Healthy Homes Grantees Region IX, Pacific/Hawaii

Name of Grantee: Alameda County Community Development Agency
Name of Project: Partnerships for Children’s Respiratory Health: A Demonstration Project of Integrated Housing and Health Interventions
Amount Awarded: $ 850,000
Year of Grant: 2001
Contact Info:
Maricela Naqrvaez-Foster, 510-567-8394

Project Partners: Alameda County Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (ACLPPP)

Summary of Project Activities:
This project will demonstrate that a positive impact on childhood respiratory health can be achieved by combining a housing/environmental approach with the concurrent medical model. The reduction in severity of attacks and frequency of emergency room visits will gauge the efficacy of the interventions for children 1-5 for respiratory distress. The first component of the project will be for the Alameda County Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (ACLPPP) to establish a system of coordination among the identified partners to reduce the fragmentation of current services for asthma treatment. The second component will be the implementation of housing-based interventions and education addressing asthma triggers and safety issues in the home environment. The third and essential component of this project is the evaluation of the housing and education interventions and their impact on children's respiratory health.

Alameda County is one of the most ethnically diverse areas in the nation; more than half its residents are ethnic minorities (17% African-Americans, 17.9% Hispanic, 17.9% Asian/Pacific Islander). A large percentage (16%) of children ages’ 0-5 in the county live in poverty as defined by federal income guidelines. Most households in West Oakland, for example, earn less than $15,000 and 62% of West Oakland residents are African-American. Today the majority of the children seen at Children's Hospital Oakland Ambulatory Clinic are African-American (68%) and are from low-income families. Last year CHO provided care to over 300 children under the age of 5 with a diagnosis of asthma.

Alameda County asthma hospitalization rates for children less than fifteen are almost twice the Healthy People 2000 target rate of 225 per 100,000 for this age group. The second highest asthma hospitalization rate in the state is observed in African-American children living in Alameda County where rates exceed 900 per 100,000 children. The ten zip codes with rates significantly higher than the Healthy People 2000 target rates are located in the same high-risk areas of Oakland that are at risk for other health conditions such as lead poisoning and anemia. These areas, the majority of which are in West Oakland, are low-income, urban communities with a high percentage of pre-1950 homes. The recruitment of families for this project will occur in these areas.
The ACLPPP was created in 1992 through the efforts of community-based organizations, and has used a comprehensive and proactive approach to reduce childhood lead poisoning in Alameda County. The Lead Program's multidisciplinary infrastructure, the creation of several nationally recognized collaboration projects, and its experience with several HUD demonstration projects provides a solid foundation of expertise for this project. ACLPPP has a strong community base of partnerships and collaborations with health care providers, hospitals, government agencies, non-profit organizations, community groups, and private industry throughout Alameda County. The major collaborative partnerships for this project are:

Children’s Hospital ambulatory clinic (CHO), that will serve as the port of entry for children with a diagnosis of asthma as potential participants in the project. CHO will also work with ACLPPP in sharing data for the evaluation phase of the project. The Regional Asthma Management and Prevention Initiative (RAMP) a partner with ACLPPP in developing standardized local strategies, and advocating for legislative support and funding. ACLPPP’s project will also share the cost of RAMP’s community advocate to work with families and develop community resources and referrals;
3) Alameda County Public Health Department will provide community links for public health assistance to families in the targeted areas. All Public Health Nurses and home visitors will participate in the environmental and educational trainings.

Deliverables include:

- Development and sustainability of the Collaborative Partnership
- Multi-hazard housing interventions and an Environmental Maintenance Plan for 40 homes
- Maintenance/Safety Kits and in-home educational intervention with 100 homes
- Development of an in-home environmental assessment tool
- Development of a Healthy Homes curriculum and training for 100 Public Health Nurses, home visitors, and collaborative partners
- Development of a training curriculum for Healthy Homes interventions and safety for contractors and low-income workers

A formative evaluation and ongoing assessment of project activities will drive modifications to improve the process and methodologies throughout the grant period. A summative evaluation at the completion of the grant will assess and analyze participant healthy-status benefits and cost effectiveness of the interventions and methodologies used to define, measure and address in-home asthma triggers.

It is estimated that this project will impact the lives of over 400 children, including siblings, by providing the family homes with housing-based interventions. In addition, this project will standardize local strategies to address the incidence of asthma in Alameda County. The success of the overall project will provide a cost-effective, comprehensive, system-wide model to replicate in other urban regions and decrease medical costs and improve the quality of life for children not just in Alameda County but nationwide.
Product Outcomes/Outputs:

- Development and sustainability of the Collaborative Partnership
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