

## Healthy Homes Grantees in Region IX, Pacific/Hawaii

**Name of Grantee:** Esperanza Community Housing Corporation

**Name of Project:** South Central Healthy Homes Demonstration Project

**Amount Awarded:** \$ 975,000

**Year of Grant:** 2005

**Contact Info:**

Project Director, Nancy Halpern Ibrahim,

**Project Partners:** City of Los Angeles Housing Department Systematic Housing Code Enforcement Program, Los Angeles County Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP)

**Summary of Project Activities:**

Esperanza Community Housing Corporation is apply for \$975,000 for the South Central Healthy Homes Demonstration Project, which will expand and improve the efficiency of the model program developed in its HUD-funded Los Angeles Healthy Homes Outreach Project to a much larger neighborhood in the same distressed Los Angeles community. Under the Los Angeles Healthy Homes Outreach Project, the area targeted was one Census Tract, 2244. The proposed South Central Healthy Homes Demonstration Project expands the area to 13 census tracts with similar demographics and needs. Together with its community partners, St. John's Well Child and Family Center (St. John's) and Strategic Action for a Just Economy (SAJE), Esperanza will provide healthy homes education and interventions, enhances clinical treatment and case management of housing-based health problems, and provides tenants rights education and organizing to a target area made up of 13 census tracts in the area south of downtown Los Angeles.

During the three-year grant period, the proposed South-Central Healthy Homes Demonstration Project will contact 1,100 households, enroll 500 households, conduct 72 tenants rights workshops, organize tenants in 15 buildings, intervene to prevent the eviction of 150 households and conduct 36 presentations for community groups and health fairs. Importantly, the project will link clinical case management directly with interventions in housing habitability, thus improving short and long-term health outcomes. Esperanza and its partners will bring \$ 875,321 in match to the project along with years of experience working in the target community. The total program budget will be \$1,850,321.

**Staff**

Nancy Halpern Ibrahim, Esperanza's Associate Director will serve as Project Director. Ms. Ibrahim was also the Project Director for Esperanza's HUD-funded Los Angeles Healthy Homes Outreach Project completed in 2004. The proposed project will have an experienced and dedicated staff comprised of a full-time Project Manager, a Data Analyst, an Asthma Specialist, 5.75 Community Health Promoters, two Community Organizers and an Environmental Nurse.

In the three years of the proposed program, Esperanza's Community Health Promoters will conduct educational, cleaning, and environmental testing interventions in 500 households and provide community education presentations; SAJE Tenant Organizers will conduct tenant rights workshops, organize tenants and help tenants fight evictions and file complaints with the

City of Los Angeles Code Enforcement Bureau. An Environmental Nurse on the staff of St. John's Well Child and Family Center will provide blood lead testing, asthma case management and management of other illnesses with environmental etiology and referrals for Healthy Homes program enrollment.

The outcomes will be reduction of asthma-related and household hazard-based illness, prevention of childhood lead poisoning, increased knowledge about how to recognize and control household hazards and prevention of displacement, and an invaluable database demonstrating the interface between substandard housing and family health.

### **Need**

The target area is a distressed community where 42% of households live in poverty and 42% are severely overcrowded. Whole families live in zero and one-bedroom apartments. 30% of the structures were built before 1940 compared to just 17% Citywide and 77% of units were built before 1960 compared to 50% Citywide. The prevalence of elevated blood lead is estimated at 3%, more than twice the 1.4% prevalence level estimated for children statewide. Hospitalizations for asthma are among the highest in the state. Data from 132 units in Esperanza's Los Angeles Healthy Homes Outreach Project shows that 45% of units assessed had peeling paint.

### **Evaluation**

Esperanza's data analyst will enter results of the household surveys and building condition assessments into a Microsoft Access Database. Project evaluation will be assisted by an experienced evaluation team from Lodestar Management/Research, led by Juana Mora, Ph.D. The evaluation consultants will work with the staff on the evaluation design and provide technical assistance to adjust the database and increase staff capacity to conduct data analysis. SAJE and St. John's Well Child and Family Center will maintain their own data collection systems and provide data to Esperanza on their activities.

### **Organizational Experience**

Esperanza and its partners are community-based nonprofits with many years of experience in the target community where they have built a relationship of mutual respect and trust with community residents and each other. Esperanza provides a broad range of programs that include educational assistance for children and adults, economic development through the Mercado La Paloma public marketplace, affordable housing development and Esperanza's unique Community Health Promoters Program that trains community members in a six-month health promoter training and links them to living wage employment opportunities in health and social service agencies. Health Promoters have become leaders in the community's struggle to make the area's failing public health and educational institutions responsive to community needs.

SAJE provides tenant rights workshops, tenant organizing and job training. St. John's Well Child and Family Center has seven clinic sites including the South Los Angeles center that will participate in this project and provides health services to 60,000 patients a year.

Esperanza, SAJE and St. John's work on local and regional program and policy change through participation in the Healthy Homes Collaborative, the 29-member Figueroa Corridor

Coalition for Economic Justice and in the Los Angeles Community Action to Fight Asthma Coalition, among other health and affordable housing coalitions.

Esperanza will work closely with the City of Los Angeles Housing Department's Systematic Housing Code Enforcement Program (SCEP) and Lead Grant Program and with the Los Angeles County Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) in implementation of this project. As a participant in the City's Lead Outreach Program/SCEP Pilot Program, Esperanza meets monthly with inspectors of the SCEP and CLPPP programs.

**Product Outcomes/Outputs:**

The outcomes will be reduction of asthma-related and household hazard-based illness, prevention of childhood lead poisoning, increased knowledge about how to recognize and control household hazards and prevention of displacement, and an invaluable database demonstrating the interface between substandard housing and family health.