Connecting Medically Vulnerable Residents with Energy Efficiency Services

BayREN Codes & Standards Regional Forum

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The impacts of climate change will disproportionately impact vulnerable populations already suffering health inequities.
2015

Climate Change Vulnerability in Contra Costa County: A Focus on Heat
Figure 21: Average Z-Scores Of Heat Vulnerability Indicators By Census Tract, Showing An Equal Number Of Census Tracts In Each Category.
My Experience


Therms  655/yr > 29% > 464/yr > 37% > 291/yr  56%

$40 per month savings
The Climate Change and Health Benefits of Weatherization

• Reduces energy consumption
• Keeps homes cool in the summer if they don’t have air conditioning (or if their air conditioners go down) and more comfortable in the winter
• Reduce energy costs, leaving more $ for essentials
• Keeps out particulate matter, making the air easier to breath for people with respiratory problems
• Keeps out moisture, which can help reduce insect pests and mold, both asthma triggers
Public Health Nursing Services

We currently have 45 PHNs. There are 3 pools - Perinatal, Pediatric and Adult. They conduct around 20,000 home visits per year to approximately 3,000 clients in all age groups.

Services are directed towards individuals and their families, groups and the community with special attention to the most at risk populations for health disparities.

Public Health Nurses provide:

* Comprehensive case management for perinatal, pediatric and adult clients
* Investigation and treatment of communicable disease
* Promotion of self-efficacy
* First response in disasters
Program Partners

• Low-Income Weatherization Program (LIWIP)
  - funded through State Cap and Trade
  - implemented by Build it Green

• Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
  - funded through Federal programs
  - implemented by the Department of Conservation and Development
Contra-Costa County Pilot Program Flow Chart

1. Would Client Benefit from Weatherization Services?
   - NO
   - YES
   - Refer to Climate Action Team OR
   - Work Directly with Client

2. Does Client Live in DAC?
   - YES
   - NO
   - Either Client Action Team or Public Health Nurse helps client with application, if requested

3. Eligible for LIWP?
   - Income
   - NO
   - YES
   - Provide Services

3. Eligible for LIHEAP?
   - Income + Citizenship
   - YES
   - NO
   - Provide Services

LIWP
Build it Green

LIHEAP
Department of Conservation and Development Weatherization Program

Coordinate and cross-reference
Pilot results

- 7 training sessions
- 6 screening questions
- 32 referrals
- 17 different PHNs
- 8 completed referrals
Lessons Learned

• Providing assistance in filling out applications critical

• Securing Landlord Permission was an impediment

• Need for more comprehensive approach
Current outreach

- Adult Protective Services
- Aging Adult Services (Senior Centers)
- In-home Support Services
- Senior Nutrition (Meals on Wheels)
- WIC
- AIDS program
- Promotoras
- African American Health Conductors
- Health Leeds
- Family Maternal and Child Health
- Fall Prevention
- Community Connect
- California Children Services
- Homeless and Housing
- Headstart
- TB
Contact Information

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Regional Asthma Management and Prevention (RAMP)
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