



# How to Plan an Asthma Education Event at your State Capitol

## May is Asthma Awareness Month!

There is no better time to promote asthma education, including management of environmental triggers. Join EPA to plan an educational event in your state's capitol building. To do this, you will need the support of government officials and local communities. Things to do include:

- ▼ **Contact your state legislator to sponsor your event. His/Her office can help you obtain space in the state capitol building. You will most likely be asked to coordinate details with the capitol's operations office.**
- ▼ **Sponsor education activities in the state capitol building. Partner with other local organizations involved in asthma education in order to pool resources and increase attention and publicity for the event.**
- ▼ **Issue an asthma proclamation ([see template on page 13](#)).**
- ▼ **Plan a health fair providing free asthma screenings and education on environmental asthma triggers and management. Recruit local sponsors to provide giveaways or funding to support the health fair and assist in setting up asthma screenings. Potential sponsors include area doctors, respiratory care departments, businesses, and non-profit organizations.**
- ▼ **Hold a press conference to announce the state's partnership as well as encourage the state as a whole to participate.**
- ▼ **Issue press releases and publicize your event in local newsletters, the state's Web site, and local media.**
- ▼ **Work with the state's press office to set up interviews with experts in the field, people who have asthma, and government officials. The press office can also set up meetings for state officials and local organizations to visit schools and daycare facilities to promote asthma management.**
- ▼ **Remember to plan your event well in advance to address any security concerns.**

### Event Spotlight: World Asthma Day Legislative Breakfast, Ohio Asthma Coalition



#### Where and when did the event take place?

The Hyatt at Capitol Square in Columbus, Ohio, on May 1, 2007

#### What happened at the event?

The Ohio Asthma Coalition (OAC) held a networking breakfast for legislators and coalition members. After remarks by the chair of the Ohio Asthma Coalition and the introduction of the legislators and legislative aids, participants engaged in conversations and generated ideas to promote improving asthma care and management.

#### How was the event organized?

The OAC advocacy committee was essential in the event planning as they utilized their knowledge of the legislative process and their connection with the legislators and aids. A resource table with various EPA asthma materials was also set up to allow people to gather information and resources on asthma.

#### How did this event help raise asthma awareness?

The 75 attendees were able to discuss ways that they could work together and create awareness of the importance and impact of asthma on Ohioans. After this event, the committee increased their efforts to form a legislative caucus to meet and talk with the coalition on an ongoing basis.

#### Sponsor:

Ohio Asthma Coalition

### And remember...

- ▼ **Distribute asthma materials within state offices and to the general public. The following are some of EPA's materials available to you in both English and Spanish:**
  - ▶ "Clear Your Home of Asthma Triggers" brochure;
  - ▶ "Take the Smoke-Free Home Pledge" brochure and poster;
  - ▶ "Dusty and His Asthma Triggers" children's funbook;
  - ▶ "Breathing Freely: Controlling Asthma Triggers" video;
  - ▶ "Help Your Child Gain Control Over Asthma" booklet;
  - ▶ Asthma public service announcements.

