

Endeavors in Health Impact Assessment Evaluation

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Team Lead

Healthy Community Design Initiative

HIA National Conference

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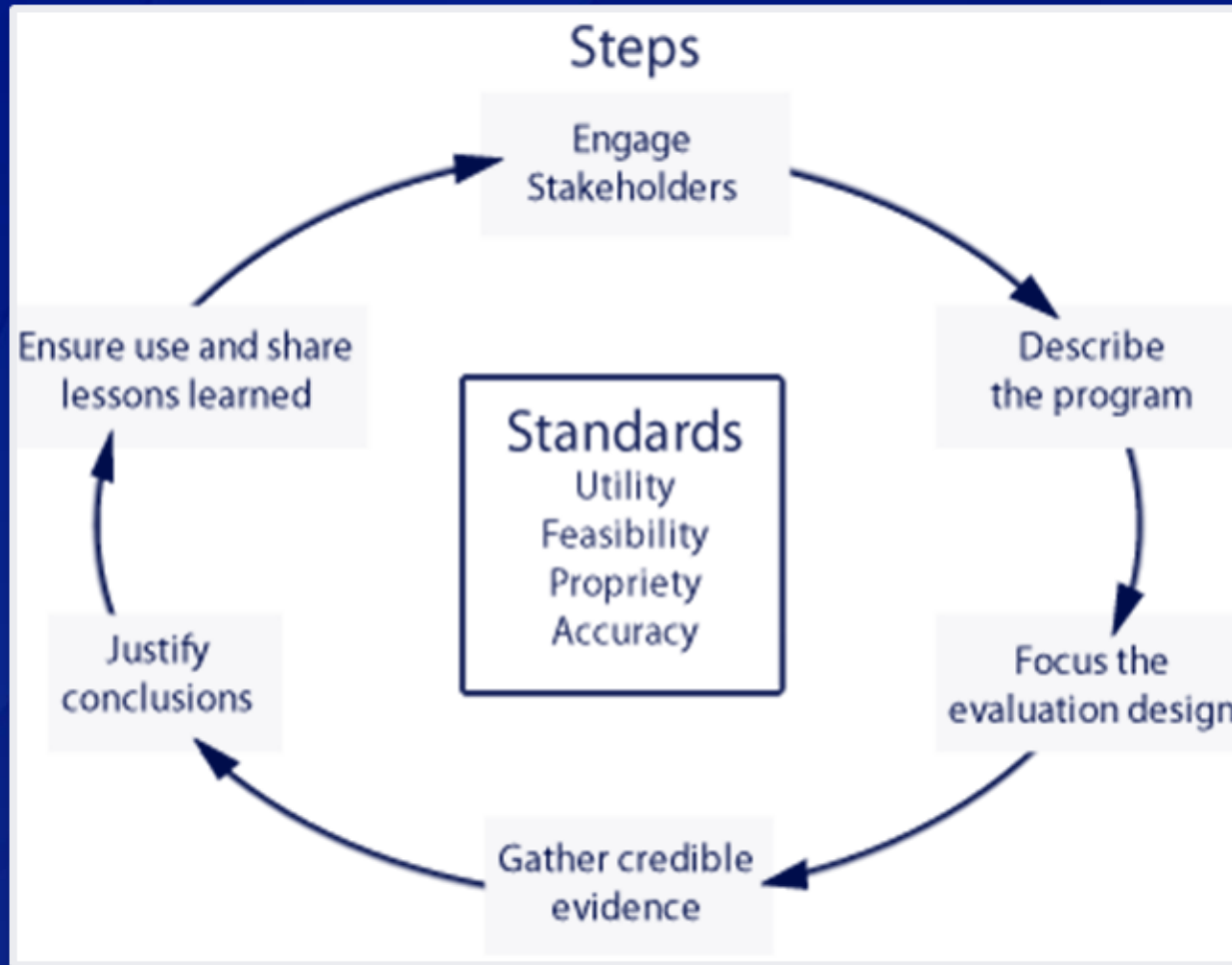
National Center for Environmental Health
Healthy Community Design Initiative



Questions

- ❑ **What do you want to get out of HIA?**
- ❑ **What is the outcome you seek?**

CDC Evaluation Framework



HIA Evaluation Foci Choices

- ❑ Individual HIAs**
- ❑ HIA as a practice**
- ❑ HIA programs**
- ❑ HIA training and capacity building**

HIA Effectiveness Summary Results – 2008

Wismar Framework

**Recommendations
incorporated**

Total: 25

**Educated Decision-
makers**

Total: 9

Reinforced Decision

Total: 0

No effect

Total: 1

Case Studies

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HIA Stories from the Field

Douglas County Health Department

Reviving Adams Park

In the early 1900s, North Omaha, Nebraska, the birthplace of Malcolm X, was a thriving African American neighborhood. Rich in history and culture, the area became well-known for its jazz, swing, and blues music. Today, North Omaha has fallen on economic hard times, worsened by poverty and limited job and housing options.

In 2007, a group of business and community leaders formed a coalition to return the neighborhood to its former glory. Part of their plan was improving Adams Park, a 68-acre green space next to the Malcolm X birth site. They hoped to create a "Central Park" for North Omaha that would benefit residents, attract visitors, and encourage development and investment in the surrounding neighborhoods. Building a new urban farming and community gardening center within Adams Park was the cornerstone of the plan. Other aspects included new trails and entrances, a multipurpose field for sports and events, and a swimming pool.



The Douglas County Health Department (DCHD) was eager to help revive Adams Park. One of DCHD's previous projects showed that North Omaha could improve public health by increasing residents' access to healthy food.

"Volunteers surveyed every grocery and convenience store in the county, rating them on their healthy food options," says Andy Wessel, DCHD community health planner. "Full-service grocery stores ranked the highest, but in North Omaha, they were few and far between. Our data on heart disease, diabetes, and other health issues also pinpointed North Omaha as an area where improving access to healthy food could make a big difference."

Health and Community

DCHD is a 2011 recipient of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) "Health Impact

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- New Hours of Operation
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Program Evaluation: Results from 3 New HIA Programs

- ❑ **9 HIAs**

- ❑ **70 formal and informal partnerships**

- ❑ **8 Trainings**
 - 173 professionals
 - Overall improvement in knowledge

HIA program recommendations

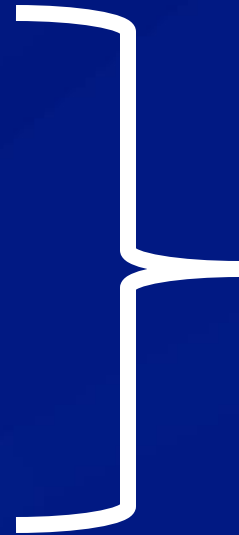
- ❑ Enhance cross-agency collaboration and communication**
- ❑ Take time to engage partners**
- ❑ Utilize existing partnerships**
- ❑ Choose HIAs carefully**
- ❑ Build trust proactively**
- ❑ Start early**
- ❑ Offer a variety of training options**
- ❑ Minimize staff turnover, maintain knowledge management**
- ❑ Allow time for staff capacity building**

Uses of Evaluation

- ❑ Quality improvement**
- ❑ Demonstration of measurable results**
- ❑ Facilitation of future work**

Future Questions

- ❑ **Impact on a particular health outcome**
- ❑ **Prediction accuracy**
- ❑ **Relationship with new tactics**
 - Performance measures
 - Financing



Data needs

Thank You

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The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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