

Healthy Homes Grantees Region IX, Pacific/Hawaii

Name of Grantee: City of Long Beach, Department of Health and Human Services

Name of Project: City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services Healthy Homes Initiative

Amount Awarded: \$ 495,472

Year of Grant: 1999

Contact:

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Project Partners: The Children's Clinic, Conservation Corps of Long Beach, Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma, Long Beach Housing Development Company, St Mary Medical Center, Families in Good Health, Apartment Association, Long Beach Unified School District, Asthma Allergy Respiratory Care Medical Center, the American Lung Association

Summary of Project Activities:

Participating Organizations

The Long Beach Healthy Homes Initiative is a program administered by the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services in coordination with The Children's Clinic, Conservation Corps of Long Beach, Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma, Long Beach Housing Development Company, St Mary Medical Center, Families in Good Health, Apartment Association, Long Beach Unified School District, Asthma Allergy Respiratory Care Medical Center, the American Lung Association, retail home improvement organizations and financial institutions.

Description of Intervention Target Area: Census Tract No. 5758, City of Long Beach, California

Census tract (CT) 5758, located on the Westside of Long Beach in zip code 90813, is greatly affected by poverty, illness, injury, and the environmental effects of an aging housing stock. In CT 5758, Hispanics constitute the largest segment of the population with 62.4%, followed by Whites (18.6%), Asian/Pacific Islanders (9.6%), and Blacks (8.6%). (1990 Census data).

Based on the 1990 U.S. Census, the population in the targeted census tract is young. An estimated 33.6% of the population of the census tract is under 18 years of age. According to the Los Angeles Urban Research Unit 1995 population estimates, 18% of CT 5758's population is under six years of age.

The median household income in CT 5758 was \$15,911 according to the 1990 U.S. Census. Poverty is a significant issue for many residents in this targeted census tract. In CT 5758, 32.8% of the residents were reported to be living below the national poverty level.

May 1999 data from the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Social Services indicate that 4,678 (45.1%) of persons living in CT 5758 received some type of public assistance. Nearly 24% of these cases were among youth between the ages of 6-12 years.

Capacity and Achievements

The Health Department has a demonstrated ability to effectively administer a wide range of environmental health programs. Program areas of expertise include the Housing Inspection, HUD Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Programs (Rounds III and V), Vector Control, Food Inspection, Recreational Water Quality, and the Hazardous Waste Programs. Through the Round III and V HUD Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Program, over 650 housing units received lead hazard reduction and control services.

Since 1965, the Health Department has been enforcing the City of Long Beach Municipal Housing Code through the provision of yearly routine inspections in approximately 8,000 multi-unit dwellings in Long Beach. Continuous education regarding housing hazards is provided to tenants and onsite managers.

The Health Department established many successful working relationships with public and private sector organizations. The relationships include those within the Health Department, as well as with other City Departments, including Community Development and Planning and Building. Solid partnerships with community-based organizations include The Children's Clinic, Conservation Corps of Long Beach, St. Mary Medical Center, Families in Good Health, the Apartment Association California - Southern Cities Chapter and the Long Beach Unified School District.

The Healthy Homes Initiative, building on earlier departmental efforts, has established links with a non-profit agency, The Long Beach Housing Development Company and local financial institutions to receive investments and/or services from the private sector under the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) of 1977. The CRA requires lenders to extend credit and monetary investments to underserved communities and populations in the areas for which they are chartered. The development of these relationships will help build local capacity through the development of private sector financing for interventions.

Scope and Magnitude of the Proposed Project

The Health Department will provide Healthy Homes program interventions to 125 units in CT 5758 to address and/or reduce environmental pollutants in the home. This is accomplished through a holistic housing-based environmental and intervention model including education to tenants and managers/property owners. Staff will assess managers and/or property owners' knowledge and provide education as needed.

The HHI program will use a housing-based approach in an impacted area (older, pre-1950, poorly maintained housing, higher crime and unemployment, families with children living in generally overcrowded units, and high minority occupancy) in which owner enrollment of the housing and property is needed for most services to occur. All units will be privately-owned affordable housing units, primarily occupied by families with children.

In addition to the Healthy Homes intervention, a quasi-experimental research design will become part of the Initiative. The research design will incorporate three components:

1. Establishment of intervention (CT 5758) and comparison groups (CT 5754);

2. Identification of matched census tracts on demographics characteristics, which will promote the equivalence of the intervention and comparison group;
3. Pre- and post-testing of tenants and manager and/or property owners (participants) in the intervention and comparison groups with long-term follow-up (6 and 12 months).

Work Plan

The program will include a one-year planning and development phase, followed by a one-year implementation phase during which time 125 units/households will receive program services. Follow-up evaluation, data analysis, and reports will occur during the last year. All HHI activities will be completed within 36 months of the start date.

Program Services include the following:

- **Health Education and Community Outreach:** After identified households have been enrolled in the HHI program, the intervention will begin. First, the unit will be visited by the Healthy Homes Educator/Outreach Specialist who will:
 1. Obtain information regarding program eligibility
 2. Conduct a pre-evaluation and baseline educational assessment (see below)
 3. Provide education, skills training, and provide referrals, as needed.

The Healthy Homes Educator/Outreach Specialist will conduct additional behavioral reinforcement education to the household over the next six months. After six and twelve months, the evaluation post evaluation and a follow-up housing inspection will be conducted.

- **Interviews and Health Assessments** (Staff have developed a Visual Assessment Tool, Educational questionnaires covering Knowledge, Beliefs and Behaviors for Asthma, Unintentional Injuries and Lead. Additionally, the Asthma questionnaire includes a medical risk component. Other questionnaires include eligibility and financial screening forms for tenants. Owners will receive an abbreviated educational assessment.)
- **Medical Case Management and Referrals, if needed** Case management of individuals with elevated blood test results will be administered by the Public Health Nurse. Case management services may include monitoring, nutrition education, outpatient chelation, medical review for hospitalization, retesting and/or referral to the child's health care provider.
- **Blood Lead testing, if needed** If applicable, for each at-risk person in eligible households, the Public Health Nurse will schedule a blood lead test within 30 days prior to scheduled lead hazard cleaning activities and risk assessment. A phlebotomist will draw the blood and appropriate biohazard precautions will be taken.
- **Healthy Homes Housing Inspections** (Environmental Reviews required prior to commencement of work on property site). After the Healthy Homes Educator/Outreach Specialist provides education and training, the Inspector will perform the preliminary housing inspection and collect appropriate samples for the evaluation. Sampling for HHI

housing-based pollutants will be collected using air samples, wipes and swabs, bulk samples. The sample targets will include dust, dust mites, airborne mold, LBP and dust, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, relative humidity, dew point, temperature, cyclodienes and chloropyriphos).

The Healthy Homes Specialist will initiate and monitor all hazard-control interventions. At the conclusion of the intervention, the Healthy Homes Housing Inspector will perform a clearance test.

- **Home Repairs** Healthy Homes has partnered with Conservation Corps of Long Beach youth to provide minor home repairs including (light construction, carpet replacement, window screen replacement, etc.).
- **Testing of Gas and Electric Appliances** During the next several days of the intervention, the Gas & Electric and Water Departments will provide appropriate testing of the household appliances.
- **Temporary Relocations, if needed**

The results of these visits will be collected by the Healthy Homes Specialist (Inspector) and evaluated by the Evaluation Coordinator.

Product Outcomes/Outputs:

The program will include a one-year planning and development phase, followed by a one-year implementation phase during which time 125 units/households will receive program services. Follow-up evaluation, data analysis, and reports will occur during the last year. All HHI activities will be completed within 36 months of the start date.