

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM



CASE STUDY

Cypress Hills LDC Supports Healthier Homes

Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation (CHLDC) was founded in Cypress Hills, Brooklyn, NY in 1983. Currently, the exceedingly diverse neighborhood consists of 58% of residents speaking languages other than English, the most common countries of origin being the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Bangladesh, Ecuador, Trinidad and Tobago. The northeastern Brooklyn residents along with CHLDC sought to address many issues affecting local residents, including the need for affordable, quality housing, a healthy neighborhood economy, high quality education, safe, fun, educational activities for children after school hours, and the need for young adults to achieve their educational and employment goals. The majority of CHLDC's board members currently live or work in the Cypress Hills neighborhood, and residents are continually involved in designing and refining their work.

Challenge

The CHLDC has identified a number of health hazards across the Cypress Hills neighborhoods. Over 4,176 homes include; water infiltration issues, mold growth, biocides and carbon monoxide, lead-based paint, excess cold and/or heat, and overcrowding. In addition, contaminants off roadways, and higher levels of NO and NO₂ concentrations that occur dense buildings, hot water boilers, cooking areas and other fuel combustion processes are affecting air quality in homes in the community. These problems may also be present in many multifamily buildings, since there are seven asthma hospitalizations per 1,000 children in Community Board 5 (where Cypress Hills is located), compared to an average 4.6 citywide.

In-order to create a more healthy and sustainable community for their current residents, this project aimed to develop and provide the Cypress Hills community with hands-on education and resources to improve air quality, reduce energy and water consumption costs, choose healthy food and less hazardous products, and take advantage of other opportunities to increase the overall health of the Cypress Hills Community.

Solution

With funding provided by the New York State Pollution Prevention Institute (NYSP21), CHLDC was able to create materials, such as; handouts, flyers, a Healthy Homes Toolkit, surveys, brochures, and a room-by-room checklists in various languages including; English, Spanish, and Bengali. The informational material provided to Cypress Hills residents, offered simple, cost-effective and both immediate and long-term solutions and many of the environmental issues that Cypress Hills home-owners face. The project raised awareness on pollution issues that helped to make the community safer, healthier, and more sustainable overall.

Results

The CHLDC completed 21 pre and post-intervention surveys (in both English and Spanish) scheduled with selected homeowners to assess knowledge and application of health, environmental, and related sustainability terms and practice. In addition, 21 in-home walkthroughs and presentations of the NYSP21 Healthy Homes Toolkit were completed and utilized after the grant period.

CHALLENGE

- CHLDC identified a number of health hazards across the Cypress Hills homes including; water infiltration issues, mold growth, biocides, carbon monoxide, lead-based paint, excess cold or heat, overcrowding, and issues with domestic hygiene

SOLUTION

- With funding provided by NYSP21, CHLDC was able to create materials, such as; handouts, flyers, toolkits, surveys, brochures, and checklists in various languages

RESULTS

- CHLDC completed 21 pre and post-intervention surveys
- 21 in-home walkthroughs and presentations were completed
- Materials were distributed at local schools, health affairs, and other events across the community. (2,067 in English, 289 in Spanish, 10 in Bengali, and 25 in Mandarin)



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CHLDC educational and outreach materials were distributed in coordination with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH). The distributed material consisted of 2,067 pieces in English, 289 in Spanish, 10 in Bengali, and 25 in Mandarin at local schools, health affairs, and other events across the community. Outreach connected the community with store owners, managers, and employees at 20 stores in the Cypress Hill community. These groups discussed the products carried at the various business establishments along with education about products with hazardous ingredients as well as alternative products and methods.



GREEN & HEALTHY HOMES

ROOM-BY-ROOM CHECKLIST



Resources

- Website <http://www.cypresshills.org>
 Healthy Homes Toolkit <http://www.cypresshills.org/healthyhomestoolkit>
 Green & Healthy Homes <http://www.cypresshills.org/healthyhomeschecklist>

TESTIMONIAL

“CHLDC is incredibly grateful for the support and resources of NYS2I throughout this process. We have been able to produce some truly impactful materials through this grant, in multiple languages including English, Spanish, and Bengali. The materials and resources developed will continue to be utilized, built upon, and shared to help further efforts in serving our community in Cypress Hills, along with all of Eastern New York, moving forward.”

- Jaana Martin, Asset Manager
 Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation

NYS2I PARTNERS



New York Manufacturing Extension Partnership

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