

Successful 2015 Affordable Housing Grants examined the effect their project would have on the public health of the people living within the project area. In the 2016 grant application, grantees will once again be asked to document the health co-benefits of their project.

*28) Please identify and describe expected co-benefits of the Project. These co-benefits can include, but are not limited to, public health and safety, economic, or environmental co-benefits (Refer to Appendix E of Program Guidelines for additional information and Application instructions for a sample list of co-benefits).*

**Framing the Issue:**

Evidence shows that the built environment does affect health outcomes. As part of the Draft 2016 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) SCAG has identified seven focus areas and provided background information on how each influences health outcomes. We recommend that recipients review the [Public Health Appendix](#) for an overview of this information. Focus areas include:

- Access to Essential Destinations
- Affordable Housing
- Air Quality
- Climate Adaptation
- Economic Opportunity
- Physical Activity
- Transportation Safety

In addition, the Office of Planning and Research recently released a Draft of the [General Plan Guidelines](#) which includes a section on building Healthy Communities. The draft includes general analysis on a number of topic areas as well as links to sources of health related data.

- Health & Economic Opportunity
- A Changing Climate & Resiliency
- Active Living & Recreation
- Social Connection & Safety
- Housing
- Nutrition & Food Systems
- Environmental Health
- Health & Human Services

**Supporting Policies:**

City and county agencies may have supporting policies that can be referenced by applicants in their grants. For example, Metro has a [Countywide Sustainability Planning Policy](#), a [First Last Mile Strategic Plan](#) and a [Complete Streets Policy](#) that all support healthy outcomes and should be referenced for projects within one of Metro's service areas. Below are a list of policies that the city or county may have adopted that would support your project.

- Healthy City Resolution
- General Plan Health Element
- Complete Streets Policy
- Active Transportation (Bicycle/Pedestrian) Plan
- Affordable Housing Policy

**Data Sources:**

SCAG is available to help with specific health related data needs on a project specific basis. Below are common health data sources that can be used for pulling relevant data.

[Community Health Needs Assessment](#): This free web-based platform was created to assist community hospitals doing their needs assessment and provides census level data for health, economic, social, environmental, and behavioral data.

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[California Environmental Health Tracking Program](#): This program is hosted by the CDPH. The data is more focused on environmental health impacts such as air quality, health, climate change related outcomes, water quality, and cancer prevalence.

[Envirostor](#): This program is hosted by the Department of Toxic Substances Control. It is a database that provides data in a GIS form to identify contaminated sites as well as facilities that deal with hazardous waste. This resource is important for remediation and siting.

[CalEnviroScreen](#): The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) in the California Environmental Protection Agency created this online mapping tool. It is a tool that can help identify communities that are burdened with high levels of pollution.

[Healthy Communities Data and Indicators Project \(HCI\)](#): HCI is hosted by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). This indicator list provides evidence for the link to health outcomes, data sources, and provides the ability to create maps.

[California Health Interview Survey \(CHIS\)](#): The largest state health survey in the nation, CHIS is a random phone interview administered by the UCLA Center for Draft Document Draft for Health Policy in conjunction with the State Department of Public Health and the Department of Health Care Services.

[Designed to Move](#): Designed to Move is a blueprint for city leaders in creating an active city, regardless of city size or location. The report shows that cities with physically active populations are not only more economically competitive – they also benefit from increased productivity, improved school performance, higher property values, and improved health and well-being. The report also includes an extensive literature review.

#### Research Studies Cited in 2015 applications:

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- Pollack, C. E., Griffin, B. A., & Lynch, J. (2010). Research article: Housing Affordability and Health Among Homeowners and Renters. *American Journal Of Preventive Medicine*, 39515-521. doi:10.1016/j.amepre.2010.08.002
- Kennedy-Hendricks, A., Schwartz, H. L., Griffin, B. A., Burkhauser, S., Green, H. D., Kennedy, D. P., & Pollack, C. E. (2015). Health implications of social networks for children living in public housing. *Health And Place*, 36145-151. doi:10.1016/j.healthplace.2015.11.001
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- Blumberg, M. T., Jones, P., & Nesbitt, M. (2010). Community Approaches to Meet Residents' Needs in an Affordable Public Housing Community. *Journal Of Housing For The Elderly*, 24(3/4), 413-429. doi:10.1080/02763893.2010.522458
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- Martens, P. J., Chateau, D. G., Burland, E. J., Finlayson, G. S., Smith, M. J., Taylor, C. R., & ... Bolton, J. M. (2014). The Effect of Neighborhood Socioeconomic Status on Education and Health Outcomes for Children Living in Social Housing. *American Journal Of Public Health*, 104(11), 2103-2113 11p. doi:10.2105/AJPH.2014.302133
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- Three Myths About Affordable Housing. (2012). *Vital Speeches of the Day*, 78(1), 23.

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