Investing in Healthy Homes

DEEPA MANKIKAR, MPH
PUBLIC HEALTH PROJECT MANAGER

HEALTHY HOMES: UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL THROUGH INNOVATIVE FUNDING
FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 2018
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium

Mission:
To advance nurse-led health care through policy, consultation, and programs to reduce health disparities and meet people’s primary care and wellness needs.

• Training and Technical Assistance
• Direct service programs (nurse-home visiting and environmental health)

>> Learn more at www.nurseledcare.org
Our homes influence our health!
Challenges in Philadelphia

Philadelphia faces ongoing challenges in improving home environments.

- **Old housing stock**
  - 40% of PA homes were built before 1950
  - 95% Philly homes were built before 1978

- **Poverty**
  - In 2016, 14% people living below poverty line U.S.; 12.9% in PA; 25.7% in Philly
  
>>Low-income populations are disproportionately more likely to face home health hazards
**Asthma**

- Current prevalence in PA (PA Dept. of Health, 2015)
  - 1 in 16 adult males
  - 1 in 8 adult females
  - 1 in 10 children

- Philadelphia ranks *4th most challenging place* to live with asthma nationwide. (Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America, 2018)

- The Southeast Health District has the highest percentage of students with asthma (11.7 percent).

- Medicaid is most common payer for PA asthma hospitalizations (39%) (Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council)

- Among PA Medicaid population, Southeastern health district has *highest % asthma readmissions* across all age groups! (PA Dept. of Health, 2010)
Climate Change in Philadelphia

“. . . Philadelphia will become warmer and wetter during all seasons in the years and decades ahead. . .”

Growing Stronger: Toward a Climate-Ready Philadelphia, Report by the Mayor’s Office of Sustainability and ICF International Nov. 2015
Climate Change Impacts on Housing and Health

- Extreme heat
- Reduced air quality
- More intense rain and flooding
- Pests

- These conditions affect city infrastructure and residents’ health.
- There is a greater need for energy efficient housing, IPM, and education on managing allergies and asthma, and preventing heat-related illnesses.
Healthy Homes is part of the solution!

Healthy Homes is a comprehensive approach to addressing environmental conditions that affect our health.

- In-home education covers multiple health and safety issues
- Interventions are tailored to family’s needs
- Services delivered by community health workers or other trained professionals

For every $1 spent on home-based asthma interventions → up to $14 saved in medical costs (Pearson et al., 2014).
## Best Practices
*(National Center for Healthy Housing 2009 review)*

There is sufficient evidence that the following interventions improve health outcomes:

| Multi-faceted tailored asthma interventions | Lead hazard control |
| Integrated Pest Management (pest/allergen reduction) | Voluntary drinking and wastewater treatment standards for small systems and private wells |
| Moisture intrusion elimination | Training for small water system personnel |
| Radon air mitigation through active sub-slub depressurization | Guidelines for water use by immune-compromised persons |
| Smoking bans | Four-sided pool fencing |
| Functional smoke detectors | Pre-set, safe temperature hot water heaters |
Safe and Healthy Homes Program

**Goal**: Prevent illness and injury at home.

Services are available to households with expecting mothers and/or a child under 22 years old.

- Comprehensive home assessment by a trained Community Health Worker
- Healthy Homes education and supplies (e.g., products for pest control, asthma trigger reduction, babyproofing, and general safety)
- Appropriate referrals to community agencies
- A summary of findings and recommendations

Pennsylvania Safe and Healthy Homes Program

Lawrence County Social Services
724-656-0090
Armstrong, Cameron, Clearfield, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Indiana, Jefferson, Venango, Warren

Allegheny County Health Department
412-350-4048
Allegheny, Beaver, Washington, Westmoreland

Allentown Health Bureau
610-437-7598
Carbon, Lehigh, Montour, Northampton, Northumberland, Schuylkill

National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
215-731-2474
Delaware, Philadelphia
Short-term outcomes (July 2016-present)

**603 home assessments**

**2,750 hazards identified**

**31 homes received safety installations** (window guards, handrails, stairway guards)
Additional Services to Enhance Healthy Homes

• Lead hazard reduction
• Weatherization
• Home repairs
• Safety—fire escape plan, gun locks
• Pest extermination
• Legal services
• Behavioral health services

Healthy Homes funding should support inclusion of these services to better meet client needs.
The Role of Community Health Workers (CHWs)

Who is a CHW?
- “… a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member of and/or has an unusually close understanding of the community served.” (American Public Health Association)

What do CHWs do?
- CHWs improve access to services and delivery of services
- Reach underserved populations to address unique health needs
- CHW studies show promising effect of improving health promotion, disease prevention, injury prevention, cancer screenings, and asthma management (Viswanathan et al., 2009)
- CHWs need better recognition as members of the health care workforce!
Community Health Workers (CHWs) Training/Certification Standards

Current Status

- **Legislation introduced**
- **Has a Training/Certification Program**
- Laws/Regulations Establish CHW Certification Program Requirements
- Statute Creates a CHW Advisory Board, Taskforce, or Workgroup to Establish Program Requirements
- **Has Training and Certification Program and State Law Licensing CHW businesses**
- **None**

*AK does not have a state-run CHW training program, but statutorily provides community health aide grants for third-parties to train community health aides.
+MN also allows Medicaid payments for certified CHW services

Last updated: 1/17/2017
In Summary:

➢ Philadelphians can benefit from sustained Healthy Homes programming

➢ Healthy Homes funding should include and promote access to structural and other social, housing, and legal services.

➢ PA should strengthen the health care workforce
  • Support training of community health workers and other professionals (patient navigators, asthma educators, etc.) to deliver in-home interventions.
Thank You!
Twitter – @NurseLedCare
Facebook – nursingclinics
Email dmankikar@nncc.us

The National Nurse-Led Care Consortium (NNCC) supports the growth and development of over 250+ nurse-managed health centers serving millions of vulnerable people across the U.S.