Healthy Homes Grantees in Region V, Midwest

Name of Grantee:  Case Healthy Homes and Babies Program (CHHAB)
Name of Project:  Swetland Center for Environmental Health, Case Western Reserve University, School of Medicine
Amount Awarded:  $ 983,467
Year of Grant:  (2005) 2006 - 2008
Contact Info:
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Project Partners:  Environmental Health Watch, Cleveland Housing Network, Cleveland Dept of Public Health, and Cuyahoga County Board of Health

Summary of Project Activities:
The primary goals are: 1) to provide healthy homes assessments and housing interventions to pregnant women/young infants in high-risk housing in Cleveland and East Cleveland; 2) to provide physicians-in-training with the opportunity to learn about housing-related health hazards through participation in assessments at their patients’ homes; 3) to develop healthy homes assessments and housing intervention for elderly patients served by the same clinic; and 4) to develop a sustainable model of early home interventions that can be adopted by existing infant and elderly home visit programs in Cleveland and Cuyahoga County. Our strategy is early, multi-faceted, integrated housing and behavioral interventions in the patient’s homes to address multiple housing-related child and elderly health hazards and injury risks to prevent environmental illness and accidental injury.

Based on the inspection, a preliminary Home Health & Safety Plan is created with the listed actions by the family, medical resident and environmental specialist. Family actions include behavior changes such as no longer smoking in the house; the medical resident reinforces such behavior changes at subsequent clinic visits; while the environmental specialist focuses on building interventions including the health and safety items that are provided to the family, e.g. allergen vacuum, fire extinguisher, smoke and CO detectors, etc. The family education on home health and safety hazards is integrated into all aspects of the home visit. The environmental specialist, based on the inspection and test results, writes work plans for two levels of building interventions, viz. Level 1: limited, ‘handy man’ interventions including installation of the safety items, environmental cleaning to reduce lead dust and other contaminants, and IPM cockroach control, and Level 2: interventions carried out by contractors through the Cleveland Housing Network and include lead hazard control, moisture reduction, and furnace inspection and repairs.

Partner Organizations:
Environmental Health Watch   Cleveland Housing Network
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Product Outcomes/Outputs:
Outcomes of the CHHAB project will include:
150 healthy homes for infants and elderly patients
Education of 30 Family Medicine physicians in Healthy Homes principles
Development of practical home environment assessments and interventions for the elderly