

## Healthy Communities Theory of Change – Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q1. Why did Health Forward develop this theory of change?**

- A.** We wanted to be more explicit about both our strategies and our expected short- and long-term outcomes. We do not view this product as a departure from our past work in Healthy Communities or a change in focus.

### **Q2. Will this theory of change be part of the application? Should we consider the theory of change for our program/application?**

- A.** You do not need to include a theory of change in your application. In your proposal Health Forward will ask you to indicate which strategies and outcomes from the theory of change you will be working on with Health Forward grant funding.

### **Q3. Is this the model that the Health Forward will be using for the other RFPs?**

- A.** Yes, each Health Forward portfolio (Healthy Communities, Mental Health and Safety Net) has its own theory of change that is related to the overall vision and mission of the Health Forward. If you are applying for funding under one of the other Health Forward portfolios you will have access to the theory of change for that specific portfolio.

### **Q4. It is difficult to see how one program will align with the various strategies and outcomes, but very easy to see how our organization as a whole aligns. How does that affect the RFP?**

- A.** If your organization is applying for general funding you can show this alignment for your organization as a whole. If you are applying for a specific program, you need to ensure the alignment for that program.

### **Q5. Is a logic model and theory of change worksheet needed for submission?**

- A.** No, neither is required for your submission. However, external reviewers often comment that any kind of visual representation of the program is helpful in the review process.

### **Q6. Under this theory of change model what do you want to see as far as short-term outcomes, outcomes that are expected to happen within the duration of the grant?**

- A.** Health Forward provides an outcomes and indicators workbook, which contains a list of indicators to help guide you in measuring and reporting on your outcomes. The workbook can be downloaded with the application materials on our [website](#).

**Q7. Is large scale important (versus small scale)?**

- A. Change comes in all sizes. Please make the scale one that is feasible and relevant for your program or organization.

**Q8. How do we influence policy when we aren't currently doing policy work?**

- A. This is a good question to have in conversation with one of our program officers.

**Q9. Is technical assistance available?**

- A. Yes. Foundation associates are happy to meet and discuss this topic in more depth. You can also visit our [website](#) for more information.

**Q10. How does the theory of change relate to Health Forward's decision making regarding the proposal?**

- A. Internal and external reviewers will have the theory of change for reference and will look for alignment as they make their decisions.

**Q11. How would these theory of change worksheets match up if we had different stakeholders doing them?**

- A. If you work on a theory of change within your organization, make sure to include the voices of all your stakeholders within your theory of change. You can have these stakeholders review and provide input on your theory of change.