Environmental Justice Questionnaire for IDPH

When answering the questions below please note if your answers are agency or program specific

1. Do you consider environmental implications when working on an issue in your agency? For example, air, noise, and/or water pollution; soil contamination; nuisance odors; greenhouse gases; etc. If yes, please explain.

   Health Promotion
   Chemical sensitivity to perfume, cologne, etc. and indoor air pollution by the Tobacco Control program with the Smoke-Free Illinois Act. Indoor air pollution would definitely be addressed by the Tobacco Control program with the Smoke-Free Illinois Act. You could probably also find a lot of information about this on the "We Choose Health" website. http://www.idph.state.il.us/smokefree/sf_info.htm http://www.idph.state.il.us/wechoosehealth/index.htm

   Health Protection
   Toxicology Program works with IEPA on communicating health impacts to the public living near hazardous waste sites. They routinely answer questions from the public about a multitude of indoor and outdoor environmental hazards. The Private Water and Private Sewage Programs work with stakeholders to develop administrative rules that minimize the impact on groundwater. The Asbestos and Lead Program has rules to minimize public exposure to environmental contaminants and establish criteria for mitigating these hazards. Our Sexually Transmitted Disease Program developed a program to accept and dispose of expired medications to reduce the amount ending up in landfills.

2. How do you determine or define the extent of environmental impacts on the community? Please provide examples.

   Health Protection
   Toxicology Program works with IEPA on communicating health impacts to the public living near hazardous waste sites.

3. Do you have an environmental justice mandate for your agency? Yes/No. If yes, please explain.

   Health Protection
   No specific environmental justice mandate, but one of the five strategic priority areas is reducing health disparities in communities.

4. Do you assess the impact of projects on low-income and minority communities? If so, how?

   Health Promotion
   No formal assessment, but try to include low-income and minority communities by making fact sheets and other information available and take this population into consideration when planning outreach activities.

   Women’s Health and Family Services
   We always consider the impact on low-income and minority communities. Disparity is always a primary concern for our office and we take that into consideration when planning events and projects. For example; the Southern region of Illinois has health access issues in that there is a lack of health care providers as well as transportation. Patients often have to travel greater distances to seek medical care. The OWHFS is currently looking into opportunities to provide transportation for prenatal visits as well as breast cancer screenings. Also our upcoming Needs Assessment focus groups will identify low-income and minority communities.

   Health Protection
   Most of our regulatory programs are facility specific and are not based on communities. Our STD and HIV programs do include consideration of minority health disparities. Race, sex and ethnicity are key components of our surveillance system. STD rates are often tied to low-income and minority status. Grants in Chicago and East St. Louis target health centers that serve low-income and minority communities with high rates of Syphilis and HIV.

5. Does your agency have programs that address the issues of handicapped and/or elderly populations?

   Health Promotion
   Yes. For example, Red Cross training for persons with disabilities in case of an emergency; disability and health programs with regard to emergency preparedness include elderly and disabled; partners with Department on Aging to increase health promotion opportunities and healthcare for persons with disabilities (through a 5 year CDC grant); programs to increase accessibility of medical facilities; nutrition
programs targeting disability community and Hispanic children with disabilities and their caregivers. Additional information about the Disability and Health Program is on our webpage http://www.idph.state.il.us/dhp

Women’s Health and Family Services
We have programs that fold in our handicapped and the elderly populations. We have our Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer (IBCCP) and Wisewoman programs which incorporate populations covering ages 35 to 64. The Wisewoman program offers heart healthiness programs to incorporate lifelong changes. The IBCCP program provides free breast cancer and cervical cancer screenings. Our upcoming Needs Assessment focus groups identify participants which may be handicapped or elderly as we are requesting feedback from participants across the lifespan.

Health Protection
Recent increases in HIV among the elderly (30+) demonstrates a need to expand surveillance and provide health education to elderly populations.

6. Identify staff positions that work with low-income; minority; elderly and/or handicapped populations and communities.

Health Promotion
All Chronic Disease Staff.

Women’s Health and Family Services
The majority of the OWHFS staff work on an on-going basis with low-income, minority; elderly and/or handicapped populations and communities as we continually conduct on-site grantee visits, participate in community seminars, conferences and health fairs. We will also be hosting upcoming Needs Assessment Focus groups. Through these activities we are in continual contact with all of the Office of Women’s Health and Family Services populations listed above. Ex: Attending a health fair will bring us into contact with age ranges across the lifespan who may inquire into healthy eating habits to breast cancer screening services.

Health Protection
All STD and HIV staff.

7. Does your agency have a community involvement/community engagement plan? If yes, explain the plan and specify whether it is general or project specific.

Health Promotion
Many programs have strategic plans that include community involvement and/or community engagement components.

Women’s Health and Family Services
The OWHFS has completed a two year strategic plan which lays the groundwork for services to work effectively and efficiently, and ensure the best use of resources and personnel. The OWHFS will continue to collaborate with key stakeholders, including community members, community based agencies and local health departments to work together to improve the quality of life and shape the future of health in Illinois.
Specific Project: The OWHFS is working on an annual Needs Assessment report as well as the Title V Needs Assessment which will involve professional and community focus groups. We will be holding focus groups within all seven of the health regions within Illinois. We will be requesting feedback from participants to incorporate into our 2015 Needs Assessment and will keep professionals and community members involved throughout the process.

