Ruth Lindberg

Ruth Lindberg is a senior associate for the Health Impact Project, a collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts, designed to promote the use of health impact assessments (HIAs) and support the growth of the field in the United States. In this role, she assists in managing and conducting HIAs on proposed federal-level policies and programs.

Before joining the Health Impact Project, Ms. Lindberg served as a program manager for the National Center for Healthy Housing, where she led an HIA of a proposed freight intermodal facility in the state of Maryland and provided technical assistance support to healthy housing practitioners across the country. She also worked as the outreach and education coordinator for the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at the Rhode Island Department of Health, where she initiated and managed the Rhode Island Healthy Housing Collaborative and led the development of a hands-on training program for local nursing students in healthy homes assessment.
Incorporating Health into Housing and Community Development Decisions: Health Impact Assessment as a Tool

Ruth Lindberg, Health Impact Project
The Health Impact Project

- A collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts

- A national initiative designed to improve health by promoting and supporting the use of health impact assessments as a decision-making tool
Housing Matters to Health

Quality

Affordability

Location

Community

HEALTH IMPACT PROJECT
Key Points about HIA

Conducted to inform a specific decision

Broad analytic framework

Collaboration with stakeholders

Pragmatic

Focused on solutions
What Topics Have HIAs Addressed?

- Built Environment: 34%
- Transportation: 21%
- Natural Resources & Energy: 14%
- Agriculture & Food: 9%
- Housing: 7%
- Education: 5%
- Labor & Employment: 4%
- Other: 6%
Case Study: Manufactured Housing

Location: Curry County, OR

Decision: Informed a proposed pilot project

Findings: Replacing older homes could significantly improve residents’ physical and mental health

Outcomes:
- Almost 3,000 residents eligible for assistance
- New design standards
## Other HIA Examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HIA Topic</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Summary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Affordable housing for seniors</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Informed design features of a senior housing facility</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community redevelopment</td>
<td>MO</td>
<td>Informed decision-making regarding a community redevelopment project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing inspection systems</td>
<td>OH</td>
<td>Informed decisions regarding affordable housing inspection processes</td>
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The Value of Considering Health

Build community and decision-maker buy-in

Leverage partnership opportunities

Reduce unit turnover and the substantial associated costs
How to Get Started

• Review available online tools
• Reach out to national HIA experts and organizations that support HIA practitioners
  - Society of Practitioners of Health Impact Assessment (SOPHIA): http://hiasociety.org/
• Attend a training on how to conduct an HIA
How to Get Started (continued)

• Identify a housing decision where HIA could add valuable health information

• Use existing data sources to examine the project’s potential connections to health
  - See 2015 Enterprise Green Communities Criteria 1.2a and 1.2b

• Identify a local health practitioner to partner with
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<tr>
<td>Health Impact Project <a href="http://www.healthimpactproject.org">www.healthimpactproject.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Healthy Places <a href="http://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/hia.htm">http://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/hia.htm</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Impact Assessment Clearinghouse Learning and Information Center (HIA-CLIC) <a href="http://www.hiaguide.org">http://www.hiaguide.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>American Planning Association: Online HIA Training <a href="http://professional.captus.com/Planning/hia/default.aspx">http://professional.captus.com/Planning/hia/default.aspx</a></td>
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Thank you!

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