

GRADUATE PLANNING STUDIO



BUFFALO COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTHY HOMES INITIATIVE

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GRADUATE PLANNING STUDIO

BUFFALO COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTHY HOMES INITIATIVE

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BUFFALO COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTHY HOMES INITIATIVE



Executive Summary

Executive Summary

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) initiated a Healthy Homes Initiative in 1998 to target the development, demonstration, and promotion of cost-effective, locally-based interventions to remedy multiple safety and health hazards found in the nation's housing, which produce serious diseases and injuries for children. The focus of HUD's Healthy Homes Initiative is on the multiple complexities of housing-associated diseases and injuries. Poor housing and neighborhood conditions can contribute to pest infestation and other serious health issues, such as lead poisoning, asthma, and unintentional injuries.

A major component of HUD's Healthy Homes Initiative is community collaboration. This report outlines the strengths for a community collaborative for a healthy homes initiative in Buffalo. Working with community partners and students from two Buffalo Public Schools provided a framework for understanding the meaning of a healthy home and a healthy neighborhood in the context of Buffalo's lower West Side and East Side neighborhoods. Achieving a healthy neighborhood begins with a healthy home, one that meets all appropriate housing codes and standards that eliminate and control housing-related environmental and biological pollutants. Within this context, a "healthy home" is defined as a home that practices standards that reduce health risks while providing a safe, clean, and adequately-designed living environment for wholesome family development.

The following report outlines an initiative for creating a Buffalo Community-Based Healthy Homes Initiative (BCHHI). The purpose of this proposed initiative is captured within the vision statement of our client, the City of Buffalo's Weed and Seed program:

To initiate, fortify, and enhance collaborative efforts and partnerships, which will ensure diverse, enterprising and revitalized neighborhoods that foster health, wealth and safety.

The BCHHI offers a unique opportunity for the development of a model community-based partnership to implement a neighborhood Healthy Homes Housing Initiative. The goal of this initiative is the development of recommendations that address the needs of the Weed and Seed target community, located in the heart of Buffalo's inner city (see Figure 1.1). The target community includes portions of City Common Council Districts in Masten, Ellicott, Fillmore and Lovejoy. The Weed and Seed program will also expand to Buffalo's lower West Side neighborhoods within the coming year.

The project methods include:

1. An analysis of the meaning of a healthy home
2. A review of the threats to a healthy home
3. The development of an intervention matrix to provide an overview of steps to remove and/or prevent threats to a healthy home
4. A comparative review of lessons learned from other cities for local use
5. An examination of healthy homes issues in Buffalo
6. A model for community health intervention utilizing neighborhood block clubs

Currently, six basic ingredients for a Buffalo Community-Based Healthy Homes initiative are already in place:

1. A recently funded Erie County Department of Public Health's Healthy Homes Initiative (ECHHI);
2. An existing network of community partnerships between Weed and Seed, the Coalition for the Redevelopment of Unified Community Involvement and Leadership Incorporation (C.R.U.C.I.A.L.), and neighborhood block clubs;
3. A network of community health clinics serving the target area: Kaleida Health on the lower West Side and the Buffalo Community Health Center;

4. Existing city programs such as the City of Buffalo's Lead Control Program, Vermin & Small Animal Control, and the Department of Strategic Planning and its housing rehabilitation programs that can provide the housing and community linkages for the ECHHI funded initiative;
5. A commitment of two Buffalo Public Schools: the Stanley Makowski Early Childhood Center on the East Side and the Herman Badillo Bilingual Academy on the lower West Side to partner with the BCHHI ; and

(By working with the school nurses, the program will ensure that children at-risk or with asthma may be readily identified and their homes targeted for Healthy Homes intervention. Healthy Homes educational programs involving teachers, parents, and students will also be developed.)

6. The work of The State University of New York at Buffalo, Center for Urban Studies, which is currently completing studies of housing and social conditions in the target areas.

The BCHHI program would include the following components:

Community Outreach

A high profile public awareness designed to educate the public about housing-based hazards and advocate for the development of Healthy Homes policies publicly, and healthier behaviors privately using multimedia public service announcements, community forums, health fairs, neighborhood clean-up activities and programs to be aired on the local cable television public access channel. Specific strategies recommended for the BCHHI program include the development of the following: (1) a Healthy Homes website; (2) a Healthy Homes brochure; and (3) a model Neighborhood Healthy House which can serve as a headquarter for the initiative, referral and outreach center for project activities.

Healthy Homes Community School Partnership

Continue the existing partnership with the Stanley Makowski Early Childhood Center on the East Side and the Herman Badillo Bilingual Academy on the lower West Side. The nurses at both schools have agreed to make referrals in asthma cases and to help identify houses eligible for intervention. Other school activities would include working with the schools to develop a community school website, take-home Healthy Homes learning kits, and curriculum activities for Healthy Homes such as essay and poster contests.

Targeting Housing Units

Identify housing units eligible for the Healthy Homes program through the City of Buffalo Lead Hazard Control, housing rehabilitation and Rental Assistance Center/Section 8 programs.

Community-Based Housing Interventions

Work closely with the ECHHI to develop a joint city/county Healthy Homes assessment form that can be used for both external and internal assessment of housing conditions. This information will be used to determine the type of interventions necessary to remediate a targeted house.

In summary, the BCHHI initiative for a model community-based partnership is not only achievable, but makes sense for the City of Buffalo. It builds on a strategy for healthy homes and a comprehensive community-involvement plan. When considering the aging housing stock, the limited income of neighborhood residents, and the housing and neighborhood conditions in the target community, the Weed and Seed vision for initiating, fortifying, and enhancing collaborative efforts and its successful efforts in strengthening collaborative partnerships provide a unique opportunity in which to seed a community-based housing initiative.



BUFFALO COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTHY HOMES INITIATIVE



Chapter One: Project Overview



Chapter One: Project Overview

The University at Buffalo Healthy Homes Studio project is a multi-party effort to develop a broader means of ascertaining and generating policies to address inner city health and safety issues in the City of Buffalo. The Initiative will (1) identify unhealthy neighborhood housing conditions, (2) develop affordable interventions that will produce healthy housing, and (3) recommend policies that will be implemented by the community and the City of Buffalo. The project strategy will include the following components:

1. An analysis of the meaning of a healthy home
2. A review of threats to a healthy home
3. A description of interventions that will remove and/or prevent threats to a healthy home
4. A summary of lessons learned from other cities for local use
5. An analysis of local healthy homes issues
6. A model for community health interventions that encompasses neighborhood block clubs
7. A Healthy Homes Initiative that emphasizes collaboration with the City of Buffalo's Lead Hazard Control Program

The multi-party plan will begin with a partnership with the City of Buffalo Weed and Seed Program, C.R.U.C.I.A.L., and block club organizations in the target areas, which will provide an opportunity to develop a more comprehensive community participation plan for the BCHHI. Next, the BCHHI will connect with the City of Buffalo's Lead Control and Animal Control Programs, the Department of Strategic Planning, and the ECHHI housing rehabilitation program. The BCHHI has partnered with the Stanley Makowski Early Childhood Center, located on the East Side of Buffalo and

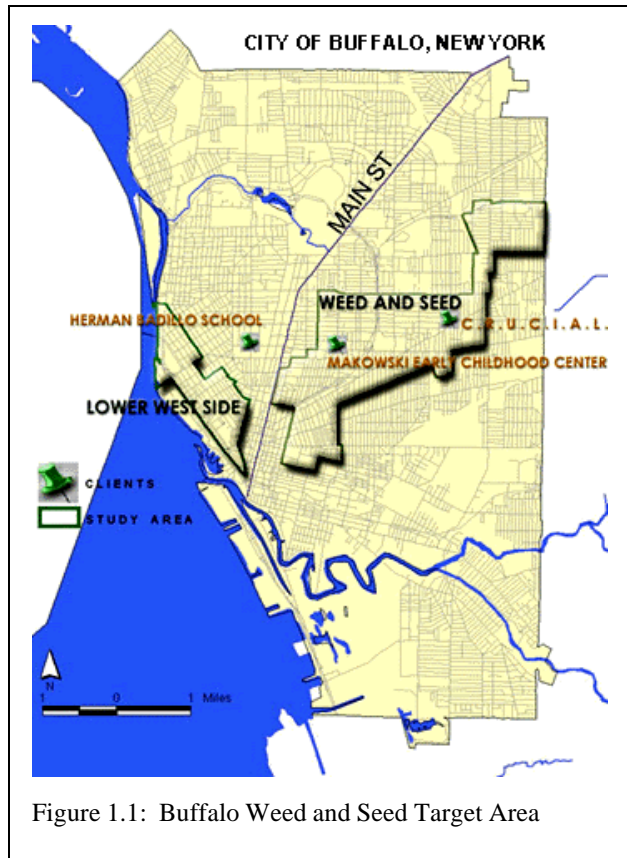


Figure 1.1: Buffalo Weed and Seed Target Area

the Herman Badillo School on the lower West Side. By involving the Buffalo Public School system, information concerning Healthy Home interventions can be passed on to parents by the children attending these facilities. The BCHHI has also established contacts with community health clinics serving the target area, such as Kaleida Health on the lower West Side and the Buffalo Community Health Center. The University at Buffalo Center for Urban Studies is currently completing studies of housing and social conditions in the target areas. The BCHHI will utilize research provided by the Center to aid in identifying and assessing neighborhood health and safety issues.



BUFFALO COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTHY HOMES INITIATIVE



Chapter Two: A Healthy Home



Chapter Two: A Healthy Home

A healthy home is one which addresses impending health risks and provides a clean and adequately designed living environment for wholesome family development. A healthy home is free of asbestos, allergens, and bacteria, which contribute to diseases and several respiratory infections. A place of abode containing



negative attributes confronts one's character and leads to disease, filth, headaches, dilemmas, and the development of future inequalities. With the appropriate interventions, a healthy home will advance individual and neighborhood quality of life.

Eliminating housing-based hazards will improve neighborhood quality of life while enhancing vital physical, mental, and spiritual experiences that are rooted in individual living quarters. A dwelling should not detract from a person's existence; rather, it should complement the foundation and stability necessary for a comfortable lifestyle. Though a person will not function solely within the home, his foundation is from where he must rise. Thus, a home should be healthy and safe, and designed to eliminate or lessen the gap between unhealthy living environments and physical conditions contributing to a discontented quality of life.

