

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's Guide to Question #4 of the 2015 Active Transportation Program (ATP) Grant Application

Cycle 2 of the [Active Transportation Program grant application](#) asks how the proposed project will contribute to improved public health. Jurisdictions under the purview of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) (all in Los Angeles County except Long Beach and Pasadena) should follow the guidelines in this document and complete the questionnaire (Section II) below **prior** to contacting us to discuss an ATP application.

Given the expected large volume of applications, DPH will need to coordinate with applicants as soon as possible. After May 8, 2015, DPH may not have the available resources to provide assistance before the ATP due date.

I. Guide to understanding public health impact of ATP projects

Please review the following resources in order to better prepare an answer for the ATP grant application as well as engage in a meaningful dialogue with DPH.

Articles and reports to provide context for health impacts of active transportation

Most transportation projects and programs have potential health impacts (positive or negative) related to air quality, injuries and fatalities related to traffic collisions, and creating opportunities for physical activity. There are also broader potential impacts to the social and economic environment, such as access to jobs, neighborhood social cohesion, and crime and violence. These all work together to create an overall health impact, which includes impacts on rates of chronic disease (diabetes, heart disease, etc.), life expectancy, and overall quality of life.

The following reports provide an overview of health and transportation and may help you to decide on a project and/or provide guidance on how to think about the potential health impacts of your project.

- Centers for Disease Control Recommendations for Improving Health through Transportation Policy
<http://www.cdc.gov/transportation/docs/final-cdc-transportation-recommendations-4-28-2010.pdf>
- Institute of Medicine - Accelerating Progress in Obesity Prevention: Solving the Weight of the Nation
<http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2012/Accelerating-Progress-in-Obesity-Prevention.aspx>
- How Social and Economic Factors Affect Health
http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/epi/docs/SocialD_Final_Web.pdf
- The Guide to Community Preventative Services; Increasing Physical Activity: Environmental and Policy Approaches
<http://www.thecommunityguide.org/pa/environmental-policy/index.html>

- PLACE Program Built Environment Resources
http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/place/PLACE_Built_Environment_Resources.htm

Identifying and analyzing health data

The ATP grant application asks the applicant to identify the health status of target users, cite health statistics, and describe the data used. After reviewing the reports above and identifying some of the key potential health impacts of your project, consider using the following resources to gather data about the existing health status of the target population. The resources below supplement those listed in the ATP application. The applicant should also conduct basic demographic analyses using the Census' American Community Survey that includes a review of walk/bike mode share, income, demographics, etc.

Please be aware that data is available at different levels of geography (e.g., your community versus the county). Reports often provide data at the [Service Planning Area](#) (SPA) level or by city. In some cases, the data may be available at smaller geographic scales. The reports are helpful in that they compare jurisdictions to one another across Los Angeles County, which can provide background narrative for the application.

Reports & Data

- Obesity and Related Mortality in Los Angeles County
http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/wwwfiles/ph/hae/ha/Obesity_2011Fs.pdf
- Preventing childhood obesity: the need to create healthy places
http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/wwwfiles/ph/hae/epi/chr2-childhood_obesity.pdf
- Premature Deaths from Heart Disease and Stroke in Los Angeles County: A Cities and Communities Health Report
http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/epi/docs/CHR_CVH.pdf
- Life Expectancy in Los Angeles County: How long do we live and why?
http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/epi/docs/Life%20Expectancy%20Final_web.pdf
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Key Indicators of Health Report
http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/ha/docs/kir_2013_finals.pdf
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Annual Mortality Report
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/dca/dcareportspubs.htm>
- Los Angeles County Health Survey Data Snapshot – Built Environment for Physical Activity
<http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/ha/Snapshots.htm>

Other reports of interest may be downloaded at:

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/epi/reports.htm>

Data & Maps

- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health GIS Health Viewer
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/epi/HealthViewer.htm>

The Health Viewer is an interactive, online mapping application and contains up-to-date data from a variety of Los Angeles County Department of Public Health programs:

- 2011 Birth data (e.g. Live Births, Low Birth Weight)
- 2011 LA County Health Survey data (Adult and Child Sections). The LACHS gathers information about access to health care, health care utilization, health behaviors, health status, and knowledge and perceptions of health-related issues among the LA County population. The survey provides updates on key health indicators and to identify emerging public health issues among adults and children residing in the County's eight service planning areas (SPAs) and 26 health districts. For more information on the survey, please visit:
<http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/ha/hasurveyintro.htm>
- 2012 Infectious Disease Rates (e. g. Pertussis, Salmonellosis)
- 2011 Sexually Transmitted Diseases (e.g. Chlamydia, Gonorrhea)
- 2010 Age-adjusted Mortality Rates (e.g. Coronary Heart Disease, Stroke)

Users will be able to visualize, query and identify features on the map; as well as print, save and share projects as an image, pdf or as an internet link.

