



The San Francisco Healthy Homes Project: Turning Vision into Action

The San Francisco Department of the Environment (SFE) is collaborating with community stakeholders to develop a plan to transform the community's vision of healthy homes and neighborhoods into achievable goals and actions.

We're using a process called Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP). MAPP is a step-by-step community participatory approach to public health improvement. A description is provided on the next page.

The partnership will build upon existing relationships between community-based organizations, coalitions, advocates, and city agencies, and encourages the participation of additional residents as well. The MAPP process requires the sharing of many different viewpoints and the participation of community members willing to play an active part in creating this plan.

Project Purpose:

To eliminate asthma and other health inequities in San Francisco.

Project Outcome:

A *Community Action Plan* including: 1) an assessment of public health systems, local health issues, and community assets; 2) goals and strategies for addressing health inequities; and 3) specific implementation plans and policies.

Project Timeframe:

May 2011 – September 2012

Project Activities:

- Community outreach
- Visioning sessions
- Community-driven research and assessments
- Goals and strategies planning meetings
- Action planning meetings

Project Roles and Responsibilities:

- Lead Agency – San Francisco Department of Environment
- Facilitators – Resource Development Associates
- Community Convener and Outreach – Bayview Hunters Point YMCA
- Advisory Committee – Local experts and community stakeholders
- Resident Committee – BVHP residents

What are Health Inequities?

Health inequities are avoidable health differences resulting from unequal social position, usually based on socioeconomic status, ethnicity and/or gender. The social conditions in which people are born, live, and work are the single most important determinant of health status.

Access to affordable, healthy, safe, and quality housing is a key social determinant of health. While housing subsidies help address the need for affordable housing, deferred maintenance and overcrowding has led to resident exposure to risks such as mold, pests, lead and fire. Affordable housing residents are also often exposed to higher rates of community violence, unemployment, and lower access to resources like grocery stores, parks, high-performing schools, and health care. Collectively, these social factors impact health status and life expectancy relative to other residents of the city. Improving the quality of housing, surrounding amenities and services can help mitigate preventable, unjust health inequities.

What is Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership (MAPP)?

MAPP is a community-based, strategic approach to public health improvement. For the plan to be realistically implemented, it must be developed through broad participation of persons who share a commitment to the community's health and overall wellbeing.

The MAPP process consists of the following steps:

- **Organize for Success/Develop Partnerships**—public and private agencies designate leaders within the community and prepare for the MAPP process.
- **Develop Shared Vision**—A shared vision and common values provides a framework for pursuing long-range goals. During this phase, the community will answer the question “*What would we like our community to look like in 10 years?*”
- **Conduct Assessments**—
 - **Community Themes and Strength Assessment**—answers the questions, “*What is important to our community, and what assets do we have that can be used to improve community health?*”
 - **Local Public Health System Assessment**—answers the questions, “*What are the activities, competencies and capacities of our public health system and how are they providing essential services in our community?*”
 - **Community Health Status Assessment**—answers the questions, “*How healthy are our residents and what does the health status of our community look like?*”
 - **Forces of Change Assessments**—answers the questions, “*What changes are occurring in our community that affect our health and what specific threats or opportunities do these changes pose?*”
- **Identify Strategic Issues**—participants identify linkages between the MAPP assessments to determine the most critical issues that must be addressed to achieve the community's vision.
- **Formulate Goals and Strategies**—for addressing each issue.
- **Plan for Action**—develop objectives based on goals and strategies and produce an implementation plan. Evaluate process.

For more information and to get involved in the SF Healthy Homes Project, please contact:

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