There are many hidden dangers, environmentally related diseases, and safety hazards present inside these homes that may cause or trigger chronic and infectious diseases. Therefore, in order to achieve a healthy home, one must secure both a sound exterior and interior housing structure that meets suitable housing and health related codes. Inadequate living space, density, and overcrowding are sub-standard living conditions that hinder an individual's quality of life. Consequently, the advancement and development of these conditions can lead to healthier habitats for neighborhood residents. Unhealthy living conditions are detrimental to children and adults primarily because of the spread of germs and other unhealthy substances. Moreover, stress, domestic violence and unemployment issues may lead to an unhealthy home.

Infants, young children, senior citizens, and chronic illness sufferers are most vulnerable to sickness in a home. To reduce the number of housing-related sicknesses, the EPA has recommended policies for the testing, prevention, and elimination of several housing-related environmental pollutants. Although steps have been taken to reduce these pollutants, the City of Buffalo must develop standards and interventions that will address multiple health, safety, and environmental hazards prevalent in the City's housing stock. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), most housing built prior to 1978 contains exterior structural hazards that can pose serious health risks if not addressed. As housing deterioration occurs, homeowners should consider the various elements of a safe and healthy home, which include child safety, environmental safety, fire safety, mold and moisture, and pest control.

Elements of A Safe and Healthy Home

Child Safety

Considering the alarming number of housing-related accidents and dangers concerning youth, child safety is a primary concern of parents. With the proper precautions, children can be protected from falls, electrical shock, and even long-term physical and developmental problems.

Environmental Safety

Environmental hazards are often easily overlooked. Therefore, precautionary measures should be pursued in time for effective abatement. Household dangers include lead, radon, and carbon monoxide poisoning. These environmental hazards may be detected by using preventive strategies. Homes built prior to 1978 are likely to contain lead-based paint, which is highly toxic to the systems of adults as well as children.

Fire Safety

Fire safety precautions such as fire escape plans, proper use of fire extinguishers, routine maintenance of smoke detectors, and other fire safety precautions will help establish a fire-safe home.

Mold and Moisture

The indoor air we breathe can be a cause of serious health risks. Mold and moisture buildup are now recognized as major sources of poor indoor air quality. Government agencies such as the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Environmental Protection Agency recommend the implementation of policies for testing, preventing and eliminating housing related environmental pollutants. These invisible and

often airborne common indoor pollutants include animal dander, scales from hair and skin, dust mites, cockroach parts, pollen, bacteria and viruses.

Pest Control

Cockroaches, rodents, and/or other pests plague neighborhoods, proving a devastating burden to residents. Although pests are difficult to control and remove, homeowners can practice natural pest control by storing food and drinks properly, keeping a clean home, and maintaining their exterior residential property.



BUFFALO COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTHY HOMES INITIATIVE



Chapter Three: Characteristics of a Healthy Neighborhood



Chapter Three: Characteristics of a Healthy Neighborhood

It is incomplete to discuss healthy homes in an isolated context, rather, we must also look at the surrounding neighborhood to address external influences on individual homes. A healthy neighborhood nurtures healthy homes and influences the behaviors of its residents. A healthy neighborhood is comprised of several key components that attributes to the community as a whole. The following provides a more complete analysis of what constitutes a healthy neighborhood:

Adequate Public Services for Neighborhood Residents

The existence of adequate public services geared toward neighborhood residents is essential in providing a sense of community wellness, and, consequently, household wellness. Some of these public services are adequate policing and medical care, and high-quality schools. In many cases, regional assets such as schools and medical facilities are not actually geared toward residents of the neighborhood in which they are located. Occasionally, services simply are not available in certain neighborhoods, leaving a portion of the community underserved and isolated. Additionally, access to public transportation plays a crucial role in neighborhood quality of life, where underserved communities are more likely to be unhealthy ones.

Emergency Action Plan

In the case of a fire, flood, earthquake, or blizzard, it is important that a neighborhood have a comprehensive emergency action plan to provide efficient evacuation and

distribution of resources to area residents. These plans can provide vital information as to emergency resources available to a particular community. In the absence of an emergency plan, residents often end up competing against one another and destroying the social fabric of the neighborhood.

Well-Maintained, Injury-free Playgrounds

Playgrounds are community spaces used primarily by children. Given the vulnerability of these patrons, equipment must be sturdy and safe and the ground should be free of litter and glass. Additionally, an organized neighborhood watch will ensure that a playground is safe for young children to play.

Well-Maintained Public and Green Space

The creation and maintenance of public and green space can greatly enhance neighborhood quality of life. Trees provide protection from the sun or snow and create a pleasant space for walking; and community flower and/or vegetable gardens encourage a sense of pride and opportunity for resident cooperation and interaction. In its simplest form, maintenance includes cutting grass, disposing of litter, trimming bushes and trees, and pursuing effective pest abatement.

Immediately Surrounding a House

An individual's activities can affect his immediate neighbors. As in the public space scenario, a neglected yard or pile of trash, tires or wood can become the breeding ground for pests and consequently, a danger to others. Additionally, chemicals such as lawn care products pose a health hazard to neighbors. A well-maintained house next door provides a source of pride and an incentive for the rest of the neighborhood to follow suit.

Neighborhood Safety Guidelines

A key to a safe house is the perception and creation of a safe neighborhood. Areas devoid of organized block groups tend to be prone to crime and violence. Neighborhood Crime Watch and other neighborhood-based prevention programs are often effective ways of reducing crime, and of building neighborhood civic capacity through resident and household interaction. Community Policing programs expand this system of cooperation to include local law enforcement officials in conflict resolution.

Signage

A community “welcome” sign displays neighborhood pride and invites visitors. Professionally designed and well-maintained business signs demonstrate commitment and investment in the surrounding neighborhood. Finally, signs indicating the presence of hospitals, schools and other public service buildings should be visible and well maintained, as community members rely on the information they provide.

Street Lighting

Adequate street lighting discourages crime by limiting the number of hiding spaces for potential offenders. This is augmented by community policing and other neighborhood watch activities. As with signage, business lights should be sensitive to neighborhood concerns, for instance, they should not impede one’s ability to sleep at night. Street lights also reduce the incidences of accidents by allowing both drivers and pedestrians to see properly at night.

Small Businesses and Viable Commercial and Retail Services

The presence and viability of neighborhood businesses provide a source of economic opportunity and vitality as well as a backbone for neighborhood safety and real estate values. Neighborhood commercial and retail services such as grocery stores and

restaurants reduce travel time and stress related to meeting basic household requirements. A healthy neighborhood is one that provides businesses that can efficiently address community needs.

Sustainable Neighborhood

The interaction of the abovementioned factors provides a higher quality of life and neighborhood sustainability. Public involvement in community matters, cooperation between block clubs, financial stability and employment all contribute to the sense of household and community wellness.



BUFFALO COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTHY HOMES INITIATIVE



Chapter Four: Local Conditions



Chapter Four: Local Conditions

One can gain a better understanding of the BCHHI by reviewing the built environment and conditions within the project target area. The BCHHI target area is situated in distinct locations on both the near East Side and the lower West Side of the City of Buffalo. The dinosaur-shaped near East Side area is encircled by the following streets: Genesee Street, Main Street, East Ferry Street, Bailey Avenue, Broadway, and Sycamore Street. The lower West Side portion is bordered by Perry Boulevard and Niagara, Jersey, Plymouth, and Virginia Streets. (See Figure 4.1: Buffalo Weed and Seed and BCHHI Target Area, which is located in the “heart” of the inner city that embraces portions of the Masten, Ellicott, Fillmore, and Lovejoy Council Districts).

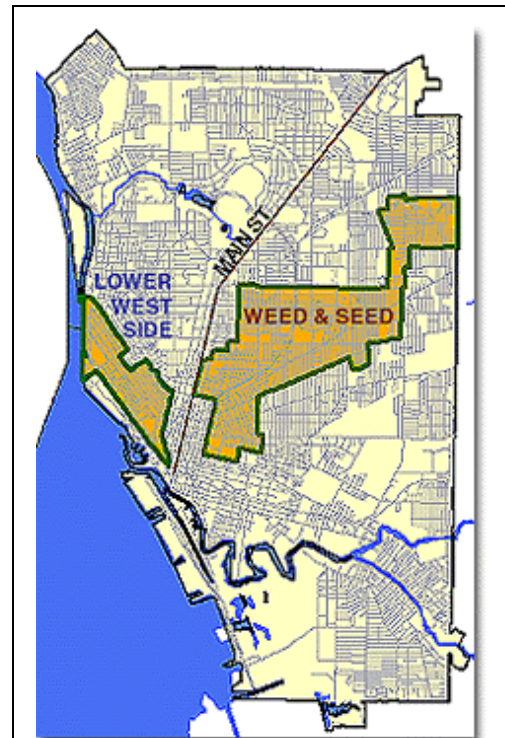


Figure 4.1: Buffalo Weed and Seed/
BCHHI Target Area

As is the case with a host of City neighborhoods, inherent contradictions exist concerning the conditions of the housing stock in the Buffalo Weed and Seed/BCHHI target area. Many homeowners are confronted with an array of housing conditions that in many instances may be sound, but in other cases contribute to an unhealthy environment. In the near East Side area, over 50% of the population are renters while a number of homes are owned by absentee property owners who may not maintain their property. For a variety of social, economic, and/or political reasons, service delivery in both the near East Side and the lower West Side has resulted in a decline in the number of homeowners. Figure 4.2 illustrates the density of renter-occupied housing units within the target area.

