

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM



CASE STUDY

CHNY Educated Child Care Providers to Create a Healthier Environment for Developing Infants and Children

Clean and Healthy New York, Inc. (CHNY) conducts crucial research, education and advocacy to promote their mission of safer chemicals, a sustainable economy, and a healthier world. CHNY represents, connects and taps into the power of otherwise isolated constituencies, such as scientists, nurses, pediatricians, teachers, parents, child care providers and businesses. CHNY envisions a world where society thrives without toxic chemicals. To achieve this objective, they strive to transform the chemical economy, including design, production, use, distribution, and end-of-life.

Challenge

There is widespread scientific consensus that chemicals of concern in our daily environment contribute to health problems. Diseases and disorders associated with chemicals of concern include cancer, learning and developmental disabilities, infertility, damage to the immune system, organ damage, heart disease, and obesity. These chemicals are in consumer products, building materials, apparel, transportation, furniture, personal care and cleaning products, food and food packaging, and other common items.

Pre-natal, post-natal, and early childhood development are particularly vulnerable periods known as “critical windows of development,” during which environmental chemicals can be particularly disruptive, triggering health problems experienced not only in childhood but across a lifetime. That is why CHNY and allied organizations focus on businesses and products that affect infants and babies. More than 60% of infants and toddlers spend significant time in a child care setting.

Solution

CHNY believes society can make a tremendous difference in young children’s daily lives. This can be done by shifting the purchasing practices and daily environments in the more than 17,200 licensed center-based, group family, and family child care programs in New York State. These specific areas have the collective capacity to care for over 560,000 infants and pre-school-aged children. The changes made also benefit adult workers, family members when the program is based in a home, in addition to the supply chain from raw materials extraction to disposal.



The goal of the project was to increase engagement and assist in transitioning the child care setting for New York State to products and materials made from chemicals that are safe for children’s developing bodies, to protect their health, provider health, and the health of the New York State Environment.

CHALLENGE

- Chemicals in our daily environment contribute to health problems such as disease and disorders associated with chemicals of concern.
- Pre-natal, post-natal, and early childhood development are particularly vulnerable periods known as “critical windows of development” during which environmental chemicals are particularly disruptive.

SOLUTION

- A difference can be made in young children’s lives by shifting purchasing practices and daily environments in child care programs in New York State.

RESULTS

- CHNY produced 10 tip emails, a factsheet, 3 webinars, a video, a customizable slide deck for providers to use for presentations, and 8 infographics to be used on social media.
- CHNY tabled at two events where they had over 60 child care providers sign a letter urging child care product makers to stop using harmful chemicals.

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TESTIMONIAL

Results

In order to increase visibility and engagement from providers and Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (CCRRs), CHNY tabled at the [Family Child Care Association of NYS](#) and the [NY Association for the Education of Young Children](#), where they recruited over 60 providers to sign a letter urging child care product makers to stop using harmful chemicals. Additionally, materials were shared with 100 providers and CHNY trained 26 people at these engagement events.

A fact sheet was distributed to CCRRs and trainings were held with the [Early Care and Learning Council](#) (ECLC); collectively reaching 40 CCRRs. CHNY also presented at a workshop at the [Child Care Council](#) in Rochester, New York with New York State Pollution Prevention Institute (NYSP2I) reaching 10 attendees.

To assist in transitioning the child care setting to safer materials for children, CHNY increased provider engagement by developing and sending 10 tip-based emails and creating two webinars and a guidance video, which are available on their website.

CHNY expanded the number of providers choosing safer products by holding various train-the-trainer presentations including one at the [Child Care Council of Westchester](#) with 25 staff. In addition, they trained 107 providers. Pre- and post-surveys were distributed to assess participant's learning over the course of the trainings.

Online Media:

- [Website](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)

“New York State Pollution Prevention Institute’s support has enabled us to expand our engagement with child care providers, so we can ensure safe, healthy environments for the babies and children in their care. This funding helped us leverage additional resources for the work as well.”

– Kathleen Curtis
Executive Director
Clean and Healthy New York

NYSP2I PARTNERS

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