Healthy Homes Grantees in Region IX, Pacific/Hawaii

Name of Grantee: The Child Abuse Prevention Council of Sacramento, Inc.
Name of Project: California Alliance For Prevention – Healthy Homes
Amount Awarded: $1,500,000
Year of Grant: 2000
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Project Partners: The American Lung Association of Sacramento-Emigrant Trails (ALASSET), University of California-Davis Medical Center, Sacramento County Department of Health and Human Services

Summary of Project Activities:
The Child Abuse Prevention Council of Sacramento (CAPCSAC), and its collaborative partners: The American Lung Association of Sacramento-Emigrant Trails (ALASSET), University of California-Davis Medical Center, Sacramento County Department of Health and Human Services, request funding to implement the California Alliance for Prevention Healthy Homes Initiative. Within California, we have reason to be concerned about the future of our children: 19 percent of children under 6 live in poverty, approximately 7,000 children are taken into protective custody per year, 74 out of 1,000 births are to teen mothers, 3,613,284 juvenile felony arrests are made annually, gun related deaths of children are at an all time high of 488 per year, an average of 4.8 million children suffer from asthma, and the juvenile recidivism rate is 16%. The most current national survey shows that nearly 1 million children are lead poisoned within the United States. Research done by the Environmental Working Group shows that within California an estimated 212,000 children ages 1 to 5 are lead poisoned and do not receive services. In response to these problems, a plethora of services, both private and government, have been developed. However, 95 percent of these services are intervention and treatment-oriented. Only 5 percent of all child and family services are prevention oriented, designed to support children and families before the harm is done.

Five years ago the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Sacramento initiated the Family Cooperative Project (FCP) to create a cost-efficient prevention program implementing Home Visitation and Family Resource Centers (FRC's) utilizing AmeriCorps members. The California Alliance for Prevention (Alliance) was established in 1999 to replicate the successes of the Sacramento Family Cooperative Project in 16 additional counties, using the same proven strategies. The proposed strategy for the California Alliance for Prevention Healthy Homes Initiative is to integrate education and outreach on prevention and control of lead poisoning and asthma within the activities already performed by the Alliance. The Alliance targets low-income families with pregnant mothers or young children with the goal of improving their health, stability and economic well-being. The integration of the Healthy Homes Initiative into the Alliance model is a natural expansion of the model, which provides the greatest access to the target population. The proposal uses AmeriCorps members recruited from the community they serve. They are able to build a trust relationship with families and gain access to the family and home in ways that public agency professionals cannot. For example, the FCP has demonstrated significant increases in immunization rates and well baby check ups because the AmeriCorps
member makes the suggestions, calls for the appointment, and provides transportation. There are two primary strategies for identifying and intervening with families being planned and implemented by the Alliance in the seventeen California counties: home visitation and family resource centers.

Through the strategy of home visitation, AmeriCorps members in 15 counties will make home visits to 4,433 families with children between ages 0 to 5. Through family resource centers, 250 AmeriCorps members will provide services to children and families in 17 counties. Over 8,000 families will receive services and/or participate in an FRC annually. Of these 5,855 will be families with pregnant mothers or children under 5 years of age and 3,000 will be based in elementary schools serving families with children under 12 years of age. The projected outcomes are:
- Increased detection and reduced incidences of lead poisoning and childhood asthma
- Increased access to home for detection
- Increased referrals
- Increased awareness and knowledge
- Increased coordination among public and private entities
- Increased awareness by staff with access

ALASET will provide curriculum and training to AmeriCorps workers on asthma and asthma maintenance to school age children and their families via two programs: Open Airways for Schools and A is for Asthma. The UC Davis Medical Center will establish an efficient and effective method of linking social and health service agencies in seventeen counties throughout California. The Department of Health and Human Services will work to broaden the scope of community education and outreach currently available, by utilizing 450 AmeriCorps members.

The target areas for the proposed project are within the following 17 counties in California: Sacramento, Fresno, Placer, Shasta/Trinity, San Diego, Amador/Calaveras/Tuolumne, San Joaquin, Yuba, Yolo, Solano, Marin, Kern, Butte, and Los Angeles. Data from the EWG estimates that more than 43,700 children in California live in areas that are considered critical lead risk areas. These areas are San Francisco, Alameda County, Los Angeles, Long Beach, San Diego, Sacramento, and Fresno. In addition to this, 239,000 children live in other very high-risk areas.

**Product Outcomes/Outputs:**

The California Alliance for Prevention Healthy Homes Initiative will help achieve the goals and objectives of HUD by building local capacity to help prevent, minimize, and control housing based hazards to low-income residents. The program will also promote economic opportunities for low income and minority residents in that the AmeriCorps members providing services are hired from the communities in which the services are being delivered. The Initiative will also bring together public and private resources through local match dollars, providing a very cost effective way of reaching residents and their children affected by housing based hazards.