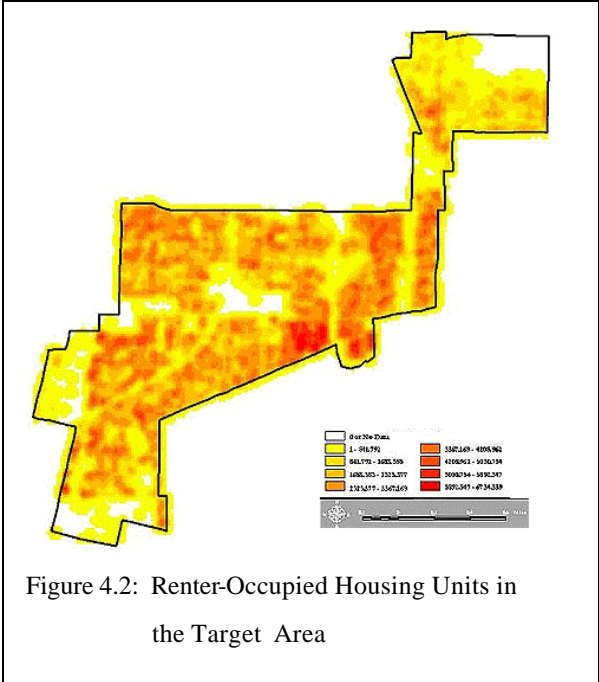


Figure 4.2: Renter-Occupied Housing Units in the Target Area

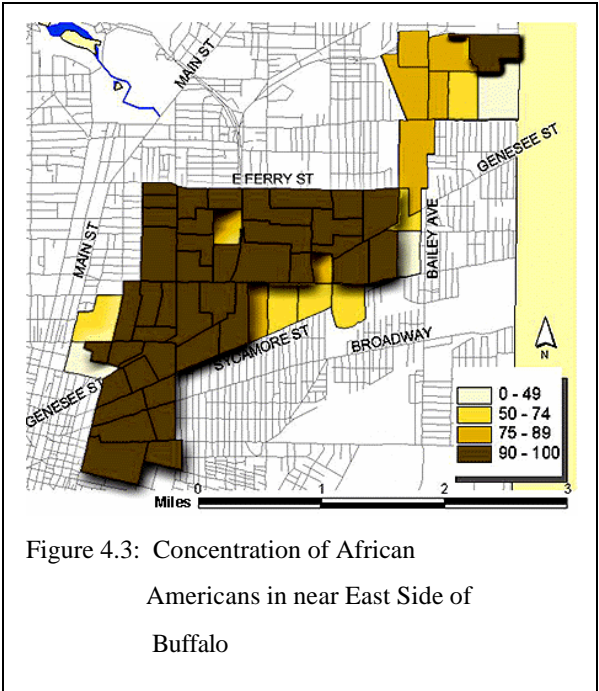


Figure 4.3: Concentration of African Americans in near East Side of Buffalo

In the 1960's, a gradual but persistent process of African American and Hispanic population dispersal and de-concentration, combined with ill-

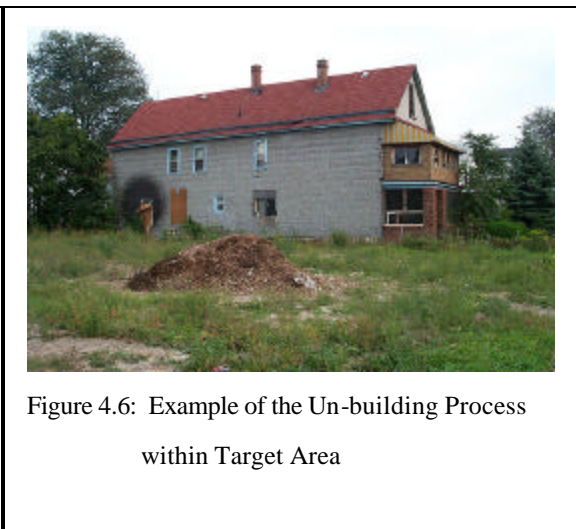
conceived policies of city government, accelerated the decline of the target area. Figure 4.3 illustrates the concentration of African Americans in the near East Side of Buffalo.

Since then, the escalating number of dilapidated structures has changed the target area image into a structural dimension that is in dire need of Healthy Home remedies. The goals of the BCHHI seek to replenish the vision of this area by incorporating a mixture of healthy home interventions and other methods of property maintenance. Figure 4.4 displays unhealthy housing structures on the lower West Side and the near East Side.



These communities are not only faced with deteriorating housing stock, but an “un-building process” has eliminated many of these dilapidated structures, leaving many streets immersed with vacant plots of land. A common sight

throughout the city is the existence of several vacant parcels adjacent to new construction and deteriorated housing stock on the same block. Figures 4.5 and 4.6 depict the un-building process that has occurred within the target area.



Area real estate values are negatively affected by this phenomenon, which has in turn, affected the housing market by decreasing the desirability and demand to purchase housing, to develop the housing stock, and to re-invest in the area. Many homes that are in major need of repair are a part of the oldest housing stock in Buffalo. These homes are located in the Cold-Springs/Kingsley, Genesee/Moselle, and Fruit belt areas. The neighborhoods are overrun with 2500-3300 pre-1900 housing units, a housing stock that contributes several unhealthy elements to the area. Figure 4.7 shows density of pre-1900 housing stock.

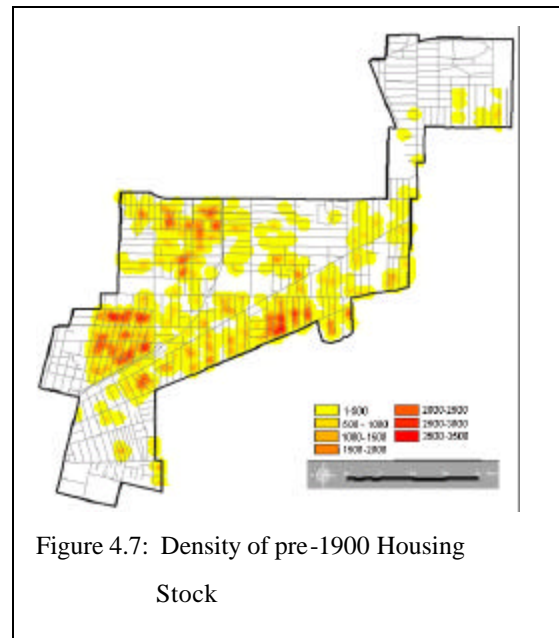


Figure 4.7: Density of pre-1900 Housing Stock

Although many area homes are in desperate need of rehabilitation, there are still several homes that maintain the beauty of the City’s housing stock. Figures 4.8 and 4.9 provide examples of well-maintained housing stock and aesthetically designed landscape within the target area.

Community networking has also developed and contributed several assets to the City of Buffalo. These assets emphasize the “importance of survival” and strengths of the target area and represent astounding

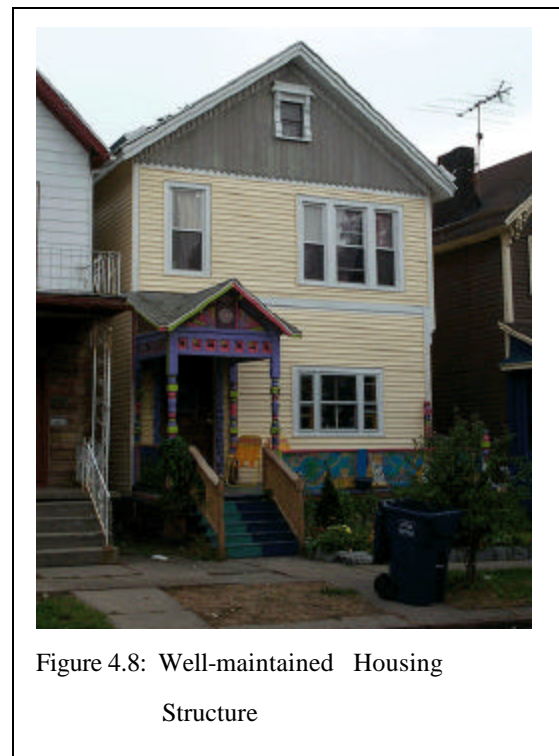


Figure 4.8: Well-maintained Housing Structure

efforts to overcome existing challenges. Many of these assets include: The Martin Luther King Jr. Park, several churches and community-based institutions, neighborhood parks, well-organized block clubs, newly-built fire and police stations, mom and pop stores, and other individual and community efforts. Figure 4.10 is a collage of assets situated throughout the target area.

When exploring the neighborhood landscape, it is vital to note the importance of upholding a “clean” image in a park, recreational, and/or area of public space. Some community parks have been neglected, vandalized, and ambushed with glass bottles and drug paraphernalia, while others have been maintained as a symbol of pride and community partnership. One goal of the BCHHI is to promote debris-free environments. Another goal is to educate community residents regarding the importance of living in a healthy house and a healthy neighborhood. Figure 4.11 is a photograph of a playground in the target area.



Figure 4.9: Aesthetically Designed Landscape

Asthma is a major public health problem related to dilapidated housing stock and unsafe conditions, especially in urban areas. There appears to be a connection between the health of urban residents in Buffalo, New York and the factors contributing to asthma. The demographic distribution of this illness as a health problem in low-income urban areas draws attention to a documented high prevalence, mortality rates, and issues of poverty and ethnicity. Most risk factors associated with poverty, including environmental, psychological, and poor accessibility to health care are also related to asthma in the City of Buffalo. At least one person living in over 60 percent of homes near the Peace Bridge has asthma. The quality of life of



