

Michigan Center for the Environment & Children's Health (MCECH)
COMMUNITY ACTION AGAINST ASTHMA NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZING PROJECT

Partners

Butzel Family Center

Community Health and Social Services (CHASS)

Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation

Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice

Friends of Parkside

Kettering/Butzel Health Initiative

Latino Family Services

United Community Housing Coalition

Warren/Conner Development Coalition

Detroit Health Dept.

Henry Ford Health System

University of Michigan School of Public Health

University of Michigan School of Medicine

Michigan Department of Agriculture Pesticide & Plant Pest Management

**Funded by:
Environmental Protection Agency**

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

For more information:

Project Manager:
Kathy Edgren
Toll free: 877-640-4064
Fax: 734.763.7379
E-mail:
kedgren@umich.edu

CAAA is a part of MCECH, the Michigan Center for the Environment and Children's Health

What is CAAA?

A community-based, participatory research partnership working to improve the health of children with asthma in the East and Southwest sides of Detroit. The partnership is between the Detroit Health Department, CHASS, Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation, Latino Family Services, Kettering Butzel Health Initiative, Butzel Family Center, Warren Conner Development Coalition, Friends of Parkside, Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice, the Michigan Department of Agriculture Division of Plant and Pest Management, United Community Housing Coalition and the University of Michigan Schools of Public Health and Medicine. The purpose of community-based participatory research projects is to enhance the understanding of issues affecting the community and to develop, implement and evaluate plans of action that will address those issues in ways that benefit the community.

Since 1999, CAAA has been researching air quality and working with families in their homes in Southwest and Eastside Detroit. For the household activities, outreach workers called Community Environmental Specialists (CES's) visited homes of families who signed up to be in the household project. During these visits, the CESs worked with the families to educate them about asthma triggers (things that may cause an asthma attack), and to develop a plan to reduce the household environmental triggers for asthma. For the air quality research, CAAA is collecting information on the quality of the indoor and outdoor air in Southwest and Eastside Detroit and looking at the relationship between the quality of the air, lung functioning, and reports of asthma symptoms of the children enrolled in the household project.

What is the Neighborhood Organizing Project of CAAA?

The Neighborhood Organizing Project seeks to work with neighborhood groups, community organizations and agencies to reduce environmental threats to the neighborhood. The project seeks to do this in the following ways:

1. By sharing with community groups and organizations the findings from the data collected through the household and air quality research of the CAAA project.
2. By identifying and engaging existing community groups and organizations that might be interested in working on environmental issues important to their neighborhood and community. CAAA staff are housed in community based organizations and are willing to work with partner organizations to identify community groups who might be interested in being part of an inter-organizational network (I.N.).
3. By working with member groups of the I.N. to organize, coordinate and conduct activities to reduce physical environmental threats related to asthma. These activities will be based on the data feedback and priority setting.
4. By increasing community awareness and knowledge of factors associated with the environment and asthma through sharing of findings to community residents. This will be done through presentations, generation of annual reports for I.N. organizations, postings on existing partner websites and annual community forums.

(OVER)

Michigan Center for the Environment & Children's Health (MCECH)
COMMUNITY ACTION AGAINST ASTHMA NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZING PROJECT

What are the Benefits to Me or My Organization?

CAAA can work with your neighborhood group or organization in learning more about reducing environmental threats in your neighborhood and developing strategies to reduce the environmental threats in your neighborhood. Through the I.N., CAAA can help your group or organization link with other organizations in the Southwest and Eastside of Detroit working on similar issues around the quality of life of your neighborhood.

Where can I learn more about this project?

For more information, contact:

Southwest Detroit – Maria Salinas
Field Supervisor, Community Action Against Asthma
CHASS
W. Fort Street
313-297-7752
e-mail: msalinas@umich.edu

East Side Detroit- Ronald Stewart
Community Organizer, Community Action Against Asthma
Warren- Conner Development Corporation
14600 Mack
Detroit, Michigan 48215
e-mail: rlstewar@umich.edu

Created by Community Action Against Asthma (CAAA), a part of MCECH (the Michigan Center for the Environment and Children's Health). Funded by: the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (P01-ES09589 and RO1-ES10688) and the Environmental Protection Agency (PO1-ES09589). Contact Kathy Edgren, Project Manager of CAAA, for further information: 1-877-640-4064 or kedgren@umich.edu.