Flint Water Crisis

Creating Access to Safe Water and Fostering Community Outreach and Engagement
In April 2014, Flint’s water was changed from safe drinking water, sourced from Lake Huron and treated in Detroit, to untreated water from the Flint River.
This change caused a series of problems including unsafe drinking water that culminated into other public health concerns.
The corrosive Flint River water, untreated in the aging pipes, caused lead to leach into the water supply, leading to elevated levels of lead and copper.
In October 2015, after great concern and protests by residents, Flint’s water source was switched back to Lake Huron water.
Water is a Human Right!

GOD HELP US SAVE FLINT

PRAY FOR FLINT
2 Chronicles 7:14

FLINT LIVES MATTER

Snyder Poisoned FLINT Children

FIX FLINT NOW

#ArrestGovSnyder
Even after the switch back to Lake Huron water, the health issues, emotional harm, and aging infrastructure continued to challenge the response and recovery efforts.
The elevated level of lead in the water in Flint, created a myriad of health and community challenges to an already struggling City.
On January 5, 2016, Governor Rick Snyder declared a state of emergency for Flint, MI.
On January 16, 2016, President Barack Obama declared a Federal state of emergency for Flint, MI.
The declaration ordered federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts and authorized FEMA emergency assistance for bottled water, water filters, replacement cartridges and water test kits.
All efforts to date have been allowed under each Department’s statutory and regulatory authority and have been provided under existing programs.
On March 14, 2016, HUD Secretary Julian Castro visited Flint and met with Mayor Karen Weaver and Congressman Dan Kildee to evaluate how HUD could aid the community.
HUD responds by assigning one full time staff person to directly assist HUD residents in the Region and collaborate with Federal, State, and local agencies to provide education, outreach, and intervention activities.
HUD goals included:

Ensuring all HUD assisted households had access to clean and safe drinking water.

Identifying HUD funding and additional technical assistance to assist with the water crisis in Flint and long-term recovery.

Coordinating and collaborating with other Federal, State, City governmental agencies and other partners to maximize resources and minimize duplication of efforts.

Coordinating education, outreach and intervention activities for HUD-assisted households.

Establishing and accomplishing short-term response and longer term recovery goals and objectives.
HUD IN ACTION
Planned and coordinated 12 outreach events collaborating with over 25 partners. Over 500 residents participated in these events.
Events provided updates on the water crisis, blood testing, enrollment in expanded Medicaid services, distribution of filters, replacement cartridges and bottled water, and information on healthy foods.
Over **200 residents** received blood lead level testing from mobile blood units.
Outreach events kept adults immersed in useful information and the children occupied with FUN!
Identified HUD funding to address various issues related to the water crisis resulting in:

- Approval of funds for water filters in all public housing, multifamily assisted and housing choice voucher units totaling over 5000 units

- Approval of $20,000 in City of Flint CDBG funds to purchase water filters for delivery and installation in the homes of homebound seniors that assisted approximately 250 households at $80/household

- A MOU for additional technical assistance by a HUD TA provider

- Consideration of the City’s plan for use of 108 fund and a request for additional CDBG
Developed a water sampling protocol for all HUD multi family and public housing units receiving water from the City of Flint and initiated testing for lead and copper levels. Maintenance staff were trained on the “first draw” sampling procedures and over 1000 units were tested with less than 5% yielding results above the EPA minimum standards.
Collaborated with the State Lead Safe Home Program to host two informational sessions for Housing Choice Voucher Landlords in Flint. **Sixty attendees** learned about the responsibilities of owners who lease dwellings, and various programs that offer assistance to property owners in making their homes lead safe.
Collaborated with Michigan Health and Human Services to develop a Data Use Agreement to share information about blood lead levels for HUD-assisted households and to inform outreach activities for blood testing, case management and expanded services.
Coordinated with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to match HUD-assisted household data to the State database for water testing resulting in an ability to track multifamily, public housing and HCV test results and identify areas for additional outreach and intervention.
HUD released a new LEAD-SAFE HEALTHY HOMES TOOLKIT

National Healthy Homes Month 2016 Toolkit

Recommended Activities, Resources and Social Media Messaging Guide
Issued guidance to PHAs, owners and management agents about “Requirements for addressing lead contaminated water in public housing, project based section 8 housing, multifamily insured housing, and housing choice voucher units located in the City of Flint and Genesee County”.
Provided guidance to FHA approved lenders to meet requirements related to potable and safe water while continuing to lend to prospective homeowners in Flint.
Submitted a proposed rule to OMB amending HUD’s Lead-Based Paint and Poisoning Prevention regulations to provide greater protection for children residing in federally assisted housing by adopting CDC’s definition of elevated blood levels and establishing more comprehensive testing and evaluation procedures.
Provided an information package to HUD partners about expanded services and safe drinking water to distribute to all residents. The materials were available in multiple languages.
White House Strong Cities Strong Communities (SC2)

HUD leads 10 Federal Agencies working closely with City leadership on longer term economic development solutions, brownfield remediation and blight elimination—designation extended through December 2016.

The City was awarded a grant to participate in a “Municipal Health Data for American Cities” pilot program funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to develop a first ever dashboard for essential health data at the City-level.
The City received a HUD grant for Hardest Hit funds in May 2016 for $13.9 million to demolish more than 1000 vacant homes in Flint and the surrounding community.

Work continues with the Flint Housing Commission and the City under the Choice Neighborhoods Planning grant to solidify plans for the redevelopment of the Atherton East neighborhood.
HUD participated in the White House Summer Opportunity Project assigning a Summer Ambassador to Flint to assist in increasing youth employment. With local partners a program was designed and funding secured, resulting in **44 paid summer jobs** with USDA and the Flint Housing Commission for youth 16-21.
Next Steps...
While this is a limited description of the great work accomplished in Flint by the HUD team from March 2016 – August 2016, HUD’s work in Flint will continue with a commitment to participate with the Unified Coordinating Group (UCG) and the White House National Securities Council to coordinate, collaborate and implement initiatives to complete the emergency response to the water crisis and address the long term economic and community recovery initiatives.
Thanks for Supporting Flint Initiatives!

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