Figure 4.10: Target Area Assets

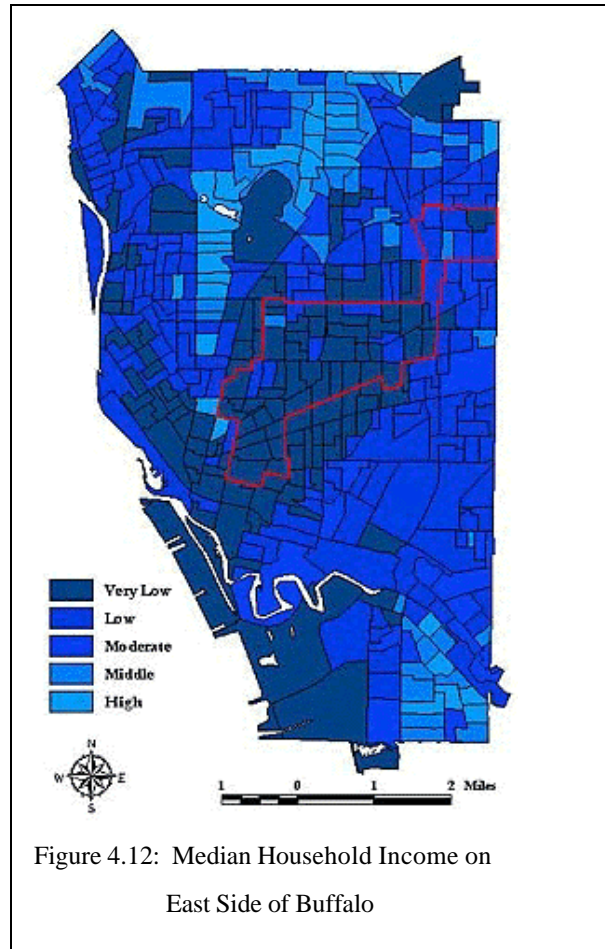


Figure 4.11: Playground within the Target Area

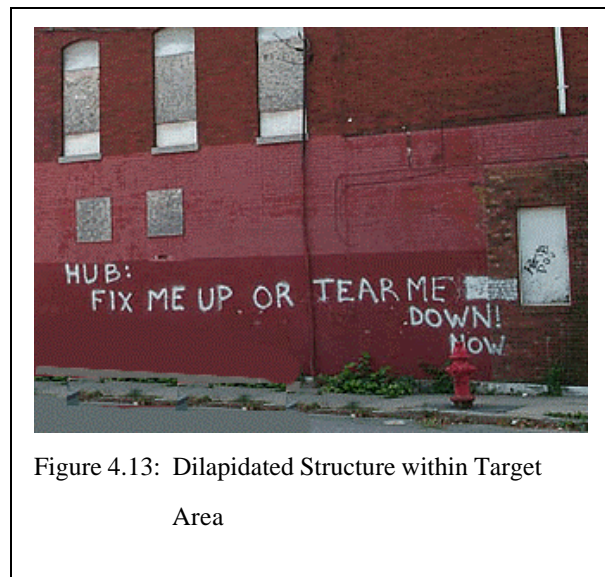
asthmatics residing on the lower West Side is also greatly affected by their illness. The extreme instances of asthma on the lower West Side are not a coincidence, rather, they has been linked to the nearly 6,000 diesel trucks that idle near this location every year.

Many African American and Latino residents in the target area have not only experienced the difficulty of climbing the ladder of health, but have also experienced the challenge of climbing the ladder of prosperity. As a whole, the Median Household Income by census tract data shows that in the Weed and Seed target area, incomes tend to fall in a very-low to low distribution. Figure 4.12 is a representation of the 1990 Census Sample of Median Household Income on the near East Side of Buffalo.

Poverty affects a wide variety of social indicators, such as lifespan, health, unemployment, income, educational attainment and crime victimization.

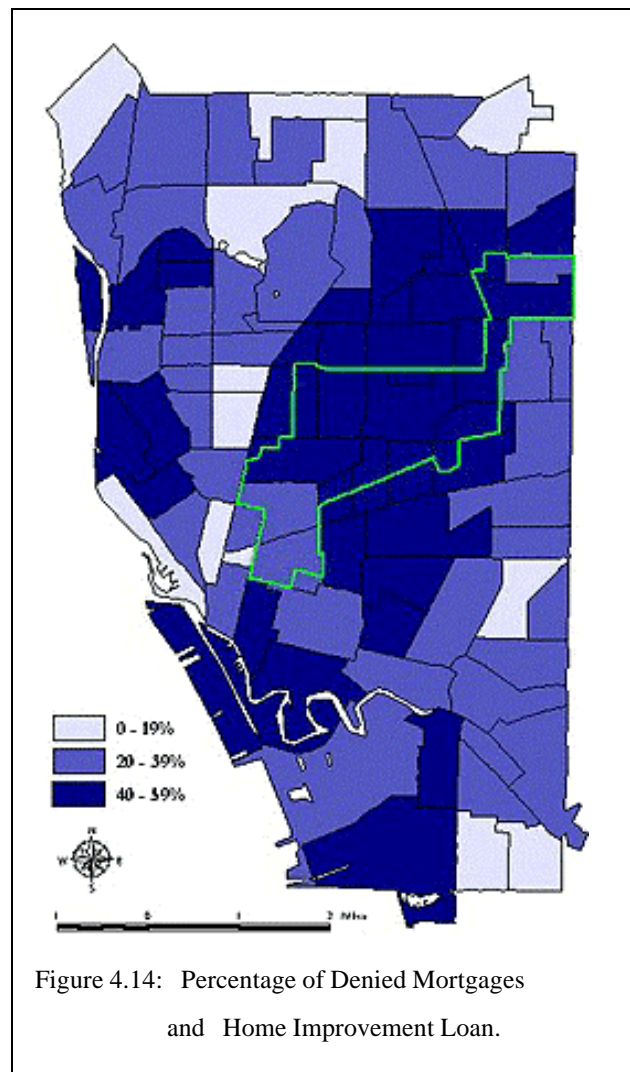


Many ethnic communities in the City of Buffalo appear to be unhealthy, unprofitable, and unsightly. Moreover, many small minority businesses have been devastated by relocation and an inability to last over five years. These daunting economic conditions are only a small sample of the degree to which the City of Buffalo is facing industrial decline. The City's taxes are high compared to other cities with similar demographics; stringent City building code fines and high rehabilitation costs discourage renovation projects; and cheap suburban land motivates business to move out of



the city. There is also a shortage of large industrial parcels in the city, and racial flight has blocked efforts to maintain stability within residential neighborhoods. European Americans have left many city neighborhoods by thousands, while a number of African Americans and Latinos are not financially equipped to relocate. The effects of planning decisions and institutional decision-making have created a domino effect of negative social, economic and cultural aspects within the city. These issues, among others, have left the target area of this initiative in need of repair. The community wishes to either preserve natural/conventional neighborhood imagery or to remove those unwanted features that contribute to neighborhood decay. Figure 4.13 is a representation of a community effort to relay a message to a slum property owner.

Financial and structural dilemmas may also contribute to 40-59 percent of requested home loans being denied in the target area, one of the highest numbers in the City. This phenomenon has, in many instances, discouraged efforts to perform rehabilitation in the area. Many homes may require thousands of dollars for rehabilitation necessary to eliminate existing hazards. Thus, an obvious dilemma is presented by the lack of return on a homeowner's investment in rehabilitation and the declining rate of overall housing assessment/real-estate values in the target area. Assessment values are not increasing dramatically in relation to ongoing area rehabilitation, making it less desirable to pursue even simple renovation



projects. Figure 4.14 is a map of the percentage of denied mortgages and home improvement loans within the target area.

In the target area, service delivery has been relaxed while neighborhood property continues to age and property values decline. The outcome of the property devaluation and condition of neighborhood decline has resulted in several negative stereotypes. This initiative will not only provide an informative document and website, but it will also serve as a community-based program that seeks to motivate neighborhood upgrading and rehabilitating private dwelling units in the target area.



BUFFALO COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTHY HOMES INITIATIVE



Chapter Five: Significance of Housing-Related Threats



Chapter Five: Significance of Housing-Related Threats

Homeowners must remain aware of the many environmental factors that can compromise their health and safety. Housing-related threats often go unrecognized; while at other times, they may be neglected because of the perception that they will cost too much to mitigate. The Buffalo Community-Based Healthy Homes Initiative will emphasize low- and high-level interventions achievable by residents, block clubs, and other stakeholders that will advance healthy homes and neighborhoods. The first step in practicing interventions, however, is to understand the significance of housing-related threats such as lead poisoning; unintentional injury; unwanted pests; mold and moisture; and asthma, which arises from a combination of the aforementioned threats. The BCHHI will provide 1) linkages between homeowners and local resources such as lead abatement contractors to target existing threats and, more importantly, 2) educational resources that will enable individuals to develop their own strategy toward achieving a healthy home.

Lead

Lead is a highly powerful neurotoxin that interferes with the development and functioning of almost all body organs. The kidneys, red blood cells, and central nervous system are commonly affected by lead. In young children, lead slows the development of the central nervous system and brain, which can result in coma, convulsions and death. At varied levels of exposure, lead poisoning can cause reduced IQ, reading and learning disabilities, Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), kidney damage, impaired hearing, nerve disorders, digestive problems, reproductive problems, and more.

Lead poisoning is the number one environmental health risk facing children in industrialized countries. In the United States today, one in six children under six years of age suffers from lead poisoning. Children are most at risk if they fall within this age group; live in a house built before 1960; live in the northeast; live in a rental unit; and have low household income. It is no revelation, then, that the City of Buffalo ranks sixth in the nation for numbers of children with unacceptably high blood lead levels.

There are numerous sources of lead exposure, ranging from opening and closing a window to simple home renovation projects. However, through increased awareness of the dangers of lead and of the steps needed to reduce exposure, the BCHHI will begin to reduce the incidences of lead poisoning in our neighborhoods, communities, and the City.

Unintentional Injury/Fire

Unintentional injury is now considered to be the leading cause of death and disability among children younger than 15 years of age. In 1997, nearly seven million Americans were disabled for at least one full day by unintentional injuries received at home. 28,400 deaths were attributed to unintentional home injuries, of which 1800 occurred among children 0-4 years of age. Three-fourths of these deaths were caused by fire, mechanical suffocation, drowning, falls and poisoning. There are three major causes of accidental fire: smoking, defective heating units, and unsupervised children playing with matches. This fact alone supports the need for a community-based initiative that will target fire safety and other issues important to the well-being of children and families.

Unwanted Pests

Buffalo's pests include rodents, ticks, fleas, and cockroaches, all of which flourish due to the availability of trash as a food source both inside and outside of homes. Rodents, fleas, and ticks present true health risks, as they carry diseases that can be transmitted to humans- especially to children- who play where these pests often live. The City of Buffalo has attempted to control rat infestation through the distribution of new trashcans

on the West Side and most recently, within the Weed and Seed target area on the East Side. According to Frank Poincelot, Director of the City's Vermin Control unit, the number of complaints from the West Side has decreased by almost 95% since the introduction of the new containers. This, combined with the use of poisoned rat bait, has significantly reduced the food supplied to rodents, resulting in more successful projects overall. However, while there are fewer rat sightings on the West Side, the problem has moved to other areas of the City.

The Healthy Homes Studio has developed and organized a community intervention model that will continue to be utilized by the BCHHI. The intervention will encourage collaboration among the City, residents, block clubs and local businesses to target the problem of unwanted pests. (See Appendix Section IV: Rat Patrol Day Press Packet)

Mold and Moisture

Moisture can breed allergic, infectious and toxic conditions. Poor ventilation and air circulation, high humidity, water leaks and seepage, and over-insulated or "tight houses" can all contribute to moisture buildup. In substandard and deteriorating housing, moisture hazards arise from conditions of disrepair in walls, roofs, plumbing, bathrooms and kitchens. Excessive moisture buildup leads to the presence of mold, which not only causes allergic reactions, asthma episodes and other respiratory problems, but also causes substantial structural damage to a house. This damage can, in turn, increase moisture intrusion, risk of fire and safety hazards and access to rodents and other pests. Some of these structural problems result from poor construction and a lack of maintenance, which is startlingly widespread throughout the City of Buffalo. Through low-level and consistent interventions, mold and moisture can be reduced to improve indoor air quality and advance healthy homes.

