

Healthy Homes Grantees in Region VII, Great Plains

Name of Grantee: St. Louis County, Department of Planning, Office of Community Development

Name of Project: Healthy Homes Program

Amount Awarded: \$ 876,731

Year of Grant: 2004

Contact Info:

Project Director, Darlene Rich, 314-615-4592, Drich@stlouisco.com

Project Partners: Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, Beyond Housing/Neighborhood Housing Services, Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, Wellston Community Support Association

Summary of Project Activities:

We have an education and a remediation component to the program. We go out the house as a team: our Education/Outreach Coordinator, the environmental testing company representative and the program coordinator. The Education Outreach Coordinator goes over a questionnaire with the client to determine health conditions and needs. The environmental Company Representative and the Program Coordinator go through the house testing for moisture problems, carbon monoxide, radon gas, asbestos hazards, lead paint hazards, rodent/pest infestation, health and safety problems. All three prepare a summary of their findings and concerns are discussed. A work specification is prepared and mailed to the client listing the groups chief concerns. The client obtains bids and submits them to the Project Coordinator for approval. After approval the work is performed and a final inspection is done by the Project Coordinator . A lien is placed against the property for the cost of this work: five-year-forgivable for owner/occupied, due-upon-sale for rental. Maximum amount of eligible work is \$ 1,800. After the final inspection, the Education/Outreach Coordinator distributes supplies ascertained from her initial visit. These items include smoke detector, Co detector, HEPA vacuum cleaner, allergy mattress and pillow covers and cleaning kit.

Product Outcomes/Outputs:

We have inspected almost 100 units and completed about 40 homes. Direct relationship between maintenance and housekeeping and health conditions of the occupants. Most of the moisture problems are low cost, common sense issues like bath exhaust fans, downspout extensions and clothes dryer venting. We try to address the cause of the moisture problem with the remediation funds and have our Education/Outreach Coordinator instruct the client on mold clean up.