- Transportation Injury Mapping System (TIMS) – Geocoded Crash Data
<http://safetrec.berkeley.edu/crash-analysis/tims>
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's Data Query System L.A. HealthDataNow!
<https://dqs.publichealth.lacounty.gov/default.aspx>
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health DPH Data Tables
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/ha/LACHSDataTopics2011.htm>

How does your project support local public health plans or goals?

The ATP application asks the applicant to describe whether the project is consistent with local public health plans and goals. Some local jurisdictions in Los Angeles County (such as the cities of El Monte, South Gate, and Los Angeles) have adopted or will adopt a health element as part of their General Plan. This is a good place to start in understanding how your project supports and/or is consistent with local public health plans or goals. However, many other elements of a jurisdiction's General Plan may contain health-oriented goals. Consider reviewing your jurisdiction's mobility, health, air quality, and noise elements for goals, policies, for programs related to health.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health has its own goals identified through the Department's Strategic Plan available at:
http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/plan/Highlights/Strategic_Plan/Strategic_Plan_2013-2017.htm .

We recommend taking a quick read of the document in full to identify key priorities that may be related to your project; however, **strategic priority 1** is likely the most relevant to active transportation.

DPH is also in the process of developing a Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The CHA will describe the conditions affecting health, health status, and health needs of the population of Los Angeles County. You can review the draft CHA reports by Service Planning Area here: http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/plan/Highlights/CHA_CHIP/Overview.htm

The United States Department of Health and Human Services has goals for 2020 that can be found at Healthy People 2020: <http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topicsobjectives2020/default>

Estimating health benefits from increased bicycling and walking

The ATP application asks applicants to describe the intended health outcomes of the proposed project and how you expect to achieve them. Consider discussing the potential positive and negative health impacts that your project may have and use research to support your assertions. The following resources may be helpful:

The Hidden Health Costs of Transportation

<https://www.apha.org/publications-and-periodicals/reports-and-issue-briefs/transportation>

Active Living Research

<http://activelivingresearch.org/taxonomy/transportation>

<http://activelivingresearch.org/blog/2012/07/infographic-role-transportation-promoting-physical-activity>

We also recommend using the Health Economic Assessment Tool (HEAT) to monetize the benefits as suggested by the ATP application. <http://www.heatwalkingcycling.org/>

II. Questionnaire

Please respond to the following questions. Your responses will better prepare DPH staff to assist you, and answers to most of the questions are part of the ATP application. Please answer the questions in a separate Word document; attachments such as maps can be sent as separate files.

1. General project information that includes:

- A. Project sponsor (implementing agency)
- B. Contact person name and title
- C. Contact phone number and e-mail address
- D. Partner agencies as applicable and roles

2. Project title and description that includes:

- A. Project type (infrastructure, non-infrastructure, both)
- B. Focus (walking, biking, safe routes to school, trails, other)
- C. Service Planning Area(s) of project (find your SPA using the “Find your Service Planning Area” box on the right-hand side of the page:
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/chs/SPAMain/ServicePlanningAreas.htm>)
- D. Location and description of major project components, including miles and types of facilities as applicable
- E. Maps of project and renderings / design (as applicable and available)
- F. Briefly describe how you chose this project (include a short description of community input)

3. Engagement of DPH to date

- If you have already coordinated or worked with DPH related to this project, please describe. For example, if your proposed project is already part of a Plan, was DPH a stakeholder during the planning process? With whom (name, program) did you coordinate? ***Please be as specific as possible, including DPH staff contact names, programs, e-mail, and to what extent DPH has already been engaged in identifying, developing, or revising the project.***

4. Additional goals / assistance needed from DPH

After reviewing and exploring the tools described above in section I, please describe the type of assistance you need.

We strongly encourage you to do as much as possible to answer question #4 using the resources above before contacting us.

We may be able to help with the items listed below; however, we ask that you prioritize your needs and be as specific as possible in your request. **We will not draft responses on behalf of applicants.**

- Project identification, development, or review (specify)
- Connection to community partners for outreach to identify a project, develop a project or revise a project (specify)
- Finding health data
- Interpreting health data
- Understanding project's potential impact on health
- Letter(s) of support
- Other concerns or questions

Please e-mail your responses and/or additional questions to Chanda Singh at csingh@ph.lacounty.gov. She will route and/or respond your request as appropriate.