Asthma

Asthma is an incurable disease of "over-sensitivity" of the breathing passages, and is the only chronic disease besides AIDS and tuberculosis with an increasing death rate. Each

day fourteen Americans die from asthma. Asthma is a major public health problem related to deteriorated housing stock, especially in urban areas. The rates of asthma are generally higher among the poor and minority populations of inner city children. Death rates increased by 78 percent between 1980 and 1993 for children under 19 years of age. Females are more likely than males to die during asthma attacks; and African Americans are three times as likely as European Americans to be hospitalized from asthma, and they are three times as likely to die from the disease. The racial differences are highly correlated with issues of poverty, urban air quality, indoor allergens, lack of patient education and inadequate medical care. Housing conditions such as excessive moisture, roach infestation, cigarette smoke, and lead contaminated dusty surfaces generally trigger, or can be causes of asthma related problems. Exercise, allergies, cold temperatures, infections, or stress can induce asthma attacks, which range from mild to life-threatening. In most cases, daily asthma treatment can greatly reduce the chances of having an attack.



BUFFALO COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTHY HOMES INITIATIVE



Chapter Six: Interventions Achievable Through a Buffalo Community-Based Healthy Homes Initiative



Chapter Six: Interventions Achievable Through a Buffalo Community-Based Healthy Homes Initiative

The Buffalo Community-Based Healthy Homes Initiative (BCHHI) is unique in that it represents a collaborative effort to advance healthy homes within the target area. While the existing Erie County Healthy Homes Initiative (ECHHI) is based upon a clinical model to target families in need of healthy homes awareness, the BCHHI will expand this effort into a community-based strategy to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of both the new and existing programs. The BCHHI will utilize the strengths of its partner, the ECHHI, to increase the capacity for services in the target area. The new program will enable individuals and communities to achieve healthy, sustainable neighborhoods from within. The initiative will address the aforementioned housing-related threats by enabling interventions that can be implemented by households, property owners and the community.

Household Interventions

- Residents will be afforded the opportunity to participate in awareness training, which will include simple housekeeping steps to reduce threats such as mold and moisture and unintentional injury. The group training sessions will be sponsored by Healthy Homes Staff in conjunction with organized block clubs and will address such issues as the implications of aging housing stock; effective products such as HEPA vacuums; learning to recognize the symptoms of lead poisoning; and more. (See Appendix Section II: Interventions Matrix)

- The proposed program will expand upon a Healthy Homes Checklist already developed by the ECHHI, which will be disseminated to participants. The goal of the program and of the checklist (See Appendix Section III: Sample Healthy Homes Checklist) is to empower residents, who will independently pursue low-level, manageable interventions.

Property Owner Interventions

- Through monthly workshops, homeowners will be made aware of renovation techniques that can minimize lead contamination to families. The sessions will also inform homeowners on steps needed to achieve compliance with existing regulations.
- Once homes have been remediated/rehabilitated, the BCHHI will assist in identifying property owners eligible for a Healthy Homes Registry. The inventory will serve as a measurable outcome and will enable potential homebuyers to purchase homes that have been deemed “healthy.”
- While a myriad of resources are available to City of Buffalo residents, the BCHHI will serve as an information clearinghouse that will make available to homeowners such information as existing home improvement loans; local certified lead abatement contractors; specialized health clinics, and more.

Community Interventions

The BCHHI will expand the focus of the ECHHI to include all community stakeholders: residents, businesses, educational institutions, block clubs and churches. The program will utilize partners such as Buffalo Weed and Seed, C.R.U.C.I.A.L., the Box Avenue Box Club, the French Street Block Club and Wonderbread and will:

- Encourage and nurture block club organization as well as process-driven Neighborhood Clean-Up events such as Rat Patrol Day (See Appendix Section I: Methodology).
- Involve local experts, who will discuss with residents issues that are pertinent to a healthy community, such as Animal Control with respect to pests; or a registered nurse with respect to services provided by local health clinics.
- Include educational institutions and after-school programs in the target area in developing Healthy Homes activities geared toward young children.
- Sponsor a Healthy Homes Awareness campaign that will focus on education stakeholders about the various threats and interventions.



BUFFALO COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTHY HOMES INITIATIVE



Chapter Seven: Recommendations for a Buffalo Community-Based Healthy Homes Initiative



Chapter Seven: Recommendations for a Buffalo Community-Based Healthy Homes Initiative

The Buffalo Community-Based Healthy Homes Initiative (BCHHI) will provide a unique opportunity to collaborate and expand the capacity for services with the Erie County Health Department's Healthy Homes Initiative (ECHHI). It is our recommendation that the BCHHI pursue a strategy to:

1. Analyze the meaning of a healthy home
2. Review the threats to a healthy home
3. Provide interventions that will remove and/or prevent threats to a healthy home
4. Cite lessons learned from other cities for local use
5. Develop an analysis of healthy homes issues in Buffalo
6. Develop a model for community health intervention utilizing neighborhood block clubs
7. Establish a Healthy Homes Initiative as part of its Lead Hazard Control Program

Target Area

The target area for the ECHHI program encompasses the area proposed by the studio for the BCHHI: the near East Side and lower West Side of the City of Buffalo. It is important to note, however, that duplication of services between these projects will not occur. Rather, the ECHHI program will concentrate upon providing services only to recipients of Erie County Department of Social Services, while the BCHHI program will focus on the community that does not fall into this category, but still needs assistance. This particular Weed and Seed program will be designed to include healthy homes

inspections and policies as part of city housing rehabilitation programs and community education and clean-up activities.

The purpose of the HUD Healthy Homes Initiative is to address housing conditions that adversely affect health, especially in children and adults at risk. The ECHHI provides an adequate public health enforcement program that can be implemented only for those property owners wanting to service social service clients. The BCHHI will augment the city housing inspectors' capabilities to enforce both the housing codes and also health codes.

Historically, the implementation of housing codes in the city has primarily been concerned with protecting property values. Public health concerns have been made secondary or incidental, compared to the enforcement of property values. Even though city housing inspectors and county health inspectors often deal with the same problems, they seldom collaborate or communicate with each other. The partnership of the ECHHI and the BCHHI programs will bring together housing and health-related code activities. Most importantly, it will provide a mechanism for sharing information and data to comprehensively and effectively address the problems of the target area.

Neighborhood Health Intervention

The Buffalo Community-Based Healthy Homes Initiative is unique in that it will provide a broad base of community partnerships in developing and implementing its intervention strategy. Key among them will be its interface through the ECHHI with the Erie County Department of Environmental Health (DEH). The DEH has operated a Healthy Neighborhoods Project which ascertains and develops policies to address inner city health and safety issues. Under the DEH, a New York State Department of Health grant has established an Asthma Initiative Pilot Project (AIPP) designed to study the effects of environmental triggers for asthma. The DEH has also collaborated with the Erie County Medical Center, which completed a community-based asthma study on the lower West Side. The BCHHI will work closely with these programs to increase community

participation as well as the collection of information useful in identifying and assessing neighborhood health and safety issues.

1. BCHHI partnerships with Weed and Seed, the C.R.U.C.I.A.L. organization and block clubs in the target areas provide an opportunity to develop a more comprehensive community participation plan for the Healthy Homes Initiative.
2. The BCHHI will connect the City of Buffalo's Lead Control Program, Animal Control and the Department of Strategic Planning and its housing rehabilitation programs with the ECHHI.
3. The BCHHI has partnered with two Buffalo Public Schools: the Stanley Makowski Early Childhood Center on the East Side and the Herman Badillo School on the lower West Side. By working with the school nurses, the program will ensure that children at-risk or with asthma may be readily identified and their homes targeted for Healthy Homes intervention. Healthy Homes educational programs involving teachers, parents, and students will also be developed.
4. The BCHHI has established contacts with community health clinics serving the target area: Kaleida Health on the lower West Side and the Buffalo Community Health Center.
5. The BCHHI is working with The State University of New York at Buffalo's Center for Urban Studies, which is currently completing studies of housing and social conditions in the target areas.

Community Outreach

The BCHHI is already actively involved with a network of community-based private, and public agencies. In order to enhance this important foundation, a high profile public awareness campaign is proposed. The campaign will be designed to educate the public

about housing-based hazards and will advocate for the development of Healthy Homes policies publicly, and healthier behaviors privately. The BCHHI will develop multimedia public service announcements, community forums, health fairs, neighborhood clean-up activities and programs to be aired on the local cable television public access channel. Additional outreach includes:

1. Establishing a Healthy Homes website which will help to disseminate information and increase awareness around health issues. The site can also be used as an excellent education tool and community networking resource to increase public participation and service linkages.
2. Developing a Healthy Homes brochure that highlights healthy housekeeping skills, proper home maintenance, integrated pest management, asthma/lead management and testing for other hazards such as radon, carbon monoxide and mold /moisture.
3. Developing a Model Neighborhood Healthy House, which can serve as a headquarters, referral and outreach center for project activities.

Healthy Homes Community Schools

As mentioned above, the BCHHI has established partnerships with the Stanley Makowski Early Childhood Center on the East Side and the Herman Badillo School on the lower West Side. The schools have already completed Healthy Homes class activities resulting in artwork and essays which define a Healthy Home. The nurses at both schools have agreed to make referrals in asthma cases, helping to identify houses eligible for intervention. Other school activities include:

- Community school website
- Student take-home Healthy Homes learning kits
- Healthy Homes class activities such as essay contests

Targeting Housing Units

The BCHHI will identify houses eligible for the Healthy Homes program through the City of Buffalo Lead Hazard Control, housing rehabilitation and Rental Assistance Center/Section 8 programs. Relationships with the community schools and two health clinics serving the target area, Kaleida Health on the lower West Side and Buffalo Community Health Center on the East Side, will also provide referrals based upon asthma cases or children and adults with symptoms. Collaboration with the ECHHI through the city inspection process will also help target houses.

