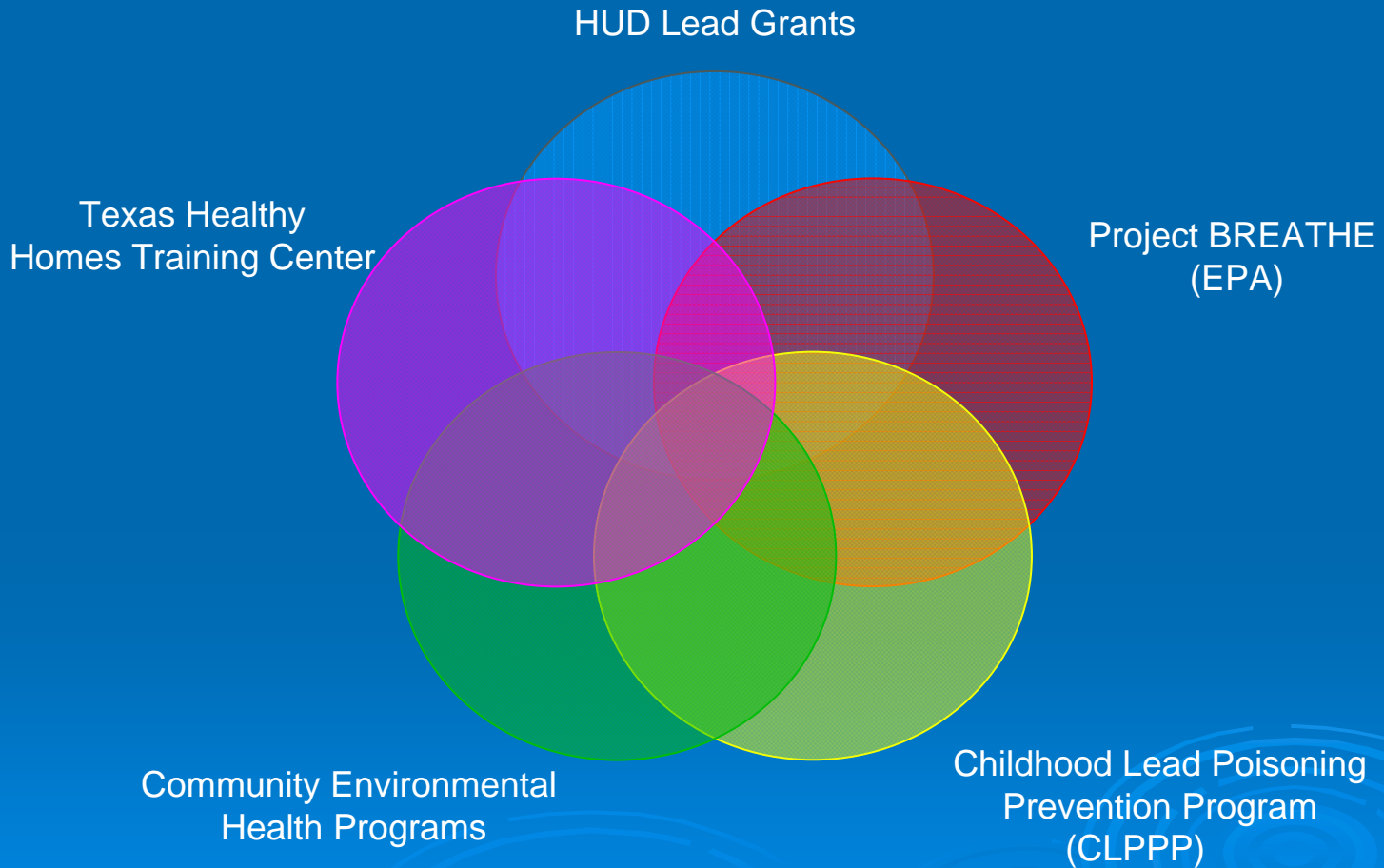
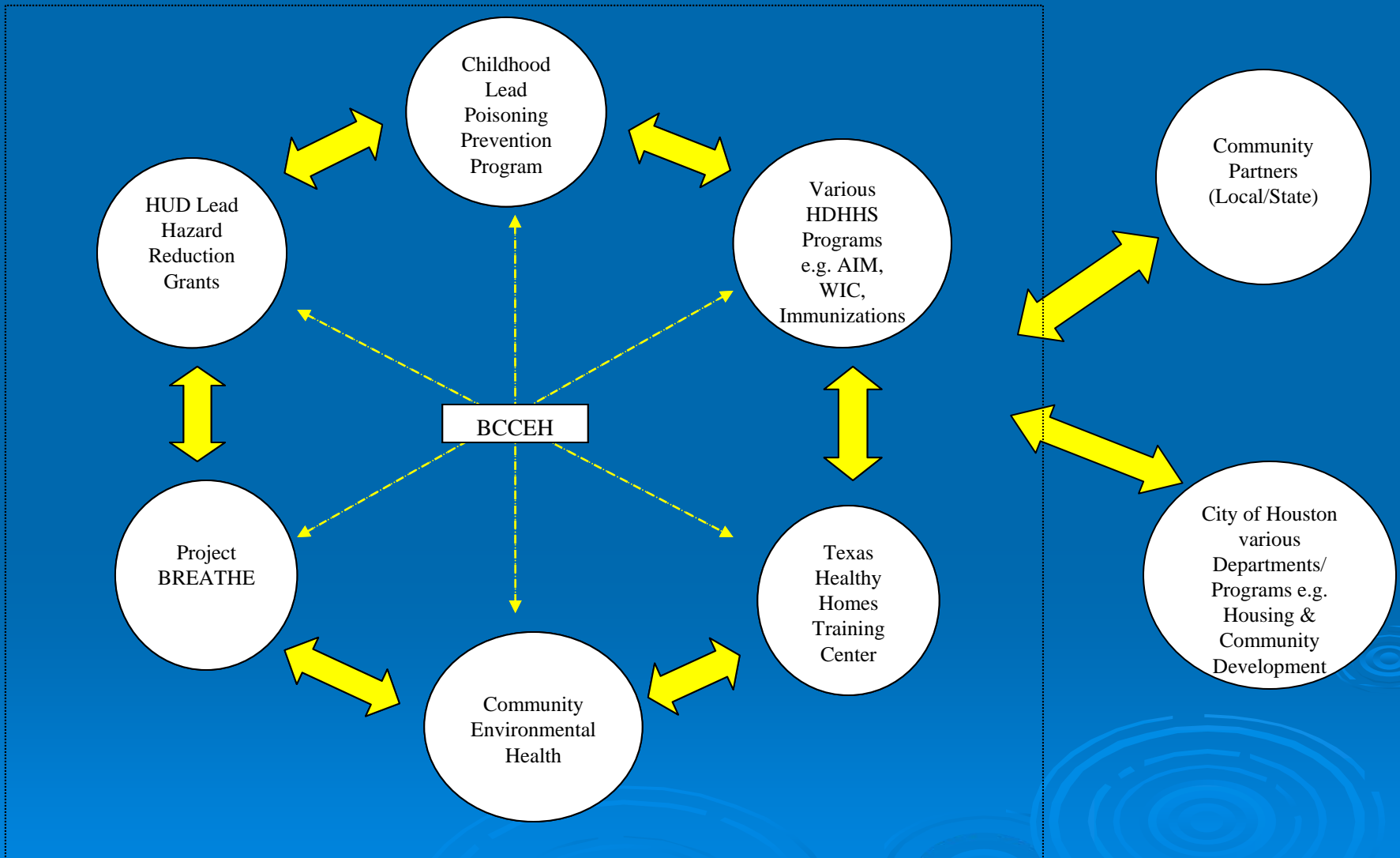


