



INDIANA HEALTHY
COMMUNITY

INDIANA HEALTHY COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

Pre-Assessment Questions

Thank you for your interest in the Wellness Council of Indiana's (WCI) Indiana Healthy Community (IHC) initiative. To ensure your community's success, the Wellness Council recommends you review the following considerations before contacting us to get started. This information will help lay the framework for future conversations.

It is important to note that while the Indiana Healthy Community initiative takes a comprehensive approach to community well-being, the initiative will not dictate your community action plan. We work with your team, but we will not be or replace your team. The Indiana Healthy Community initiative is not intended to be a "quick fix" to your community health problems; each initiative looks and feels different based on the community.

Consider the following questions:

1. How do you define "community" and who are you hoping to impact?
 - Neighborhood
 - Town
 - City
 - County
 - Zip code
2. What is your broad vision for the future of your community through this initiative?
 - Improved community health outcomes
 - improved infrastructure for active transportation
 - improved programs and services for underserved populations, etc.
3. What key organizations and stakeholders should be involved to support your initiative?
 - Local government decision makers
 - Schools, colleges, universities
 - Healthcare systems
 - Economic development groups
 - Faith-based organizations
 - Environmental groups/parks and recreation departments
 - Neighborhood representatives
 - Social advocacy groups and nonprofits
4. What employers need to be at the table?
 - Large employers
 - Influential employers
 - Employers with the widest community reach

5. Who will take the lead on your initiative?
 - Best practices suggest that (at least three) representatives remain engaged throughout the process.
 - Communities who have received this designation have had leaders from local hospital, local chambers of commerce, health and wellness coalitions, and major employers. This will look different in each community.

6. What information will you need for the application?
 - The Indiana Healthy Community application is very comprehensive and covers many different community topics, so it will be helpful to have reviewed community-level data and informational resources before beginning the application. **Examples (not a complete list):**
 - ✓ Key health indicators – you can usually find this information in community health assessments performed by local hospitals
 - ✓ Community demographics (age, race, gender)
 - ✓ Unemployment and poverty rates
 - ✓ General and workforce population numbers
 - ✓ List of large industries in the community
 - ✓ List of current community programs, services, and policies (review application for specifics)
 - ✓ Local tax information and zoning ordinances
 - ✓ Environmental inventory of parks, green spaces, bike paths, trails, etc.

7. Should you create a committee or coalition?
 - While this is not a requirement, a “Indiana Healthy Community” coalition/group/team/taskforce may help to convene key players and keep participating parties focused and engaged while working on goals and objectives

8. How will you communicate goals, successes, and achievements to the broader community?
 - Locally
 - ✓ Announcements through participating organization websites and social media platforms
 - ✓ Press releases
 - ✓ Announcements through local government channels
 - ✓ Hosting a celebration event, etc.

9. Do you have a funding strategy for goals and objectives in place?
 - Community foundations
 - Large employers (sponsors)
 - Economic development grants
 - Local health department grants

The Wellness Council of Indiana can help! Contact Madie Newman, the Indiana Healthy Communities Program Coordinator, to get started.

Email: madie@wellnessindiana.org

Phone: 317.264.2167