Community-Based Housing Interventions

The BCHHI proposes to work with the ECHHI to develop a joint Healthy Homes assessment form. The ECHHI has already developed a checklist for external and internal assessments of housing conditions; this information will be used to determine the type of interventions necessary to remediate a targeted house.



BUFFALO COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTHY HOMES INITIATIVE



Appendices

Methodology

The purpose of the Healthy Homes Studio was to explore the extent to which housing conditions in the City of Buffalo affect neighborhood wellness. Our exploration was designed to answer the broader question of how the City of Buffalo could design an affordable community-based intervention strategy that will produce healthy housing.

The following methods were employed to gain insight into the type of a community-based intervention strategy that would best address multiple health, safety and environmental hazards:

Review of National Programs

Local and national programs were reviewed in order to examine closely the steps taken by each initiative to achieve community collaboration to identify and address environmental health problems in their community. Site visits were made to Boston, Massachusetts and Cleveland, Ohio. In addition, we collected and reviewed the grant proposals of successful recipients of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Healthy Homes Initiative.

Community Collaboration

Through a community collaborative effort that involved a series of meetings with Weed and Seed's Neighborhood restoration committee, the Box Avenue Block Club, interested residents, C.R.U.C.I.A.L., local businesses, and representatives from the City of Buffalo's Animal Control office, the Mayor's Impact Team and the Public Works Department, a community-process driven intervention model was developed. The "Rat Patrol Day" model was initiated on National Service Day and was designed for utilization by block clubs and neighborhoods across the City of Buffalo (See Appendices Sections IV and VI).

Focused Interviews

Focused interviews were conducted with various public officials, program coordinators, and HUD representatives. The purpose of these interviews was to ascertain what key informants perceived to be the major health and housing challenges facing the City of Buffalo. Particular attention was paid to the climate in the City of Buffalo for building a community-based collaborative that would interface with block clubs and nonprofit organizations.

Neighborhood Analysis

Key demographic data was examined to determine the local challenges facing the target area. This analysis included demographic, housing, and environment analysis. The demographic analysis included population age distribution, proportion of population living in poverty, labor force participation rates, and median income. The housing analysis included a housing age density map, a density map of renters, spatial map of the distribution of vacant lots, and a spatial analysis of mortgage and home improvement denial rates. The environmental analysis included a spatial map of the areas in the City of Buffalo at highest risk for lead poisoning and site analyses of neighborhood housing health hazards.

Compilation of Healthy Homes Contacts/Resources

Numerous resources exist in the City of Buffalo for housing-related health issues. While these local resources are fragmented across various city, county, state, and federal agencies, a comprehensive list of these resources that can be used by individuals and block clubs was compiled.

Interactive Community Website

An interactive community website was developed as a public outreach resource for adults, children, educators, and practitioners. The website presents local demographic data for the target community; a kid's web page based on student artwork from the Stanley Makowski Early Childhood Center; the definition of, threats to, and interventions for a Healthy Home; local and national resources; and a community-intervention model for a successful Rat Patrol Day.



Intervention Matrix

Asthma: ● Lead: ● Mold&Moisture: ● Pest: ● Radon: ● Unintentional Injury: ●

● ●	Repair cracks or gaps in building foundation
● ●	Repair chipped, cracked, or peeling plasterboard and painted surfaces
● ● ●	Clean floors, window frames, window sills, and other surfaces
● ●	Practice safe work methods when conducting home renovations
● ●	Equip home with carbon monoxide, radon, and smoke detectors
● ● ● ● ●	Avoid excess moisture by insulating pipes and fixing leaks
● ●	Maintain exterior of home by proper disposal and storage of trash
● ● ●	Vacuum carpets regularly
● ● ●	Fill holes in walls and floors, and caulk door and window frames
● ● ● ●	Prohibit smoking indoors
● ●	Remove porous materials; ceiling tiles, wood and paper products
● ●	Ensure proper storage of medicines, chemicals, sharp objects, and firearms
● ●	Keep play areas clean and clear of any sharp objects and surfaces
● ● ● ●	Ensure proper ventilation (home, furnace, clothes dryer, fireplace)
● ●	Use cold water for cooking and drinking

Itemized Home Remediation Costs

Standard Menu Item	Health Problems Addressed			
	Asthma	Injuries	Lead Poisoning	Other Benefits
mattress/pillow covers	X			
smoke detectors		X		
outlet covers		X		
cleaning supplies	X	X	X	
window guards		X		
cabinet locks		X		
air conditioners	X	X		X
house cleaning	X	X	X	X
vacuum cleaner	X		X	
Integrated Pest Management	X	X		X
Lead Hazard Reduction			X	
heating system cleaning	X			
OR				
radiator covers		X		

Enhanced Menu Item	Health Problems Addressed			
	Asthma	Injuries	Lead Poisoning	Other Benefits
All standard items above				
HEPA vacuum cleaner	X		X	
Clean gutters	X		X	
Repair Gutters	X		X	
Repair Roof	X		X	
Repair Flashing	X		X	
Replace flashing	X		X	
Fix leaking water valves	X		X	
Fix leaking pipe valves	X		X	
Clean traps	X			X
fix leaking toilet	X	X		
fix leaking sink	X	X		
fix leaking tub	X	X		
Replace ceiling tiles	X			
patch plaster	X		X	
Replace some drywall	X		X	
replace damaged floor boards	X	X		
install kitchen & bathroom vents	X			
caulk/weatherstrip seams, fixtures, etc	X			X
insulate walls where condensation occurs	X		X	X
paint with sealant paint			X	
Replace wall to wall carpet w/vinyl	X		X	
remove carpet & varnish floor	X		X	
replace faulty stove	X	X		
replace hot water heater		X		
remove asbestos				X
repair leaking oil tank	X	X		X
replace leaking oil tank	X	X		X

Source: City of Boston Healthy Homes HUD Initiative.



SATURDAY OCTOBER 28, 2000

TIME: 9:00 AM TILL NOON

RAT PATROL DAY

COME OUT AND ASSIST CLEAN UP !



Glenwood

Filmore

Box

Kehr

French

WHERE TO MEET: HEADQUARTER 62 BOX STREET

SPONSORED BY:

BUFFALO WEED AND SEED

WONDER BREAD

UNITED NEIGHBORHOODS

CITY STREET & SANITATION & INSPECTIONS

UB DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING,

HEALTHY HOME STUDIO

NABISCO

CONTACT: 851-4281, 829-2133 ext 123





Contact Person: Dr. Beverly McLean
Center for Urban Studies
University at Buffalo

Contact Phone: (716) 829-2133 ext. 123

The University at Buffalo, Urban Planning Department's Healthy Homes Studio, with the Weed and Seed Neighborhood Restoration Committee, would like to thank the City of Buffalo Sanitation Department, Wonderbread, United Neighborhoods, the Box Street Block Club and neighborhood residents for taking part in the first ever Rat Patrol Day. We are confident that communities will come together to share in the restoration of this neighborhood not only on National Service Day, but every day.

Rat Patrol Day is just one task in a series of projects led by the Healthy Homes Studio, whose goal is to examine the extent that housing conditions in the City of Buffalo affect neighborhood wellness. Through the experiential learning course, graduate students are researching issues such as pest infestation, lead poisoning, asthma, and unintentional injuries; presenting common interventions that will guard against threats to a healthy home; and developing a model community health intervention for neighborhood block clubs.



Steps Toward a Successful Rat Patrol

1. Choose the area to be addressed and inspect it to determine what needs to be cleaned. Keep in mind the number of people willing to work when selecting a site – quality not quantity.
2. Involve organized Block Club members, including neighborhood businesses – a community that has a vested interest will maintain efforts after the initial cleanup.
3. The Community needs to identify where the rats are living and breeding so as to provide specific locations for effective baiting.
4. Choose date for cleanup – the following 2 steps will be more easily accomplished if the community group invites a representative from the City to meet with them.
5. Call Streets and Sanitation 7 days in advance to arrange pickup of garbage from site.
6. Call Vermin Control to arrange baiting the day after the cleanup.
7. Advertise to the community by way of flyers and other informational material – include a map of the patrol site and the sponsors of the event.
8. CLEAN, CLEAN, CLEAN!!!



National Programs

Long Beach, California: City of Long Beach Healthy Homes Grant Proposal

Mission

The City of Long Beach Health Department's Healthy Homes Initiative is designed to involve community stakeholders in developing affordable and accessible housing that is safe from housing-based hazards. They plan to achieve this feat through the involvement of local government, nonprofit agencies, community-based organizations and the private sector.

Demographics

The City of Long Beach is located at the southern-most end of Los Angeles County. An ethnically diverse community, Long Beach boasts a rich mixture of cultures comprised of 49.5% White, 23.6% Hispanic, 13.2% African American and 12.9% Asian.

Target Area

The target area is located on the West Side of Long Beach and has a high degree of poverty, illness, injury, and poor housing conditions. According to the Health Department's Program inspections from 1996 to 1999, 79% of the targeted multi-unit properties were built before 1950. Typical housing violations within these units include peeling paint, unsafe windows, inadequate plumbing, cockroaches, mice, rats, and a significant presence of mold, heater and/or water heater hazards, and leaking roofs.

Linkages of Disease and Housing-Based Hazards

The City of Long Beach Health Department has conducted an Environmental Health Housing Inspection Program since 1965. A Municipal Housing Code provides for a

routine annual inspection of four or more multi-unit dwellings. Dwellings with less than four units are inspected based upon complaints, rather than on a regular basis. A licensed and registered Environmental Health Specialist investigates conditions involving the control of inadequate moisture, dust control, proper ventilation to control toxins, and rodent control. Property owners, tenants, and real estate professionals receive continuous education to help eliminate housing hazards.

Asthma and lead have been identified as significant threats in the target area. The relationship between environmental exposures and asthma is well established and the Long Beach Initiative is designed to reduce and eliminate environmental triggers that contribute to asthmatic attacks in the home, promoting a healthier environment and improved quality of life. This program also seeks to collaborate with existing lead abatement programs to disseminate information to the residents and provide services to help rid homes of lead. Finally, the program will determine the most cost-effective ways for remediation and prevention.

