

## Healthy Homes Grantees in Region III, Mid-Atlantic

**Name of Grantee:** Philadelphia Housing Authority

**Name of Project:** Asthma Intervention and Reduction (AIR)

**Amount Awarded:** \$1,000,000

**Year of Grant:** 2004

**Contact info:**

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**Project Partners:** Drexel University School of Public Health, Tenant Support Services, Inc., American Community Partners, Philadelphia Department of Public Health

**Summary of Project Activities:**

This project is designed to reduce the number of asthma triggers in homes of developmental aged children living in Housing Choice Voucher homes in Philadelphia, leading to a subsequent reduction in the number of asthma attacks they suffer. Outreach and education focuses on training heads of households to identify and manage or eliminate triggers. Through a series of four visits, health and diet surveys are administered and homes are assessed for asthma triggers such as vermin infestations, mold and moisture problems, smoking and pet dander. Building repair issues that may address moisture or other air quality problems are brought to the parent's and landlord's attention. Loans are made available to landlords to assist with repairs. Baseline data is measured against follow-up surveys to determine the extent of action taken and its efficacy. Particulate and dust sampling and moisture readings are collected in the homes as baseline data for a research effort undertaken by Drexel University that was incorporated into the AIR Program called *Philly CABiNs: The Philadelphia Childhood Asthma, Bioaerosol and Nutrition Study*. One of several goals of this study is determining the nature of the relationship between pediatric asthma severity and both endotoxin and mold concentrations in the home. Data analysis and interpretation for all activities is completed by Drexel University. Cleaning supplies, water filters and allergen covers for bedding are provided at various stages of participation to assist with asthma trigger management and as incentives for continued participation.

**Partner Organizations:**

Drexel University School of Public Health  
Hernando Perez, Ph.D, M.P.H.  
245 N. 15<sup>th</sup> St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19102-1192  
215-762-6514

Tenant Support Services, Inc.  
Warren Knight  
642 N. Broad St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19130  
215-684-1016

American Community Partners  
Alford Williams  
727 15<sup>th</sup> St., NW Suite 1250  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Philadelphia Department of Public Health  
Peter Palermo  
2100 Girard Ave., PNH Building 3  
Philadelphia, PA 19130  
215-685-2788

**Product Outcomes/Outputs:**

**Outcomes of the AIR Program will include:**

- At least 150 healthy homes for children diagnosed with asthma

Enrolled clients/properties are reevaluated four months after the intervention to evaluate the health impact and sustainability of interventions. Outcomes evaluated will include data management, health outcomes, sustainability of interventions and outreach and education of parents/guardians.