Health Protection
HIV program works with the communities for whom these services are intended to share decisions about HIV prevention activities, services, and funding. Our Food Safety Advisory committee includes consumer groups that advise the Department about food safety issues. IDPH leads the Farmers Market Taskforce that looks at the availability of fresh foods in local communities.

8. How does your agency accommodate communities that are non-native English speakers? For example, providing an interpreter at a community meeting, translating documents, etc.
Health Promotion
Most publications, including Fact Sheets, are available in multiple languages; Tobacco Quitline is equipped to take calls from a large number of languages spoken by non-English speaking callers; also have signers at some meetings when applicable.

Women’s Health and Family Services
As the OWHFS conducts and participates in focus groups, seminars, health fairs, conferences and attends outreach events within Illinois we ensure we have bilingual staff available as well as written communication in other languages such as Spanish and Polish. Many of our brochures are in Spanish such as, "Pink Potlucks", "Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program” and Heart Healthiness information. For the Needs Assessment focus groups we will have forms such as registration and flyers available in Spanish as well as Spanish Speaking staff attending and assisting as facilitators.

Health Protection
Many of our programs have health messages translated in to Spanish and other languages, depending on the target population.

9. Does your agency partner with community interest groups, if so who are they?

Health Promotion
Yes, a large number. A list is attached.

Women’s Health and Family Services
Our agency does partner with different interest groups on various programs. The OWHFS works with Local Health departments, grantees, school based health centers, churches and many other organizations throughout Illinois.

Health Protection
Many of our regulatory programs have stakeholder groups that advise the Department on how rules and regulation impact statewide and local communities.

10. The Mud-to Garden project is an example of how state agencies can work together to address an environmental justice concern. Can you give an example of an opportunity where your agency could partner with one or more agencies on the EJ Commission to address an environmental justice concern?

Health Promotion
Farm to School Program provides youth, K-12, with access to nutritious meals, while supporting local farmers and communities. This program provides children with fresh, local food, and helps them understand where their food comes from and how food choices affect their health, environment and community.

Women’s Health and Family Services
Our OWHFS will be partnering with Local Health Departments and Community programs to host upcoming Needs Assessment Focus Groups. We have recently issued a survey to solicit feedback on establishing partnerships with these organizations.

Health Protection
The CLEAR-Win is a grant program that targets communities at high risk for lead poisoned children and provides funding for window replacement. The goal of the program is to eliminate lead hazards in homes, providing training on the use of lead paint safe work practices, create local jobs in the lead abatement industry, and support property owners in maintaining lead safe housing. The pilot communities in this project are Englewood, West Englewood neighborhoods in Chicago and Peoria County.
Northwestern University, Department of Industrial Engineering and Management Sciences
NorthShore University Health System
Occupational Safety and Health Agency
Office of Lt. Governor Sheila Simon
Options Center for Independent
OSF Healthcare System, Radiation Oncology
OSF St. Francis Medical Center
Ottawa Regional Hospital
PACE, Inc. Center for Independent Living
Pfizer Oncology
Progress Center for Independent Living
Provena St. Joseph Hospital
Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago
Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago
Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University
Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science
Roseland Community Hospital
Rural Health, Inc
Rush University College of Nursing
Rush University and Rush Medical Center
Rush-Copley Foundation
Salud Latina/Latino Health
Sangamon County Health Department
Simmons Cancer Institute at SIU School of Medicine
Sinai Health System
Siteman Cancer Center, Washington University School of Medicine
Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation
Southern Illinois Radon Task Force, Inc.
Southern Illinois University, Carbondale
Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville
Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, Springfield
Southern Seven Health Department
St. Clair County Department of Public Health
St. Johns Hospital Cancer Institute
Springfield Center for Independent Living
Starting Point Aging and Disability Resource Center, Macon County Health Department
SuperSibs!
Susan G. Komen/Peoria Memorial Affiliate
The Cancer Center at Blessing Hospital
The Cancer Support Center
The Jennifer S. Fallick Cancer Support Center
The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society-Gateway Chapter
University of Chicago Cancer Research Center
University of Chicago Hospitals, Cancer Registry
University of Chicago School of Medicine
University of Chicago, Diabetes Research and Training Center
University of Illinois at Chicago, Cancer Center
University of Illinois at Chicago, College of Dentistry
University of Illinois at Chicago, College of Nursing
University of Illinois at Chicago, Department of Disability and Human Development
University of Illinois at Chicago, Division of Specialized Care for Children
University of Illinois at Chicago, Epidemiology and Biostatistics
University of Illinois at Chicago, School of Public Health, Institute for Health Research and Policy
University of Illinois at Chicago, School of Public Health, NBLIC
University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria
University of Illinois Extension
University of Illinois at Springfield
University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign
US EPA Region 5
US Too International Prostate Cancer Education and Support
Washington County Health Department
Wellness House
West Central Illinois Center for Independent Living
Western Illinois University
Will-Grundy Center for Independent Living
Winnebago County Health Department