Intervention Strategy

There are five components to the Healthy Homes Initiative. The first component is to identify households within the target area through service providers' referrals and Health Department outreach programs. The second involves the selecting and enrolling of eligible households into the program by the Healthy Homes Specialist. The next component provides education, skills training, and a family health assessment by the Healthy Homes Education Specialist and Public Health Nurse. The fourth component designs interventions and provides the City Housing Inspector and Healthy Homes Specialist's design of the hazard control/reduction implementation process. The fifth component evaluates the program and develops cost-effective, preventative strategies and protocol for reducing housing-based environmental hazards.

The Healthy Homes Program will provide services to 100 units/households over a thirty-six month period. Five of these units/households are owner-occupied and ninety-five are

rental units. The household selection process is based upon the presence of childhood asthma cases and participation in the HUD Lead Hazard Control Program. The program will establish a Healthy Homes Registry, which will ensure a supply of safe and affordable housing to low-income families and children and cost-sharing strategies to homeowners to implement hazard control and reduction measures. A standard per unit cost, which is the owner's responsibility, is matched with a Bid Out Vendor Program cost. The program utilizes housing violation enforcement to encourage owners to make repairs. Where applicable, Healthy Homes assessments and intervention methods will become a part of the City of Long Beach Municipal Housing Code. Private sector linkages with banks and lenders utilize Community Reinvestment Act funds to offer loans to property owners cited for housing violations.

Budget

The total budget for the Healthy Homes Initiative is \$619,498. The federal share is \$495,472 with a local match of \$124,026. It is expected that program income will be generated which will allow for the addition of more households.

Partners

The partners of the Long Beach initiative include Health Department Programs and other city programs, the Apartment Association of California, America Clean Corps, and Long Beach Services Community Development Corporations. Also working along as a team are private sector businesses, Community Development Finance Institute, Pacific Century Bank, Home Depot, and Long Beach Memorial Medical Center. This initiative also joined forces with the Long Beach Housing Development Company, a nonprofit agency.

Cleveland, Ohio: Cuyahoga County Urban Moisture and Mold Healthy Homes Grant Proposal

Mission

The Urban Moisture and Mold Program (UMMP) is designed to provide outreach and cost-effective home remediation of mold and moisture problems within the homes of community members in the target area. It will provide testing, education, remediation and follow-up testing to perform cost effective solutions to the mold and moisture problems.

Demographics

In the target area, 64% of the housing units were built prior to 1950, and a third of its population is living below the poverty line. Unemployment rates in this 70% African American area are over double that of the entire county, and 37% of the area is under the age of six. The factors of income, race, unemployment, children under six, and older housing were the basis of the selection of this target area.

Target Area

The target area for this project is located in Cleveland, Euclid, East Cleveland, and Warrensville, Garfield, Maple, Cleveland, and Newburgh Heights.

Linkages of Disease and Housing-Based Hazards

Since 1994 Cleveland has been the location of an outbreak of pulmonary hemorrhage/hemosiderosis among infants. The CDC linked this disease to a type of toxigenic mold called stachybotrys chartarum found in the aged, deteriorated homes of the diagnosed

infants. The elimination of this mold is dependent upon the modification of excess water sources in the household.

Mold and moisture, as well as other housing conditions, have been linked to asthma. The Greater Cleveland Asthma Coalition (GCAC) was developed to address the causes and triggers of asthma, and to form solutions to help mitigate the current situation in Cleveland. The UMMP will continue open communication and information exchange with the GCAC to provide education and information to the entire community.

Intervention Strategies

The participants of this program will be referred from a local Pulmonary Hemosiderosis Prevention Program, an ongoing Lead Hazard Control Program, local community-based housing organizations, and by referrals from a county hospital, community-based housing organizations, and the local housing authority. From these four sources, 170 units will be chosen for remediation over a two-year period. Clinical assessments of the families will be performed to determine the health impact on the families prior to remediation. Innovative and cost-effective interventions will be applied to address mold contamination and to correct any sources of moisture infiltration. The homes of the participants will be environmentally assessed to determine the baseline allergen loads in the homes before remediation. This project will also track the relative humidity levels in the homes of asthmatic children to gauge the success of the implemented housing interventions.

Budget

The DOD received \$4 million. A total of \$2,100,624 will be leveraged to support the grant dollars for this research project, which will be used to provide science-based data on the environmental impact on homes and the health of children associated with cost-effective mold and moisture control.

Partners

Collaborating partners include the Cuyahoga County Department of Development, Cuyahoga County Board of Health, Case Western Reserve University, Environmental Health Watch, the Neighborhood Centers Association, the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority, Greater Cleveland Asthma Coalition, and the Cities of East Cleveland, Euclid, and Cleveland Heights. Also participating in the initiative are the Cleveland Housing Network, Lutheran Housing Corporation, the University of Illinois, USEPA Microbial Exposure Research Laboratory, P&K Microbiology, IBT Laboratories, and the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission.

Cleveland, Ohio: The Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority and Environmental Health Watch Grant

Mission

This project will intensely evaluate the following serious residential hazards for children in low-income areas: lead dust, cockroach allergen, and household pesticide residue. It will also evaluate polyclonal detection of roach antigen as a less costly and more sensitive measure of cockroach contamination. The Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority will recruit 15 separate households from the scattered sites. An effective and low-cost roach antigen assessment and cleanup based on the HUD lead final clean protocol will be conducted. In addition, the Cleveland Health Department, the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, the Cleveland Housing Network and other housing and health organizations participating in the Asthma Coalition, are committed to integrating effective roach antigen assessment and cleanup methods into their current housing activities. This program will benefit the residents as it incorporates new cleanup procedures into its response protocol for residents with asthma. An additional benefit will be provided to housing and health organizations in the Cleveland area through similar programs elsewhere.

Target Area

The target area for this project is a scattered site for proposed family housing owned by the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Authority and currently infested by cockroaches. 100% of the residents are low income or near low-income status and 92 % are African American.

Linkages of Disease and Housing-Based Hazards

Both lead poisoning and asthma are significantly related to residential environmental exposures in substandard housing. The USDA Agricultural Research Service has

developed a polyclonal detection assay for roach allergens. Researchers have discovered an overlap in households with lead poisoned children and children with asthma. This overlap allows development of cost-effective multi-hazard strategies to address both conditions.

Intervention Strategies

Precision Targeted Integrated Pest Management (IPM), developed by the USDA-ARS Gainesville group, is a “precision targeted” IPM strategy that does not require pesticide spraying, fogging or bombing in order to minimize occupant exposure to pesticide residue. Instead, it utilizes mechanical capture (sticky traps and HEPA vacuums); gel baits (low toxicity, low volatility pesticides used in very small quantities in targeted areas, inaccessible to children); and occupant education on environmental controls (elimination of food and water sources and clutter). Specialized cleaning by specialized lead abatement contractors will be another intervention provided in this initiative. A HEPA vacuum will be used on all surfaces in the room (ceiling, walls, trim, and floors). All surfaces will be washed with lead-specific detergents to dislodge any ground-in contamination and then, rinsed. The cleaning solution will be changed after every room is cleaned. Then, there is a repeat vacuum (HEPA exhaust filter vacuum).

Budget

The total estimated cost for the Healthy House Initiative is \$330,579. The total match of the project is \$87,166 (36% federal share). These cost estimates are based on extensive contracting experiences of the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (Cuyahoga County Urban Moisture and Mold Program).

Partners

The partners in this initiative include the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, Environmental Watch, the Cuyahoga County Metropolitan Housing Authority, USDA

Agricultural Research Service (Gainesville, Florida), Greater Cleveland Asthma Coalition, Environmental Health Watch, Neighborhood Centers Association, Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority, and Cleveland Housing Network. Other partners are the USEPA Microbial Exposure Research Laboratory, P&K Microbiology, and IBT Laboratories.



Boston, Massachusetts: Boston Healthy Homes Grant Proposal

Mission

The Boston project focuses on home remediation and its impact on the health of children who suffer from high-risk, housing-related health problems, such as asthma. The project is also designed to create a new community capacity model for addressing the home as a whole environment that affects the health of residents.

Demographics

Located on the Atlantic coast, in Massachusetts, Boston is comprised of 16 distinct neighborhoods. The demographic makeup of each of these districts varies widely in the percentages of African Americans, Asians, Hispanics, and Whites. Seventy-five percent of the housing stock was built before 1978 and owned by absentee landlords and dilapidated housing. Lead, asthma, and unintentional injuries pose a major health problem for children residing in Boston. The highest rates of injuries are found in low income, minority populated areas with high lead poisoning and asthma rates.

Target Area

Particular attention is focused on Jamaica Plain, Roxbury, Mattapan, North Dorchester and South Dorchester neighborhoods, neighborhoods that are comprised of 40% of Boston's population. These areas have a different demographic and economic make-up than other areas in the city. There are higher percentages of children under 18 years of age and of children living below the poverty line, as well as a lower median household income. The rates of childhood illnesses are also higher in these neighborhoods. The majority of the population is African American and Hispanic.

Linkages of Disease and Housing-Based Hazards

The Boston project team has considerable experience in the intricacies of designing, developing, implementing and evaluating collaborative initiatives to assess and remediate environmental health hazards in the home. Efforts to address the linkages of disease and housing include HUD's 1994 award to Boston for a Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Program, and in 1998 an award from the Centers for Disease Control to fund the Asthma, Lead, and Injury Prevention by Home Remediation demonstration project, known as the Healthy Homes Project.

Intervention Strategy

The project recruits 500 households in the City of Boston who receive education about home-based asthma, lead poisoning, and injury risks from community educators. They are provided with an initial home inspection for lead paint hazards and injury risks as well as an indoor air quality assessment. The health assessment provided in this initiative will include a medical records review for asthma, lead poisoning, and home-related injuries for every member of the household. The households are then randomly placed into one of two arms of the project to receive home remediation items from either the Standard Menu or Enhanced Menu (See Appendix Section III).

Budget

The Boston project was awarded \$1.9 million.

Partners

Partners include the Boston Public Health Commission, the Office of Environmental Health, the Childhood Injury Prevention Program, Boston Department of Neighborhood Development, Boston Medical Center, Youth Build Boston, Urban Asthma Coalition, and Healthy Homes/Healthy Kids Coalition.

Boston, Massachusetts: Harvard University's Healthy Public Housing Project

Mission

This project is designed to improve resident health and safety, housing quality, environmental conditions, and energy efficiency. It utilizes a holistic framework that acknowledges the interconnections between the health of residents/condition of their housing and the role of residents in developing healthy public housing.

Demographics

The demographics of the target area are characterized by racial and ethnic diversity. Additionally, the residents fall in very low-income ranges (17% of the Boston median income).

