Healthy Homes Grantees Region X, Northwest/Alaska

Name of Grantee: Seattle and King County Public Health Department
Name of Project: Seattle Healthy Homes Initiative
Amount Awarded: $ 937,879
Year of Grant: 2001
Contact Info: Tim Takaro, 206-616-7458

Project Partners: Public Health, Seattle & King County, King County Asthma Forum, Seattle Housing Authority (SHA), Youth Build - King County Department of Community and Human Services, City of Seattle Office of Housing, King County Housing Authority Weatherization Program, University of Washington Healthy Buildings, Inc., Environmental Protection Agency, Region X, Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center, Community Health Centers of King County, King County Housing & Community Development, Housing Repair Program - Housing Development Consortium of Seattle King Co., Seattle King Co. Healthy Homes Project, Yesler Terrace Residents' Council, Workforce Development Council

Summary of Project Activities:

The primary goal of the Seattle Healthy Homes Initiative is to decrease children's exposure to multiple household hazards causing illness or injury through remediation of structural conditions and empowerment of residents to take additional, sustainable actions to reduce exposures. We will address poor indoor air quality (excessive moisture, mold, dust mites, pests, tobacco smoke, pet danders, CO, NO.), lead, toxic substances, and injury hazards. This project will further our work in promoting environmental justice by focusing on low-income and minority households with disproportionate exposure to indoor hazards. Secondary research goals are to accumulate descriptive data on levels of these hazards, examine the association between hazards and health outcomes and examine, develop, and assess low-cost methods for assessment of indoor environmental quality.

Particular strengths of our project include:

Building on our current Seattle-King County Healthy Homes Project, funded by the National Institutes of Health, which provides outreach and education to 270 low-income families. We have an established track record in recruiting and retaining low-income households in the project.

- Incorporating into a single, integrated approach remediation and outreach/education approaches
- Conducting a randomized and controlled comparison of the relative effectiveness of remediation and outreach/education with outreach/education alone
- Assessing project impact on health outcomes by focusing on units of children with asthma
• Assessing project impact on dust, allergen, mold and other exposures with quantitative pre- and post-intervention measurements
• Mobilizing a broad cooperative effort to accomplish our goals

The Seattle Healthy Homes Initiative is a cooperative venture involving the following organizations from local, state and federal government, the private sector and community based organizations:

Public Health, Seattle & King County
King County Asthma Forum
Seattle Housing Authority (SHA)
Youth Build - King County Department of Community and Human Services
City of Seattle Office of Housing
King County Housing Authority Weatherization Program
University of Washington
Healthy Buildings, Inc.
Environmental Protection Agency, Region X
Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center
Community Health Centers of King County
King County Housing & Community Development
Housing Repair Program - Housing Development Consortium of Seattle King Co.
Seattle King Co. Healthy Homes Project
Yesler Terrace Residents' Council
Workforce Development Council

The target population consists of low-income households in the Seattle metropolitan area that contain a child age 2-17 with asthma. Approximately 70% of participants will be of minority race/ethnicity (African, African American, Asian/Pacific Islander, Latino). Housing units will be a mix of publicly-owned SHA units, privately-owned Section 8 units, and privately-owned with no rent subsidy. Overall, among units for which baseline data are available, 47% have mold or water damage problems and 99% have at least one IEQ problem. We will enroll 70 units in our project from a potential pool of at least 1000 units. The project will benefit the area and result in a sustainable program by:

• Creating a significant number of healthy homes for low-income families,
• Increasing local knowledge and capacity for assessment and remediation of hazardous housing conditions through dissemination of assessment methods, remediation protocols and client remediation, construction training, and empowerment approaches
• Leveraging existing resources such as weatherization programs
• Integrating currently fragmented efforts to address indoor environmental quality and safety
• Enhancing linkages among participating organizations to promote awareness of methods and resources for healthier housing
The project will also generate findings of general interest on the assessment of the indoor environment and the effectiveness of approaches for improving it. We will accomplish this work by:

- Identifying households of children with asthma and screening them for indoor environmental problems
- Conducting baseline assessments of home environmental conditions, client knowledge and practices related exposures to indoor health hazards, and health conditions potentially related to indoor environmental quality with an emphasis on asthma-related health status.
- A team consisting of an outreach worker a public health environmental health staff and a remediation specialist will conduct this assessment.
- The team will prepare a household action plan that will list priorities for structural remediation and household member behavioral change.
- Correcting structural conditions identified during the baseline assessment.
- Providing training and economic opportunities for members of the target population in home remediation, home cleaning and outreach/education.
- Providing education, supplies and support to empower participants to keep their homes healthy and adopt behaviors leading to a healthier home environment.
- Outreach workers will make five home outreach and education visits using structured protocols.
- Evaluating the effectiveness of the program with a randomized controlled trial.

**Product Outcomes/Outputs:**

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