Thank you for reviewing the FY 2017-2018 Discussion Draft Grant Application Guide document. Listed below are directions for submitting your input, ideas and comments specific to the Discussion Draft Grant Application Guide document. The public comment period for this document begins Wednesday, July 12, 2017 and ends Tuesday, July 25, 2017, 5:00 PM PST.

Directions for submitting comments:

1. Fill out your contact information (type preferred)
2. Fill out your comments individually, providing as much detail as possible (type preferred). Please reference chapter and page numbers.
3. Submit your comments via:
   a. E-mail: Regional.Planning.Grants@dot.ca.gov
   b. U.S. Mail:
      Priscilla Martinez-Velez
      Division of Transportation Planning, MS-32
      California Department of Transportation
      P.O. Box 942874
      Sacramento, CA 94274-0001
   c. Fax: (916) 653-0001
      Attn: Priscilla Martinez-Velez
   d. In person: 1120 N Street, Sacramento, CA
      Attn: Priscilla Martinez-Velez - Division of Transportation Planning MS-32

Contact Information

We ask for your information so that we can contact you for clarification, if needed.

First Name: Bill
Last Name: Sadler
Title: Project Manager
Organization: Public Health Alliance of Southern California
Address: PO Box 69445
City: West Hollywood Zip Code: 90069
Telephone Number: (619) 642-2488
Email address: bsadler@phi.org
FY 2017-2018 Discussion Draft Grant Application Guide
Additional Sustainable Communities Grants from Senate Bill 1
Comment Form

Comment

Please provide as much detail to your comment as possible (attach multiple pages if necessary).

Page: 5

Begin here:
Please see attached comments on the Health Disadvantage Index, referenced on page 5. Our comments provide some suggested additional language to help applicants understand HDI and how to use the tool to identify disadvantaged communities and select project types that can improve health in those communities.
Ms. Priscilla Martinez-Velez  
Division of Transportation Planning, MS-32  
California Department of Transportation  
P.O. Box 942874  
Sacramento, CA 94274-0001  

July 25, 2017  

Dear Ms. Martinez-Velez,  

The Public Health Alliance of Southern California (Alliance) is very excited to see Caltrans include the Health Disadvantage Index (HDI) as a way to identify disadvantaged communities for the new Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants program. We respectfully submit the following guidance that we hope you can include in the draft Guidelines, to ensure that applicants are adequately informed about the tool and its applications. We are also happy to work with you to refine this guidance over the coming months as you finalize these Guidelines and move toward the call for projects.  

Please don’t hesitate to reach out with any questions.  

Sincerely,  

Tracy Delaney  
Executive Director  
Public Health Alliance of Southern California  
tdelaney@phi.org  
cell: 619.873.6444  
work: 619.722.3403  
www.PHASoCal.org
California Health Disadvantage Index (HDI): http://phasocal.org/ca-HDI/

The Public Health Alliance developed an interactive composite index to identify cumulative healthy places in California. The purpose of this Health Disadvantage Index (HDI) is to prioritize public and private investments, resources and programs. HDI includes diverse non-medical economic, social, political and environmental factors that influence physical and cognitive function, behavior and disease. These factors are often called health determinants or social determinants of health and form the root causes of disadvantage. Indicator data used for HDI comes from publicly available sources and is produced at a census tract level. HDI materials are freely available online for use by communities and public and private agencies.

The California Health Disadvantage Index (HDI) is an interactive data and mapping tool that provides a detailed snapshot of the social determinants of health across California, mapped down to the Census tract level. HDI provides comparison rankings of Census tracts statewide and an accompanying policy action guide. Therefore, the HDI can be a useful tool in prioritizing areas with high levels of social and economic disadvantage for funding, policy, and planning interventions. HDI was developed by the Public Health Alliance of Southern California in collaboration with health departments and data experts across the state. Because the HDI focuses on the social and environmental conditions that contribute to health, policy makers and local agencies can use it to identify actionable policies that would improve health in their community, such as improving transportation access, housing affordability and quality, or access to parks and open space. The tool will soon be updated with a new map and additional indicators, and will be renamed the California Healthy Places Index (HPI).

Understanding the HDI Score

The HDI includes a composite score for each Census tract in the State. The higher the score, the greater the disadvantages to health. Each Census tract’s score is converted to a percentile, which allows it to be compared to other California Census tracts. For example, an HDI percentile of 79 indicates that a Census tract would face more cumulative social challenges to health than 79% of the Census tracts in California. HDI percentile rankings are further broken into quartiles, with percentiles above 75 typically used to indicate disadvantaged communities. Thus, higher scores can be used to demonstrate a community, or project/service area, is disadvantaged for purposes of qualifying for the set-aside in this program.

HDI Percentile

- 76-100: most disadvantaged
- 51-75
- 26-50
- 0-25: least disadvantaged

In addition to the composite score and percentile ranking, applicants can review the individual domain scores or indicators themselves and explain how their project will improve one or more of these public health challenges. The numeric value and percentile ranking for these component indicators can be found either by using the live map or by accessing the data directly.
Examples are included below:

**Examples:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>HDI Percentile</th>
<th>How will project improve this health challenge?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Domain (Composite) Scores</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete Communities Score</td>
<td>Percentile ranking of all complete communities-related indicators</td>
<td>Demonstrate how this plan will address health and transportation challenges related to complete communities indicators (park access, supermarket access, retail density and tree canopy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Resources Score</td>
<td>Percentile ranking of all economic-related indicators</td>
<td>Demonstrate how this plan will address health and transportation challenges related to economic indicators such as households without auto access, median income, high housing costs and unemployment rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Individual Indicators</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Auto Access</td>
<td>XX%</td>
<td>Describe how plan will increase and improve transportation access to vital destinations, goods and services for those without auto access.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traffic density</td>
<td>XX%</td>
<td>Describe how the plan will improve traffic safety, including for people walking and bicycling in the project area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Park Access</td>
<td>XX%</td>
<td>Demonstrate how project will improve transportation access to parks/ open space.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information on the HDI, including how to calculate a score for your project area and suggested project types for improving public health, visit [http://phasocal.org/ca-HDI/](http://phasocal.org/ca-HDI/).