Target Area

The target area of this program encompasses four Boston Housing Authority developments located in Boston's Empowerment Zone. These four BHA developments reflect the basic types of public housing development and multifamily housing developments: older structures not undergoing modernization, older structures undergoing modernization and energy upgrades, new or rehabilitated developments, and high rise senior/disabled housing.

Linkages of Disease and Housing-Based Hazards

The high prevalence of respiratory illnesses, such as asthma and allergies, and safety concerns, such as exposed pipes and wires, in public housing means that housing policies that do not adopt a holistic framework may worsen already poor health. Policies that improve housing conditions can potentially pay for the costs of the interventions through

health savings. The epidemic in childhood asthma among the urban poor makes understanding the interconnections and effectiveness of asthma interventions in public housing a crucial component of this program.

Intervention Strategy

By focusing on four different types of public housing developments, the program will study whether large-scale, building-wide interventions produce desirable health outcomes, and also how the effectiveness of small-scale interventions can vary by setting. The program will also track both asthmatic and non-asthmatic children and their families, to help understand the effectiveness of asthma management and other interventions on a variety of families. The study will directly involve 600 children and their families in tracking impacts of direct interventions, with the potential to assist and empower all residents of the selected developments through educational and health outreach interventions. Finally, the program's analysis will quantify the housing cost-health benefit link, providing outcomes that can be used in housing and health contexts to promote investments of health funds in better quality housing.

Partners

Partners in this initiative include Boston, Harvard, and Tufts Universities, Boston Housing Authority, the Committee for Boston Public Housing, and residents of the public housing developments. Other partners were the South Boston Community Health Center, Boston Public Health Commission, energy analysts, and housing experts.



Department of Planning
School of Architecture and Planning
University at Buffalo

UB Graduate Planning Studio 2000
presents

Buffalo Community-Based Healthy Homes Initiative

temporary web page: <http://design6.ap.buffalo.edu/pd581c>

Open to all

Where: C.R.U.C.I.A.L. 230 Moselle Street Buffalo NY

When: Saturday December 2, 2000 at 3 pm

Community Client



Contact: Dr. Beverly McLean 829-2133 x.123 email: bmclean@acsu.buffalo.edu



Department of Planning, School of Architecture and Planning

Studio Presentation
OPEN TO ALL

108B, Hayes Hall
Monday
December 18th
1:00 p.m.



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BUFFALO COMMUNITY- BASED HEALTHY HOMES INITIATIVE

URL: <http://design6.ap.buffalo.edu/pd581c>

Instructor: Dr. Beverly M. McLean



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Key Healthy Homes Contacts/Resources in Buffalo

Carbon Monoxide:

Erie County Indoor Air Quality Program

Erie County Department of Environment and Planning

(Erie County's Carbon Monoxide Program)

95 Franklin St.

Room 1077

Buffalo, New York 14202

(716) 858-6200

Website:

www.erie.gov

Community Schools:

Stanley Makowski Early Childhood Center

1095 Jefferson Ave.

Buffalo, NY 14208

Principal Bernard Youra

(716) 888-2007

Herman Badillo Community

300 South Elmwood

Buffalo, NY 14201

Principal David Caban

(716)851-3848

Fire Prevention and Control:

Office of Fire Prevention and Control

NYS Department of State

41 State Street – 12th Floor

Albany, NY 12331

(518) 474-6746

E-mail:

info@dos.state.ny.us

Website:

www.dos.state.ny.us/fire/firewww.html

State of New York Department of Health

(New York State Clean Indoor Air Act)

1-800-422-6237

Housing Related Concerns:

Building Inspectors

(716) 851-4949

Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority

300 Perry St.

Buffalo, New York 14202

(716) 855-6711

City of Buffalo Department of Public Works

Contact:

Deputy Commissioner Paul Sullivan

(716) 951-5956

City of Buffalo Lead Hazard Control Program

Teresa Carter

City of Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency and Office of Strategic Planning

(Loan and Grant Information)

(716) 851-5035

Electrical Inspectors

(716) 851-4928

Erie County Department of Health Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

(716) 885-0800

HUD Lead Abatement Program:

(716) 851-5167

Mayors Impact Team

(716) 851-4059

Pest Control:

Roach Extermination

Rath Building

95 Franklin St.

(716) 858-8810

Rodent and Vermin Control Division

483 Michigan Avenue

Contact:
Frank Poincelot
(716) 851-5790

Poisoning Prevention and First Aid:

Western New York Poison Control Center
Children's Hospital of Buffalo
219 Bryant St.
Buffalo, New York 14222
(716) 878-7654
1-800-888-7655

This organization services the following counties:
Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming

WNY Lead Poisoning Prevention Resource Center:
(716) 898-3363

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
The National Lead Information Center
(1-800-LEAD-FYI)

The EPA provides information that can assist families in keeping their homes lead-safe. Its website and hotline can educate homeowners on the effects that lead has on the bodies of adults, as well as children; where lead can be located in homes, and where lead is likely to be a hazard; how to protect families from lead poisoning; information involving home renovation; and other sources of lead.

For other information on lead hazards, call the center's clearinghouse at 1-800-424-LEAD. For the hearing impaired, call TDD 1-800-526-5256 (FAX: 202-659-1192/EHC@CAIS.COM).

To request information on lead in consumer products, or to report an unsafe consumer product-related injury, call the Consumer Product Safety Commission Hotline at 1-800-638-2772, info@cpsc.gov

Community Based Lead Safe Interim Housing Project
The Community Based Lead Safe Interim Housing Program
(716) 884-6725 ext. 226

The Lead Safe Interim Housing Program provides a safe haven to lead-poisoned children and their families while their homes are undergoing abatement or in the transition of moving to a lead safe home. This service is to prevent the recontamination of the lead-

poisoned children. The Lead Safe Interim Housing Program can provide 30 days of temporary housing to children with lead levels of 20 or greater, and their families; assist in the location of permanent, affordable lead safe housing for the family; provide home-based prevention education including information on pregnancy exposure, benefits of early lead testing for children, environmental pollutants, effects on child development, where to look in homes for lead sources, ways to prevent exposure to lead, and availability and methods of treatment; complete a lead poisoning risk assessment individuals and their families; motivate involvement with support group meetings with parents of lead poisoned children in the program and surrounding community.

In this program, the highest priority is given to a child who has just had chelation and to children who are referred by a doctor. This program works closely with the Erie County Medical Center Lead Poisoning Prevention Resource Center and with the Erie County Department of Health; and has also developed linkages with agencies that are experts in the following areas:

- Housing
- Health care
- Legal assistance
- Day care
- Employment
- Counseling
- Vocational training

Erie County Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

499 Franklin Street

Buffalo, New York 14202

(716) 885-0800/fax: 881-6360

Website: <http://www.erie.gov/health/health.htm>

This program provides access to testing, medical case management, developmental assessment, environmental case management, laboratory analysis, community outreach and education, professional education, and interagency coordination. A FREE copy of the CDC guidelines and physicians desk reference can be obtained by calling 885-0800. FREE lead poisoning prevention literature is also available. The Erie County Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program recommends the following pediatric care providers for their patients:

18 FREE Well Child Clinics

Located throughout Erie County

(716) 858-6450

Roberto Clemente Health Center

104 Maryland Street
Buffalo, New York
(716) 858-7794

Dr. Matt Gajewski Health Center

1500 Broadway
Buffalo, New York
(716) 891-2006

Lackawanna Health Center

33 Wilkesbarre
Lackawanna, New York
(716) 823-0131

Erie County Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

(716) 885-0800

This program reviews all lead test results conducted in Erie County through the NYSDOH laboratory computer database.

The Early Childhood Direction Center

888 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14209
(716) 878-7282/1-800-462-7653

A center that serves as “*A Rainbow for Your Special Child,*” the Early Childhood Direction Center is a program developed to help parents and professionals match the individual needs of special children, from birth to five years of age. Their service is an important link between people in need and those who can help. The Direction Center provides the following information and referrals to:

- Early Intervention Program
 - District Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE)
 - District Committee on Special Education (CSE)
 - Preschools Programs
 - Child Care Centers
 - Diagnostic/Evaluation Sites
 - Medical/Dental/Therapeutic Services
 - Parent Education/Training
 - Parent Support Groups
 - Babysitting/Respite
 - Finding Availability
-

- Assistive Technology

The Early Intervention Program

95 Franklin Street
Buffalo, New York 14202
Room 828, (716) 858-6161

This is a program administered by the Erie County Department of Youth Services to provide early intervention services for infants and toddlers under the age of three with developmental delays as well as related services for their families. The Infant and Child Health Assessment Program or (ICHAP) Child Find is one component of the Early Intervention Program. Specially trained registered nurses provide developmental screening free of charge.

This organization serves children from birth through three years of age, who are at risk for, or are experiencing delays in any of the following developmental areas:

- Cognitive
- Physical
- Communication
- Social or emotional
- Adaptive

This program provides screening and evaluation services, home visits, speech, physical and other therapies, parent-child developmental groups, and family training. Thus, this early intervention child development research has established that the rate of human development is most rapid in the pre-school years. The earlier the intervention begins, the better is the chance of helping that child reach his or her normal range of development.

Preschool Program

95 Franklin Street
Buffalo, New York 14202
Room 828, (716) 858-6161

The Erie County Department of Youth Services Preschool program is responsible for the administration of the New York State mandated program to meet the educational needs of 3-5 year-old children with developmental delays. The head of this committee is the CPSE, or the Committee on Preschool Special Education, a decision-making committee who determines eligibility and the appropriate level of services for preschool children. Those involved in this program receive a CPSE Evaluation, which consists of two evaluations, the first being comprehensive. The following evaluation includes:

- A social history
 - A psychological assessment
 - A medical history assessment
 - An educational assessment/observation
-

- Other appropriate assessments as defined by New York State Education Department guidelines.

The following services are available through the CPSE for children with special needs:

- Related services such as Speech, Occupational or Physical Therapy
 - SEIT (Special Education Itinerant Teacher) emphasis is placed on child's growth and development within the child's regular environment.
 - Related Services in combination with a Special Education Itinerant Teacher (SEIT)
 - Special Class in an integrated setting (typical children and special needs children in the same classroom)
 - Special Class comprised of students with disabilities based on similar needs
-

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BUFFALO COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTHY HOMES INITIATIVE



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