

Project Abstract

Name of Grantee: The Erie County Department of Health
Name of Project: Healthy Homes Initiative
Amount Awarded: \$ 950,000
Year of Grant: 2003
Contact Info:
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Project Partners: Family Medicine Research Institute University at Buffalo (FMRI), the Erie County Department of Social Services (DSS), Cortese Brothers Construction, and Environmental Education Associates, Buffalo Municipal Housing Court, the Department of Environment and Planning, the Erie County Public Health Laboratory, Housing Opportunities Made Equal, Inc., and Home Performance Professionals, Inc.- an *Energy Star* Partner

Summary of Project Activities:

The Erie County Department of Health Healthy Homes Initiative 2003 (ECHD HH1) will build upon its three-year success in mobilizing community resources and building local capacity to effectively and efficiently prevent low-income children from being exposed to home based environmental health and safety hazards. This pro-active demonstration project's primary target populations will be property owners and low-income families with children identified through a proven referral agreement with the Department of Social Services. ECHD FIHI activities will be implemented in privately owned one, two or three dwelling unit structures in Erie County, with targeted outreach focusing in the HUD Renewal Community (RC) in the Cities of Buffalo and Lackawanna. The housing stock in this area is predominately composed of one and two family structures built before 1950.

The project will direct its low-cost intervention toward the following key hazards: Allergens & Asthma Combustion Products insect & Rodent Pests Lead Mold & Moisture Radon 'Take-Home' Hazards Unintentional Injury: falls, fire burns, electric shock poisoning & mechanical suffocation

Education Associates.

- a. Provide 24 training sessions on "Mold Awareness and Risk Management"
- b. Provide 12 training sessions on "Preventive Maintenance"
- c. Provide 6 Landlord Seminars in the community featuring various Healthy Homes related topics..
- d. Provide a "Building Science Training" for participating property owners featuring the Energy Star program.

Evaluation

Follow-up visits at six months after intervention and/or education visit will be completed in at least 25% of approved units. A visual survey will assess the continued compliance of the unit. The effects of home assessment and educational intervention on participating families' knowledge of home health and safety hazards will be evaluated. Progress toward program performance benchmarks will be carefully monitored.

The Health Department's Division of Environmental Health (DEH) will have primary responsibility for executing the project's work plan. The DEH includes the existing Healthy Homes Initiative, the Healthy Neighborhoods Program, the EPA sponsored asthma program

Project INHALE (IN-Home Asthma Literacy Education) and the NYS/CDC Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program's.(CLPPP)

The primary collaborators of the ECHD HHI will be the Family Medicine Research Institute University at Buffalo (FMRI), the Erie County Department of Social Services (DSS), Cortese Brothers Construction, and Environmental Education Associates. An array of local partners including: Buffalo Municipal Housing Court, the Department of Environment and Planning, the Erie County Public Health Laboratory, Housing Opportunities Made Equal, Inc., and Home Performance Professionals, Inc.- an *Energy Star* Partner, will contribute significant leveraged resources to this project.

Product Outcomes/Outputs:

The deliverables over the three-year grant cycle will be:

1. **Assessment of 700 Vacant Dwelling Units** - 700 units in the project's target area will be assessed for environmental hazards
2. **Maintain a Registry of Risk Reduced Dwelling Units** - a registry of units suitable for occupancy by low-income families with children will be maintained. The project will promote fair housing practices in the rental of those units.
3. **In-home Education for 300 Families** - three hundred participating families will receive one-on-one education sessions using the comprehensive ECHD HHI education curriculum previously developed by the project.
4. **Community Education & Awareness** - Provide 36-48 small group education sessions for low-income families to raise awareness and promote control of home environmental hazards and the prevention of illness and injury in children Provide 6 'Train the Trainer' Healthy Home Education Seminars for Faith-Based and Community Organizations serving the high risk population of low and very low-income families with children.
5. **Landlord / Property Manager Training** - two hands-on classes focusing on mold & safe work practices, and preventative maintenance & moisture control, including education on factors contributing to poor indoor air quality, will be developed with project partners Cortese Brothers Construction and Environmental