Adapting the CAM
To your Workplan, Project, Issue....

By now you’ve attended the CAM training, have a copy of the binder, and know how to access the activities online. You are working with and/or funding CATs to implement the CAM. Your project/workplan may be focused on a particular issue such as domestic violence or tobacco control or, if you are lucky, it may be broader in scope. You are asking yourself, how do you get the project started, and provide guidance to the CAT coordinator and advocates to move through the five steps. Here are some tips on how to do this.
The Community Action Model (CAM) curriculum is available at:

http://www.sfdph.org/dph/comupg/oprograms/CHPP/CAM/default.asp

For more information please contact:

San Francisco Department of Public Health
Community Health Promotion & Prevention Branch
30 Van Ness Avenue, #2300
San Francisco, California 94102
415-581-2448
415-581-2490 fax
HETC@dph.sf.ca.us

Paid for by Proposition 99, the 1988 Tobacco Tax Initiative, under Agreement No. TCS - 01-38
CAM Toolkit for 2014 San Francisco Tobacco Free Project Website
Before Getting Started

You are a health educator, team coordinator or other community worker supervising, coordinating, and providing resources to community groups who will implement the CAM. You can use the information in this manual to provide training and technical assistance. Included in this manual are concrete examples from CATs that successfully implemented the process - some had resources and a timeline of 12-18 months; others had no resources and a 5-6 month timeline.

Some Definitions

- **CAM**: Community Action Model: the Five steps of the Model
- **CAT**: Community Action Team: the group of CAT advocates from the community that implement the five steps of the process. Also known as CAT members or participants.
- **CAT Coordinator**: The team coordinator who may or may not work with a community based organization and serves as the day to day liaison with the community advocates.
- **DPH Monitor/Staff**: health educators who provide training, technical assistance, funding and all other support and guidance!

Look for this symbol! It refers to specific curriculum in the CAM binder or on the website.

Preparation

Read through this module. Read *Community Action Model: Creating Change by Building Community Capacity (Introduction & Overview)*. Familiarize yourself with the big picture.

Evaluate your resources, timeline and project goals. A project with ample funding and timeline may be able to complete a more involved action. A short term project with little funding may be able to complete an immediate action, or identify an action to be completed with future funding and then complete a few of the activities towards it. Come up with a potential timeline for completing each step.

Work with the project to set up administrative systems. Look at the sample workplan (attachment a), budget & invoice (attachment b), MOU (attachment c), and RFA (attachment d). You may use some of these documents if you have funding to provide to the CAT. If you use a workplan, be sure to include regular technical assistance/training meetings with the CAT coordinator and CAT to brainstorm and problem solve at each step of the way. Be sure to have the project include stipends or payments in the budget for the advocates. Look at the sample skill inventory and evaluation tools (attachment e) and make your evaluation plan. Assure the CAT coordinator that the workplan can change as time goes on. Attachments are available on the website at: http://www.sfdph.org/dph/comupg/oprograms/CHPP/CAM/default.asp
STEP 1: Train, Name and Focus

Your funding source or project may already indicate which general issue you will work on (such as tobacco control, violence prevention, food security, ethnic and racial health disparities, etc.).

1. Overview of the Issue 101: Begin by putting together a general presentation for the CAT coordinator and the CAT advocates about your issue. Be sure to include in the presentation: activities, fact sheets and information that addresses the background of the issue. Outline the history of the issue, what has been done about it, and the underlying social justice root causes; social, economic and corporate links; and local/global policy issues related to the issue you are addressing. For example, if addressing violence prevention include information about root causes and risk factors for violence, including alcohol, oppression, poverty, witnessing acts of violence and the role of the gun industry in influencing local policies.

2. Next train the CAT coordinator and CAT advocates about the 5 steps in the CAM. Look at the sample curriculum About the Curriculum and How to Use it (Introduction and Overview) for a sample training outline. This will give your CAT team an idea of how the 5 steps flow together and what they will be doing for the course of the project.

   IMPORTANT: In preparation for this training look at the activity entitled: Actions for Health (Step 4). List 10 potential actions that address your issue and 5 activities. Adapt the activity cards to reflect your actions/activities. This will help the CAT coordinator & advocates with concrete examples of the potential outcomes they may achieve. See attach F for additional lists of actions/activities.

