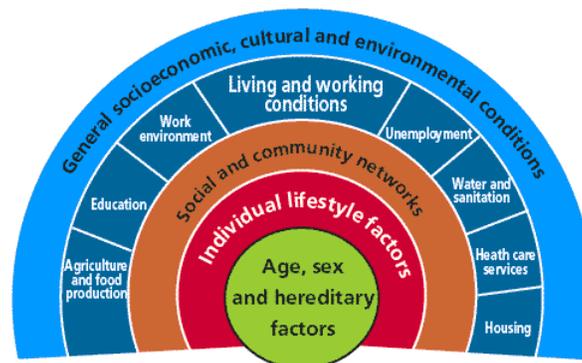
HIA identifies the likely health impacts of a decision that's not already health-driven, such as building a roadway, developing an economic policy, or community development. HIAs can help identify unintended risks, reduce unnecessary costs, and find practical solutions to improve wellness of the community.

### What are the benefits of an HIA?

- Provides input and necessary information early in decision-making process
- Helps identify trade-offs for decision-makers
- Offers a structured approach
- Considers historical, cumulative, and disparate impacts
- Supports community participation
- New collaborations between community organizations, public agencies, and other stakeholders.

## How HIA can add to existing work in the Eau Claire community:

1. Helps collect scientific data to inform policy and projects in a way that improves health and diminishes health disparities.
2. Build relationships between community members and stakeholders by engaging diverse and at times opposing perspectives in discussions that result in mutually beneficial systems change.
3. Help stakeholders understand factors that impact health and how to advocate for improving health in the future.
4. Monitor recommendations from report to track health impacts from policy or project



## There are six steps to an HIA:

1. **Screening** -Determines the need and value of an HIA
2. **Scoping** – Determines which health impacts to evaluate, methods for analysis, and work plan
3. **Assessment** – Provides a profile of existing health conditions and evaluates potential health impacts
4. **Recommendations** – Provides strategies to minimize potential adverse health impacts
5. **Reporting** – Develops the HIA report and communicates findings and recommendations
6. **Monitoring** – Tracks impacts of the HIA on decision-making processes, as well as impacts of the decision on health determinants