San Francisco Health Improvement Partnership: Building a Healthier San Francisco

Embracing Collective Impact to Improve Community Health + Wellness in San Francisco

What is SFHIP?
The San Francisco Health Improvement Partnership (SFHIP) is a cross-sector collaboration designed to improve the health and wellness of all San Franciscans. SFHIP combines into one aligned framework the efforts of three successful community health improvement collaborators: San Francisco’s non-profit hospitals and their Community Benefits Partnership (CBP) and Building a Healthier San Francisco (BHSF) projects; the Clinical and Translational Science Institute at the University of California, San Francisco, which supported the first phase of SFHIP; and the San Francisco Department of Public Health and its community health improvement process.

What will SFHIP do?
Motivated by a common vision, values, and community-identified health priorities, SFHIP will drive community health improvement efforts in San Francisco. The road map for SFHIP is San Francisco’s Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), the development process for which engaged close to 700 community residents and local public health system partners. The CHIP identifies San Francisco’s health priorities (at left) as well as goals, objectives, measures, and strategies for each priority. Building on this foundation, SFHIP will “move the needle” on community health in the next three to five years, and future iterations of the CHIP will drive SFHIP going forward.

Why create a new community health improvement structure in San Francisco?
San Francisco is currently home to many successful collaboratives designed to improve community health and wellness. However, these efforts have largely functioned independently of one another, resulting in missed opportunities for alignment and maximum impact. Founded on the concept of Collective Impact, SFHIP’s formal structure is designed to ensure better coordination, accountability, community engagement, and improved community health and wellness:

- The Vision Council will serve as SFHIP’s champions;
- The Steering Committee will be SFHIP’s governing body;
- The Partnership will be a representative membership body that will involve community to plan for action on citywide health priorities; and
- Work Groups will be open, participatory, action-oriented bodies that focus on specific health issues or programs related to San Francisco’s identified health priorities.

What is “Collective Impact”?
“Collective Impact” is the commitment of partners across sectors to a common agenda for solving a complex social problem. Underlying Collective Impact is the belief that large-scale social change comes from better cross-sector coordination rather than the isolated intervention of individual efforts – no matter how successful the individual efforts. SFHIP embraces Collective Impact believing that aligned, San Francisco’s successful community health improvement collaboratives will be greater than the sum of their parts.

How can I learn more about SFHIP and become involved?
Please visit the SFHIP website (www.sfhip.org), or email SFHIP at info@sfhip.org. SFHIP’s success depends on the engagement of partners like you, and we look forward to hearing from you. Together, we will create a San Francisco of healthy people, healthy families, and healthy communities!
How did SFHIP originate?

SFHIP integrates and builds on the past successes of several pre-existing initiatives:

- San Francisco’s nonprofit hospitals, in conjunction with the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) and other partners, formed the **Building a Healthier San Francisco** (BHSF) collaborative in 1994 to conduct a community health needs assessment for San Francisco every three years as required by state and now federal law. BHSF is a citywide collaborative of non-profit hospitals, SFDPH, foundations, health and human service providers, and community-based organizations. BHSF sponsors the Community Vital Signs (CVS) project, which provides comprehensive data on the health of San Franciscans. CVS will serve as a platform for monitoring the impact of SFHIP on population health indicators.

  In spring 2008, nonprofit hospital partners and SFDPH complemented the work of BHSF with the creation of the **Community Benefit Partnership** (CBP). CBP seeks to harness the collective energy and resources of San Francisco’s nonprofit hospitals, City/County departments (SFDPH and Human Services), community clinics, health plans, and nonprofit providers and advocacy groups to improve the health status of San Francisco residents to address the health priorities established by BHSF.

- The Community Engagement and Health Policy Program – part of the University of California, San Francisco’s Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) – launched a formative **San Francisco Health Improvement Partnerships** initiative in 2010 in collaboration with community and civic partners. The effort was built on the underlying premise that by working together in a coordinated, focused, and well-informed manner, academic and community groups can achieve synergies and foster innovation to achieve substantial gains in community health and health equity. CTSI provided the infrastructure and support for planning and coordination of this phase of SFHIP and will continue to support the aligned SFHIP through existing Working Groups. CTSI is part of the Clinical and Translational Science Award program funded by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences at the National Institutes of Health (Grant UL1 TR000004).

- Building on its past community health improvement work with BHSF, SFDPH, in collaboration with nonprofit hospital and academic partners as well as the broader San Francisco community, organized a community health improvement process to create a **Community Health Improvement Plan** (CHIP) for San Francisco. The CHIP, released in December 2012, is a required element for SFDPH to become accredited by the national Public Health Accreditation Board and serves as a road map for guiding SFHIP priorities and collective interventions to improve community health in San Francisco. Additionally, SFDPH is the recipient of a US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Community Transformation grant focused on cardiovascular health.