3. Work with the CAT coordinator to assist the advocates in choosing their project focus. Adapt the activity entitled Naming the Issue (Step 1) by creating a code(s) that reflects the issue that the CAT will address. Be sure to include the variety of local/immediate and root causes that contribute to the issue being addressed by the CAT. Use source documents if available (eg: proposals). Use the questionnaire in Naming the Issue to help the CAT focus on a particular area of interest. For example: during this step, a CAT working on the broader area of violence prevention could decide to focus specifically on addressing violence on public transportation. DPH staff/monitor and others who provide TA, training, funding and other support to CAT coordinators and advocates play a crucial role during step 1. Advocates can get bogged down or may try to choose their outcome or activities before selecting their focus area. The role of DPH staff/monitors should be to bring clarity, keep the CAT on task and move & guide them to a more narrow focus!
Step 2: Define, Design, & Do Community Diagnosis

Now that the CAT advocates have chosen a focus to address, use the activity entitled: Designing your Diagnosis (Step 2) to help the CAT advocates begin their work. To begin the diagnosis the CAT should decide what questions they want answered, and design tools to get their answers. They may want to use a form like this:

Focus: Food in Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advocates Want to Find Out About this…</th>
<th>How Advocates will Get Answers to the Questions.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. What foods are healthier/less healthy for children? What are junk foods?</td>
<td>Search the library, internet and meet with local nutrition and health department workers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Who makes and advertises this food?</td>
<td>Same as above.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. What type of foods are in the schools?</td>
<td>Make a survey tool that lists healthier/less healthy foods. Go to a sample of schools and check off types of foods they provide.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Do schools have policies about serving healthy foods?</td>
<td>Meet with school officials and ask about policies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Who makes policy at the schools?</td>
<td>Same as above.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This process can take a matter of weeks to months. If the CAT decides they need to get more information about their focus area by going to the library or on the internet, interviewing community residents, and counting toy guns in stores you will work in partnership with them to design and do each of these steps. For example, you may set up a training on how to do research on the internet, how to come up with a survey, and how to interview. You may consult with them on what would be an appropriate number of people/stores to survey to get a true representation of the issue in your community. It’s important to strike a balance: the diagnosis must be designed by the advocates and be user friendly; it must also lead to results that you can use for the next steps. If possible, the DPH Monitor/staff should seek technical assistance in the selection of tools and methodologies. If an existing consultant isn’t available, seek assistance from your supervisor. See the next page for a list of tools. Attachment g has sample tools that CATs have developed and used.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Research</th>
<th>Tips for Step 2… How to Do it!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Survey People:</strong> Adults, youth, students, community leaders, renters, clients, policymakers.....</td>
<td>Surveys can reveal people’s opinions, knowledge, attitudes, behaviors and support for changes in the environment. Surveys can be long or short. For the purposes of the CAM, surveys should be kept short (2 pages maximum) and user friendly. A CAM-friendly evaluator should go over questions with the advocates to make sure that the questions will reveal the answers being sought. Surveys can be done with all members of a smaller group or a sample number of persons in a larger group. Surveys can be done in person, by mail, or by telephone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Survey Things:</strong> Count alcohol ads, toy guns, list types of junk food in stores or schools.....</td>
<td>This type of survey can involve advocates in counting objects, attempting to purchase items (such as minors trying to buy cigarettes), or can note if an item has the required warning label. Many of the same tips for surveying people apply. Survey forms should look like a checklist where advocates can easily note the type and amount of the items being surveyed, attempted to purchase etc. For example, if surveying the number of pedestrians at key intersections you might also want to note time of day and other information. Training on how advocates can approach a store merchant and explain the project is essential. See attachment F for other ideas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Map your neighborhood,</strong> community or specific entities like stores..</td>
<td>Define the area to be mapped and divide into areas that can be walked and surveyed. Advocates work in teams to note location and type of community institutions and resources. Advocates use their team research to draw/create a map of the area on easel pad paper showing: street names, parks, CBO’s, schools, stores, empty lots, housing etc. If appropriate note transportation lines and demographics. This can also be done with a GIS map (requires computer resources). Some advocates have mapped stores and used color coding to estimate the percentage of shelf space in the store that is dedicated to alcohol, tobacco, packaged foods vs. fresh produce. See attachment G.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Find out what policies and/or research already exists.</strong></td>
<td>Advocates can go to City Hall, the library, and on the internet to find out about existing policies and research. They can also get contact information to interview policy makers regarding existing laws.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Focus groups, Forums.</strong></td>
<td>Advocates can bring together a small representative group from the community or call for a community forum to be held in the community to discuss the focus of the project and get feedback, perceptions, opinions and support for change.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Photo Voice/Novellas</strong></td>
<td>Advocates can use cameras to create a visual representation of the issue, to do “before” and “after” comparisons, to show disparities and strengths. These put a “human face” on the data collected elsewhere.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Step 3: Analyze Results of Community Diagnosis