Bureau of Community & Children's Environmental Health (BCCEH)



BCCEH Cross Referral Process for Clients



Bureau of Community & Children's Environmental Health

Healthy Homes Vision

By providing cross referral and follow up system, the BCCEH is dedicated to developing environmentally safe homes for children by increasing public awareness to reduce the environmental hazards of lead poisoning, asthma and unintentional injuries that impact their health.

The BCCEH seeks community involvement, social justice and legislative change to focus on children's health and their success. The BCCEH brings both experience and resources to find housing solutions that are affordable, practical and immediate for low income populations.



Bureau of Community & Children's Environmental Health Healthy Home Goals

1. To assess health and safety hazards and conduct appropriate interventions in housing units occupied by at-risk children
2. To characterize health and safety risks in targeted housing, based on the results of environmental assessments
3. To prevent future lead poisoning, asthma, unintentional injuries in children and limit the damage
4. To conduct community education on prevention of child illness and injury caused by housing related hazards
5. To develop outreach materials and distribution of materials by creating a partnership with community based organization, faith based organization and other community associations
6. To collaborate with academic institutions of Public Health

HUD Lead Based Paint Hazard Control Grants

BCCEH performs a combination of lead inspections and risk assessments to every unit which meets HUD's guidelines and qualifies to participate in the program. The program provides interim lead reduction to most housing units since this method is the most cost effective. In some cases due to the low income housing stock and the condition/age of the windows/doors (surfaces of contact), replacement of such components becomes cost effective.

