Healthy Homes Grantees in Region V, Midwest

Name of Grantee: Columbus Health Department
Name of Project: Columbus Healthy Homes Program (Demonstration)
Amount Awarded: $ 999,968
Year of Grant: 2004
Contact Info:
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Project Partners: Columbus Children’s Hospital, Columbus Department of Development,
Home Safe Home, The Breathing Association

Summary of Project Activities:
Similar to trends found in national surveillance data, low-income, urban children, and
especially low income African-American children, in the City of Columbus bear the
disproportionate burden of asthma morbidity. Low-income children in the city center are also
subject to a variety of housing related health hazards due to substandard indoor environmental,
safety, and maintenance issues. These conditions cause increases in exposure to lead paint and
lead dust hazards, unintentional injuries, as well as mold, dust mites, cockroaches and other
triggers and irritants that can cause asthma attacks and respiratory illnesses

Unfortunately, housing-related environmental problems are not usually addressed until a
complaint is filed or an accident has occurred, which is frequently after onset of associated
injuries and illness. The only way to truly prevent housing-related injuries to children's health is
to screen high-risk housing and provide the necessary tools, information, and access to services
to prevent the onset of permanent injury and morbidity.

The Program goal is to implement cost effective, preventive measures to reduce injury
and morbidity from preventable housing-related health and safety hazards associated with
asthma, lead paint, and unintentional injuries in the home environment for those most at risk.
The Columbus Healthy Homes Program will achieve 238 interventions in homes resulting in at
least a 50 percent reduction in associated diseases, injuries, and symptoms.

The initiative area encompasses city pre-1950 housing, high asthma prevalence, and high
fire injury areas. The program is targeted towards low-income household with asthmatic
children under the age of 18. The primary audience is low income and African American
households with: asthmatic children, asthmatic pregnant women, and undiagnosed children under
age six of mothers with asthma.

Partner Organizations:
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**Product Outcomes/Outputs:**
Achievement Outcome Goals:
80% of families increase awareness and knowledge leading to behavior change
50% of families sustain reduction in frequency of asthma exacerbation, lead exposure, and unintentional injury episodes
80% of families reduce emergency room visits
50% of families increase primary care visits
80% of families improve quality of life status
238 units controlled for asthma, lead, and unintentional injuries.
Combine Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthy Homes Programs through identification and integration of cost effective interventions