This step is where the “Ah Ha” typically happens. If you have the resources to work with an evaluator, this person can work with the CAT to input data, analyze data and come up with startling statistics. These stats can be put in charts, tables and summary forms and used in media advocacy or for testimony with policymakers. Once data is analyzed, the CAT coordinator and advocates discuss their findings, list possible recommendations and choose an action in Step 4. Here are examples of the findings (analysis/synthesis) of data collected.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In Step 2, Advocates.....</th>
<th>What they found was....</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surveyed residents &amp; children in a park near a toxic site. They researched what a “superfund” site is and who is responsible for clean up of the toxic site.</td>
<td>50% of children playing in the park had crossed into the toxic site thru a broken fence; 85% surveyed didn’t understand the technical language on the warning sign; 92% would still take their kids to that park because it was the only place to play.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth advocates surveyed 350 youth, tried to buy Bidis (Indian cigarettes) at 100 stores, and researched them on the internet.</td>
<td>50% of youth surveyed thought bidis were not harmful to health. 24% were able to buy them in stores (twice the rate for Kools). Bidis contain tobacco and cause cancer and other health problems.. 70% of bidis purchased had no warning labels.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocates surveyed stores to see what kind of toy guns were sold, research laws re: sales of realistic toy guns.</td>
<td>50% of stores sold no toy guns. Stores that sold the most toy guns were large chain stores. Local laws forbid the sale of realistic toy guns. Most retailers were not aware of the local laws.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocates diagrammed 11 stores for stocking practices; did a map of the neighborhood, surveyed residents as to shopping practices, interviewed merchants</td>
<td>The 3 most common products in the stores were alcohol, tobacco and packaged (junk) foods, many were tobacco subsidiary company brands. Some estimates were that only 2-5% of store space was dedicated to produce: 47% of neighbors surveyed said that stores were hard to get to (barrier to getting healthy food). That residents must change buses 3 times to get to the nearest supermarket (outside the neighborhood)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Step 4: Select Action & Activity and Implement

Do Actions for Health (Step 4) again. If the CAT hasn’t already chosen an action that meets the three criteria outlined above, they should do that now. Remember, if the CAT has a short timeline/no resources, they can choose an action to accomplish with future funding and resources and then dedicate existing time and resources to implement activities related to that action.

Use the Planning for Health cards (Step 1) and do the CAT Map (Step 4) to help the CAT come up with an action plan to accomplish the action/activities. As part of the action plan, the CAT may want to do a variety of activities such as outreach (health fairs, conferences, meetings with decision makers, schools and community, etc), organizing, model policy development, media advocacy, advocating for your action, presentation skills, and others. Make a training timeline that coincides with the implementation of each of these components of the action plan.

Look in the curriculum and on the website at the Table of Contents. There are a series of group skill-building exercises that you can use as needed. Use these in trainings with the CAT coordinator and advocates to build skills to do the action plan.

Here’s a list of actions (outcomes) that have been accomplished by CATs in Step 4.

- Policies by the SF School Board to ban tobacco food subsidiary products and promotional items;
- A policy by City College to purchase healthy food and drink products for school vending machines;
- A city wide ban on tobacco ads;
- Traffic engineering changes to improve pedestrian safety in several S.F. neighborhoods;
- A smokefree parks policy;
- A model policy requiring imposed penalties on stores that sell look-alike toy guns;
- Enforcement of local/national laws regarding bidi tobacco products and cigars used by youth;
- A Good Neighbor policy to promote inner city access to healthy food alternatives to tobacco subsidiary products;
- Further regulation to prevent teen access to tobacco on the internet;
- User friendly signage and improved fencing to protect children in parks from nearby toxic dump sites;
- College based tobacco control policies;
- Tenant driven smoke free policies in multi-unit housing complexes;
- Participation in global campaigns involving joint actions between SF funded projects & projects in the global south.

For a summary of how advocates did the five steps for some of these see the next pages!

The following pages contain summaries of what these CATs have done.
Step 5: Maintain & Enforce the Action or Activity

Once an action or activity has been designed and implemented you want to ensure that it is maintained. If it involves a policy or change in organizational practices, you want to ensure that it is enforced. Many times this involves building on previous work. Here are some examples of how CAM’s have done step 5.

