Healthy Homes Grantees in Region V, Midwest

Name of Grantee: Environmental Action for Children’s Health
Name of Project: City of Minneapolis
Amount Awarded: $ 650,000
Year of Grant: 2003
Contact Info: Lisa Smestad, 612-673-3733, lsmestad@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

Project Partners: Environmental Action for Children's Health (EACH). The City of Minneapolis, St. Paul Ramsey County Department of Public Health, Children's Hospital and Health Clinics, Sustainable Resources Center, and the Greater Minneapolis Day Care Association

Summary of Project Activities:
The City of Minneapolis will develop and demonstrate cost-effective and replicable interventions to remediate allergens, lead, mold, and other home-based health hazards in inner-city housing. Grant partners have contributed or leveraged $420,706.82. 140 households, including 50 in-home daycares, will participate in the project, Environmental Action for Children's Health (EACH). The City of Minneapolis, St. Paul Ramsey County Department of Public Health, Children's Hospital and Health Clinics, Sustainable Resources Center, and the Greater Minneapolis Day Care Association have developed a well-trained and certified staff capable of carrying out the goals of this program. This project will demonstrate replicable beneficial interventions and promote cost effective preventative measures to correct multiple safety and health hazards in the home environment that produce serious diseases and injuries to children.

Target areas were chosen on the basis of the highest rates for in-patient and out-patient service for asthma in area hospitals in Minneapolis and Ramsey County for children under the age of 18. This target area also includes the high rates of lead poisoning, children living in poverty and older housing stock.

Breakdown by Partner

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<th>Children’s</th>
<th>St. Paul</th>
<th>Greater Minneapolis</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Environmental Health</td>
<td>Ramsey County DPH</td>
<td>Day Care Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Healthy Housing Units</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>140</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estimated number of children in units</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>250</td>
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<td>330</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sustainable Resource Center - Healthy Housing Education and Outreach</td>
<td>12,000</td>
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The EACH project meets HUD's goals through its multi-level approach to address the issues of home-based hazards. The project identifies homes by two different groups. The first group will be 90 cases, 45 in Minneapolis and 45 from St Paul and throughout Ramsey County referred by and enrolled through Children's Hospital and Clinics. Case referrals will be based upon a diagnosis of Childhood Asthma.

The second group will be fifty in-home daycares, 25 in Minneapolis and 25 in Ramsey County in collaboration with the Greater Minneapolis Daycare Association (GMDCA). Preference will be given to the in-home daycares where a child attending the daycare has had their home enrolled in the EACH project through Children's Hospitals and Clinics. GMDCA has already established a Healthy Homes approach with their Healthy Environment for Early Learning program that addresses safety of fuel burning appliances, lead-based paint hazards, and moisture control and ventilation improvement.

Enrolled houses will be entered into the ECOSpec Database System. Buildings and families will have individual identification numbers for privacy. Homes will be assessed for air quality, mold and moisture, lead hazards, ventilation, pests and vermin, fire hazards, and other home based hazards. The interventions are designed to reduce asthma triggers and safety concerns in the environment. Assessment and interventions will focus on ventilation, moisture and safety. Interventions may include: allergen covers on bedding to address dust mites, integrated pest management to reduce pest allergens, providing the family with tools (allergen vacuum, mops) to maintain cleanliness, HEPA air filtration, dehumidifiers to reduce moisture leading to mold growth, ventilation correction for air quality and moisture reduction, installation of smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, fire extinguishers, and correction of trip and fall hazards.

Education on housing based environmental and, safety issues will be provided to all participants. Temporary relocation of In-home Daycares will be offered by GMDCA in collaboration with Mt. Zion Lutheran Church or the Early Childhood Resource Center. All participants will meet HUD income guidelines. Grant partners and their employees and contractors will follow applicable OSHA, EPA, CDC, and HUD regulations/guidelines and local statute, rules and code on health and safety.

The EACH project combines the existing cost-effective protocols for assessment and intervention already developed by HUD, EPA, SRC, RAP and others in the Environmental Assessment (EA). Intervention Plans (IP) will be based on the results of the EA and target the specific environmental hazards found on site. IP will be implemented to correct the hazards in a cost-effective manner designed to be sustainable by ordinary household maintenance. The health of the child that triggered enrollment will be evaluated six months after the IP to evaluate the impact of interventions (which include physical changes to the environment and education) on their health. Outcomes evaluated will be; data management, health outcomes, the demonstrated sustainability of interventions and the number of families reached with educational efforts.

The EACH grant proposes the following timeline for the project:

-Grant activities begin within 3 months of the receipt of funding
- Primary activities completed within 24 months
- Project evaluation and education outreach efforts completed within 36 months

With Government, Private and Community based team members, and the consolidation of home based hazard educational services will mobilize public and private resources to integrate Healthy Housing approaches and awareness in existing housing and education programs and reduce home based hazards for the maximum number of residents. Direct outreach to tenants, parents, community organizations, community contractors, housing inspectors, daycare providers, daycare inspectors, city inspectors and home occupants with the healthy homes educational messages and practical approaches will build local capacity to ensure that this program maximizes resources and is sustainable after the grant funding is exhausted while promoting fair housing and environmental justice throughout existing housing and community-based programs.

The City of Minneapolis, Saint Paul Ramsey County Department of Public Health, SRC, GMDCA and Children's Hospital have independently developed the expertise, tools and processes necessary to create a comprehensive cost effective Healthy Homes Demonstration Program. The commitments made to collaborate on the EACH project will provide the means to bringing all of these efforts and the expertise in our community together to create a common approach to Healthy Housing. Building on existing partnerships and programs, the implementation of the demonstration program can proceed immediately upon receipt of the grant award.

*Motto: EACH and every child deserves a healthy home.*

**Product Outcomes/Outputs:**

Outcomes of the EACH project will include:

- 90 Affordable Healthy Homes for Children diagnosed with Asthma
- 50 Healthy Daycares serving low-income families
- Survey Tools for occupant awareness evaluation before and after Healthy Home Interventions
- Culturally specific Healthy Homes educational materials to be used in existing programs