



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why is CPED creating Sector Teams?

A. There are two answers to this question. First, is to provide a central point of access and communications for our external clients and partners. Second, the goal is to further integrate our programs and services, and more importantly, to raise the capacity of all CPED staff to speak to all facets of CPED's mission.

Q. What is a CPED Sector Team?

A. A CPED Sector Team is a forum for sharing ideas, discussing projects, and implementing programs and projects. It is a forum for identifying and resolving barriers or problems with project or program implementation. It is also a venue for educating ourselves about the policies and regulations guiding our work, the different perspectives we bring to the table, and learning how all our roles fit together.

Q. How were boundaries for CPED Sectors determined?

A. CPED Sectors mirror those of the Planning Sectors.

Q. How do I know if I am on a Sector Team?

A. Any CPED staff can be a member of one or more sector team. Work with your supervisor to determine the best fit for you. Consider the program you work with and whether you work in a particular area of the city or your program reaches citywide.

Q. Why are there Sector liaisons?

A. Our structure and that of the city is pretty complex. Imagine a citizen, business leader, member of the media or someone from another department trying to navigate their way through the layers. Having a single point of contact facilitates the ease of their getting the information they need.

Q. What does a Sector liaison do?

A. The liaison serves as a central point of contact for CPED managers and staff, and external partners such as 311, the media, and business and community organizations.

Q. How do I know which Sector liaison to contact?

A. Each sector has three liaisons, one from each CPED division. They act as the core team for their sector: setting and distributing agendas, reporting out progress and timelines; facilitating strategic and timely communications to management and peers about sector events, projects and activities. The liaison from the Planning Division acts as the lead facilitator.

Q. Are CPED Sectors integrated with other things we do?

A. Yes! The work of the sector teams is directly related to our business plan and work programs. A goal for this approach is that sector strategies and priorities will help identify CPED budget priorities. CPED sector teams are directly involved in aligning policies, programs and budgets. By working together we work smarter!

Q. Does the sector team become the contact for information on individual projects?

A. The sector team doesn't eliminate the role or importance of project managers or planning staff. The sector team can actually help a project manager by acting as a sounding board for ideas, serving as a venue for discussing issues and developing comprehensive strategies for implementing projects.

Q. Wait a second, isn't this just adding another layer of process to CPED?

A. No, we already have several successful ongoing models that integrate staff from all CPED divisions. Examples include the North Side Team, the Hiawatha Corridor Team, and the SE Minneapolis Team. The concept builds from these existing approaches.

Q. What are the benefits of this approach?

A. The best way to answer this may be to give some examples from existing models. One area of the city where a sector team has been active for several years is the Hiawatha Corridor. First activated because of planning for the light rail, the team is expanding the scope of its work to include the entire south sector. Another active team effort has been underway in north Minneapolis.

Q. How do I stay informed about sector team activities?

A. The CPED Sectors Folder on the Common M Drive under CPED Admin is the home for activities, meeting agendas, and project and sector information. These are meant to be accessible and viewable by all sector teams.

Q. How does a sector team fit with my work unit and division?

A. Your participating in a sector team or teams should enhance your work. The sector teams are opportunities to discuss projects, share ideas, ask questions and build your working relationships with other CPED staff.

Q. What role do managers play with the sector teams?

A. Managers are participants in sector teams. They can use the work of teams to inform their efforts, and visa versa. Managers can also help sector teams resolve issues; barriers or impediments to effective service delivery and program outcomes.

Q. Is this approach about education or program implementation?

A. Both! Sector teams are about making connections and adding value.

Q. What else should I know?

- A. Think of sectors as evolving organic structures each with their own unique character and process, but guided by some core objectives common to each team so that shared information, progress and outcomes can be rolled up and communicated out to staff, managers, and other departments.

Stay tuned for more FAQs....Upcoming topics include:

Sector Profiles...

TMP...

Other policies...

Regulatory framework....

Priority projects