**Bro’s Against Guns**: Brother’s Against Guns was funded with a 5 month minigrant ($5,000) to implement the CAM to address violence prevention. Project advocates surveyed youth in San Francisco’s BayView Hunter’s Point area and ask about sources for guns. They found that getting a gun was easy, that the neighborhood was oversaturated with guns and that many young people easily get weapons from gun shows at the nearby “Cow Palace” exposition hall. By the end of the project, advocates had presented their findings to numerous groups including *Gang Free Communities Initiative* and listed a variety of actions/activities to address this problem. Once the grant was over, the advocates continued on to sponsor a protest of gun shows at the Cow Palace and received media coverage of the protest. They are now seeking additional funding and looking at the possibility of advocating for a state policy to prohibit gun shows at the Cow Palace.

**Ban on Kraft/Nabisco in the Schools**: Another youth project researched the amount of Kraft/Nabisco products that were sold and provided in the city’s schools. They successfully got the School Board to adopt a policy called the “Commercial Free Schools Act” that banned these products from the schools because they were subsidiary products of Philip Morris, maker of Marlboro cigarettes. For step five of the CAM, youth advocates followed up with schools by meeting with the food purchaser and doing presentations to students to ensure that the ban was implemented and understood.
Advocates were worried about people smoking in children’s parks and playgrounds.

Step 1: Advocates got 180 people to sign a petition. They went on TV, radio and newspaper. They presented to San Francisco Recreation and Park Department who passed a policy that smoking was banned in parks and playgrounds.

Step 2: Advocates found out that San Francisco Recreation and Park Department policy only banned smoking inside of centers (even though adults smoked outside in children’s area) and that Parks/Rec centers are second homes to many children.

Step 3: Advocates surveyed people in the parks, counted cig butts, and found out who makes policy for the parks and playgrounds.

Step 4: An Activity is:
• An educational intervention that leads up to and supports the action.

Step 5: An Action is:
• achievable
• long-term, or sustainable
• compels another entity to do some thing to change the environment (place people live) for the well being of all

Advocates call the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department whenever there is smoking to ensure the policy is enforced!

Duration of Project: 18 months
Funding: $60,000
**Community Action Model**

**Pedestrian Safety in a Multi-cultural Neighborhood**

Advocates are worried for their safety when walking near high-speed, high-volume traffic in their neighborhood. Many children and seniors live in this neighborhood. Recently, a mother of a young child was hit and killed while walking in a crosswalk.

Advocates surveyed 600 pedestrians in English, Spanish, and Chinese to determine what were their general and specific traffic safety concerns. They also researched how many pedestrian deaths and injuries occurred in the past 10 years.

Advocates found that over 500 pedestrians were killed or injured in their neighborhood in the past ten years. Neighbors identified hazards at over 20 intersections and proposed possible solutions, including enforcement, engineering and education.

Advocates continue to monitor their streets to see if traffic engineering solutions were implemented.

Advocates with the support of their local supervisors, held a town hall meeting. They asked their local transportation department to work on traffic engineering solutions. Advocates also worked with the traffic engineers to submit funding proposals for traffic calming improvements around neighborhood elementary schools.

---

**An Action is:**
- achievable
- long-term, or sustainable
- compels another entity to do some thing to change the environment (place people live) for the well being of all

**An Activity is:**
- An educational intervention that leads up to and supports the action.

**Duration of Project:** 10 months  
**Funding:** $27,000
Advocates attending night school at a community college discussed how they often had no time for dinner as they rushed from work to school. They noticed that their options for nutritious foods in school vending machines were limited.

Advocates survey their peers about food options available to them in the evening. They list and count food sold in vending machines.

Advocates find that the only choice for food is the vending machines. They find that 24 of 30 food products are heavily processed, contain ingredients high in fat and sugar, 90% are made by large corporations and none were organic or nutritious. They find 6 alternative vending companies willing to supply the community college with nutritious foods.

Advocates publicize their findings in the college paper and propose a policy to the college board that adopts the policy to only purchase healthy food and drinks for the school vending machines.

Advocates continue to monitor food in vending machines.

Duration of Project: one college semester

Funding: none
Advocates were concerned that guns from local gun shows were easily accessible to youth.

Advocates conducted a survey of young people in the Bayview about violence, why it happens, if they can get weapons and where the weapons come from.

Advocates learned that many young people can easily obtain guns and that one source for guns in the community is from the local gun shows held at the Cow Palace, a state owned building.

Advocates held a protest at the next gun show and began to work with local activists and legislators to adopt an ordinance prohibiting gun shows on state property.

