



## Assessing Local Capacity to Prevent Injury and Violence

### Request for Applications

#### Background

Injuries are a significant public health problem because of the impact on the health of Americans, including premature death and disability, and the burden placed on the health care system. More than 180,000 deaths are attributed to injury and violence each year.<sup>i</sup> Millions more Americans are injured and survive, only to cope with lifelong disabilities. Nearly 30 million people receive treatment in emergency departments for unintentional and violence-related injuries each year.<sup>ii</sup> In fact, injuries account for over 35 percent of emergency department visits annually. The financial costs of injuries and violence are staggering. In a single year, injury and violence ultimately cost the United States \$406 billion. This includes over \$80 billion in medical costs (6% of total health expenditures) and \$326 billion in lost productivity.<sup>iii</sup>

According to NACCHO and the Campaign for Public Health Foundation, local health departments (LHDs) protect and improve community well-being by preventing disease, illness, and injury and effecting social, economic, and environmental factors fundamental to excellent health. LHDs can work toward these ends through the following activities:

- Tracking and investigating health problems and hazards in the community;
- Preparing for and responding to public health emergencies;
- Developing, applying, and enforcing policies, laws and regulations that improve health and ensure safety;
- Leading efforts to mobilize communities around important health issues;
- Linking people to health services; and
- Achieving excellence in public health practice through a trained workforce, evaluation, and evidence-based programs.

Given the public health burden of injuries and violence, LHDs play a critical role in protecting and improving community safety in coordination and collaboration with local, state, and national efforts. Despite the enormous toll of injury and violence, only 39 percent of respondents to the 2010 National Profile of Local Health Departments reported injury prevention activities and only 24 percent reported violence prevention activities. The Safe States Alliance and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) are committed to increasing the quantity and quality of LHD IVP efforts.

In 2010, a joint workgroup of NACCHO and the Safe States Alliance developed [Standards and Indicators \(S&I\)](#) for a model LHD injury and violence prevention (IVP) program. Standards for LHDs related to IVP have been set with the following goals:

- Increase the visibility of injury and violence as public health issues;
- Multiply the number of LHDs that focus on IVP;
- Enhance the effectiveness of LHD IVP efforts; and
- Spur the development and dissemination of new tools and resources for LHDs to effectively address the causes of injury and violence.

The S&I identify 12 standards that LHDs should meet in order to support effective injury and violence prevention activities in rural, suburban, and urban jurisdictions. The standards, indicators, and methods of documentation are intended to help the LHDs review current efforts and identify potential areas for strengthening the program and future growth. Likewise, all standards may not be appropriate or applicable to all programs.

NACCHO, in collaboration with state, national, and federal partners, is currently converting the S&I into a tool for LHDs to assess organizational and community capacity to address the causes of injury and violence prevention. Using the tool, LHDs

will be able to collaborate with community partners to assess local capacity to address the causes of injury and violence prevention and determine the organizational and environmental supports needed to make improvements.

## **Project Details**

NACCHO and its partners will select up to four LHDs to pilot the S&I assessment tool from March 1 to April 30. This project will answer the following questions:

1. Is the S&I assessment tool an effective way to measure local capacity to address the causes of injury and violence?
2. How can LHDs best use the S&I tool in collaboration with community partners?
3. How can the S&I tool be revised to best meet the needs of LHDs and community partners?
4. How can NACCHO and its partners support LHDs in the use of the S&I tool?

Funding for this project is made possible through the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

## **Benefits of Participation**

By participating in this project, LHD attendees will have the opportunity to:

- Collaborate with community partners to implement a novel capacity assessment tool that has the potential to contribute to continuous quality improvement efforts related to injury and violence prevention; and
- Provide NACCHO and its partners with critical feedback on the tool, which is essential for optimizing its utility for LHDs.

## **Eligibility Criteria**

To be eligible for this opportunity, an applicant must be a city, county, district, or tribal public health department that is a dues-paying NACCHO member. To check membership status, please visit: [www.naccho.org/about/LHD/index.cfm](http://www.naccho.org/about/LHD/index.cfm) and search your health department by state.

## **Expectations**

Successful applicants must agree to:

- Collaborate with community partners to implement the S&I assessment tool between March 1 and April 30;
- Provide a written report of the findings from the assessment activities by April 30;
- Provide feedback on the S&I assessment tools by May 11; and
- Participate in bi-weekly check-in calls with NACCHO staff from notification of award until May 31.

## **NACCHO and its partners will:**

- Provide \$5,000 to support staff time and other expenses related to implementing the S&I assessment tool.
- Provide ongoing technical assistance for the implementation of the S&I tool.

## **Application Guidelines**

### Part 1: Cover Sheet

Please include the following information on the cover sheet:

- Official name of LHD and Federal Tax Identification Number (i.e., EIN);
- Name and contact information for individual completing application (i.e. primary contact for application questions and official notification); and
- Name and contact information of individual authorized to sign contracts for the organization

### Part 2: Rationale for Participation (one-page limit)

Please include a brief description of the following items:

- The jurisdiction served by your LHD;
- The current burden of injury and violence in your community and your LHD's efforts to address these issues;

- Previous capacity assessments conducted by your LHD (if applicable); and
- How participating in this project might enhance your organizational and community capacity to address the causes of injury and violence prevention.

### Part 3: Letters of Support

Please include a signed letter of support from two community partners that will participate in the assessment activities. The letter(s) must state that the individual has reviewed the RFA and the application, and that he/she understands the purpose of this pilot project.

### **Application Submission**

All applications must be received by **11:59 PM EST, Friday, January 27**. Please submit applications electronically to: [injuryprevention@naccho.org](mailto:injuryprevention@naccho.org).

Applicants will receive notification of award status by Friday, February 10.

Any questions should be directed to [injuryprevention@naccho.org](mailto:injuryprevention@naccho.org).

---

<sup>i</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. *Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) [online]*. (2005) cited August 31, 2008. Available from URL: [www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars](http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars).

<sup>ii</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Accessed online August 31, 2008, from [www.cdc.gov/ncipc/about/about.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/about/about.htm).

<sup>iii</sup> Finkelstein EA, Corso PS, Miller TR, Associates. *Incidence and Economic Burden of Injuries in the United States*. New York: Oxford University Press; 2006.