Advocates worked with others across county lines to build support for a gun show ban on state property.

An Action is:
- achievable
- long-term, or sustainable
- compels another entity to do something to change the environment (place people live) for the well being of all

An Activity is:
- An educational intervention that leads up to and supports the action.

Duration of Project: 6 months

Funding: $5,000
Community Action Model

**Good Neighbor (GN) - Healthy Products Policy**

Step 1: Advocates were worried about the lack of fresh food in the neighborhood. They were also worried about tobacco.

Step 2: Advocates surveyed corner and liquor stores in the neighborhood. They also surveyed community agencies and residents to see what products they buy.

Step 3: Advocates found out the three most available products in stores were tobacco, alcohol and junk food (especially products made by Kraft and Nabisco, owned by tobacco companies). They also found that many community groups bought Kraft and Nabisco products & were therefore supporting tobacco companies.

Step 4: Advocates got 2 community agencies and the School District to adopt a policy not to buy Kraft and Nabisco products. They got GN agreements with local food retailers (buy less junk food and more local fresh food, & less tob/alcohol ads). They went on TV, radio and newspaper!

Step 5: Advocates continue to promote the GN idea.

An **Action** is:
- achievable
- long-term, or sustainable
- compels another entity to do some thing to change the environment (place people live) for the well being of all

An **Activity** is:
- An educational intervention that leads up to and supports the action.

Duration of Project: 2 years

Funding: $100,000
Advocates were worried that the realistic toy guns being sold at local stores could be mistaken for real guns.

Advocates surveyed grocery stores, toy stores & variety stores to determine what kinds of toy guns were being sold. They researched if local laws already existed that forbid the sale of realistic toy guns. They researched if local laws already existed that forbid the sale of realistic toy guns… and most retailers didn’t know about these laws.

Advocates found that 50% of the stores sold no toy guns. The stores that sold the most toy guns were large chain stores. They found that there were local laws forbidding the sale of realistic toy guns… and most retailers didn’t know about these laws.

Advocates held a press conference, they publicized those stores that don’t sell toy guns, put up posters about the dangers of toy gun look alikes and wrote letters asking stores to comply with the law. They planned to work with officials to strengthen enforcement and write a model policy to add penalties for stores that sell look-alike guns.

An Action is:
- achievable
- long-term, or sustainable
- compels another entity to do some thing to change the environment (place people live) for the well being of all

An Activity is:
- An educational intervention that leads up to and supports the action.

Duration of Project: 6 months

Repeat the Process

Funding: $1,500
Advocates were worried about people smoking in Multi-unit housing complexes.

Step 1:
Advocates researched the effects of second hand smoke (SHS) on children living in apartments. They surveyed residents about SHS perceptions and support for smoke free policies. They researched existing policies.

Step 2:
Advocates found out that SHS is responsible for 150K child hospitalizations every year, that 92% of Ma Alicia residents supported smoke free indoor areas, that there were no policies at Ma Alicia apartments.

Step 3:
Advocates did presentations, health fairs and met with tenants and administrators. They drafted a policy (acuerdo). Residents voted to adopt a policy declaring the entire MUHC smokefree (including common areas and all apartments with phase in for the 2 top floors.) All 81 residents signed the “acuerdo”.

Step 4:
An Action is:
- achievable
- long-term, or sustainable
- compels another entity to do some thing to change the environment (place people live) for the well being of all

An Activity is:
- An educational intervention that leads up to and supports the action.

Step 5:
Advocates continue to work with residents and management to ensure the policy is enforced.

Duration of Project: 2 years

Funding: $100,000
Parents worried about truancy and its effect on increasing violence, substance abuse and diminished motivation of education. Training included environmental factors contributing to truancy, model—programs to get children back in school and related issues.

Step 1:

They surveyed school district truancy rates; observed neighborhood conditions promoting truancy; interviewed students to see why they chose to be truant.

Step 2:

They found that 23% of the children in the public schools were truant; a majority of these students were 6th – 12th graders and these students usually hung out at corner stores and bus stops while they were truant.

Step 3:

Training included environmental factors contributing to truancy, model programs to get children back in school, and related issues.

Step 4:

They worked with the SF Police Department and the School District to develop a truancy prevention strategy. They also helped fundraisers to subsidize the cost of transportation for youth to and from school.

Step 5:

An Action is:
- achievable
- long-term, or sustainable
- compels another entity to do some thing to change the environment (place people live) for the well being of all

An Activity is:
- An educational intervention that leads up to and supports the action.

Duration of Project: 6 months

Funding: $5,000