Since inception of the lead based paint hazard control program in 1992,

- HDHHS has provided lead hazard reduction to over 1600 housing units
- Trained over 167 unemployed/ underemployed individuals to be trained as state certified lead hazard reduction workers
- Screened over 170,000 children.
- Since inception of the, approximately 26,651 individuals have received lead management in place.

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP)

The purpose of the CLPPP is to eliminate the prevalence of childhood lead poisoning in the city of Houston by the year 2010.

To accomplish the elimination goal the program staff is educating health care professionals, parents and the public about the hazards of childhood lead poisoning and how to identify and provide follow-up care to the children affected with childhood lead poisoning, providing case management to children with elevated blood lead levels in collaboration with network partners, and by educating the community and contractors about lead poisoning and how lead hazards can be remediated from residential neighborhoods.

CLPPP is also providing environmental investigations, lead hazard reduction to the units that qualify by referring to the lead grant program.

CLPPP staff also refers the family to other HDHHS programs such as [AIMS](#), WIC, Immunizations etc. if needed.

Texas Healthy Housing Training Center

Healthy Home training is being offered in collaboration with the HDHHS-BCCEH, National Healthy Homes Training Center and the Univ. of Texas School of Public Health, Texas Public Health Training Center. This two-day course brings together professionals with a variety of perspectives and experiences.

As of today, BCCEH has conducted 15 training sessions, covering topics including Healthy Homes Essentials, Making the Connection, Launching a HH Initiative and IPM for Multi Family Housing.

The training complements hazard-specific training in lead-based paint, radon, mold, pests, and asbestos. It identifies root causes of health problems in a home and links them to the National Healthy Housing Center: Seven Principles of healthy Housing: keep it dry; keep it clean; keep it pest-free; keep it ventilated; keep it safe, avoid contaminants; and maintain the house.

EPA Region 6, awarded the THHTC grant to provide Environmental Education to Community Health Workers/Promotoras

Project BREATHE

(Bringing Reduction & Education of Asthma Triggers To Home Environment)

Funded by EPA, the BREATHE program primarily addresses exposure reduction of indoor environmental asthma triggers to families that have children with asthma and/or children who are potential candidates to become asthmatic.

Access to other environmental and education programs within the Health Department will make it possible for BREATHE to provide participants with training on indoor environmental asthma triggers, i.e. rodents, dust mites, cockroaches, moisture, fragrances, etc and to provide tobacco smoke education.

Project BREATHE

The goal of the BREATHE program is to reduce the environmental health risks posed by indoor environment hazards. BREATHE will, through education, training and outreach, empower the participants to identify environmental hazards and develop a plan of action.

BREATHE will also refer the participants to appropriate environmental and health programs provided by the HDHHS and partnering agencies.

Community partner- Gulf Coast Head Start



Community Environmental Health

The Community Environmental Health section protects citizens and City employees from exposures to environmental hazards in a correct and timely manner by educating citizens, enforcing ordinances and laws, making recommendations, monitoring exposures and responding to all complaints, requests and emergencies in the following program areas:

- Indoor Air Quality,
- Smoking Ordinance Enforcement,
- Medical Waste/Infection Control,
- Occupational Health, Radiation Compliance
- Ambulance Ordinance enforcement.

Environmental Investigators of the Community Environmental Section conduct lead paint/dust risk assessments and clearances for the City of Houston Department of Housing and Community Development. The inspectors are certified risk assessors. Since the program started the team has conducted more than 2000 assessments.

Benefiting the Community

BCCEH is dedicated to promoting environmentally safe housing for children and families by providing education, cross-referrals and follow-up systems. By increasing public awareness BCCEH strives to reduce the impact of environmental hazards associated with the home

The BCCEH seeks community involvement, social justice and legislative change to focus on children's health and their success.

The BCCEH brings both experience and resources to find housing solutions that are affordable, practical and immediate for low income populations.




Benefits of Synergy through Consolidation

- Existing programs are perceived as successful
- Multi-dimensional investigations are more efficient and bring resources to their individual programs
- More opportunities for training
- Creates and promotes team work


The natural consequence of the work relationships made between existing programs ultimately increase cost-effectiveness and results in consolidation



Short Term Objectives

1. Cross-train staff and gain commitment to change
 2. Work with other programs within HDHHS to reach out the community.
 3. Increase community receptiveness by engaging community leaders
 4. Identify need and bolster support and demand for Healthy Housing activities
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Long Term Objectives

1. Continue to cross-train staff and gain commitment to change
 2. Foster overall Healthy Homes culture by reaching out to other staff/programs/department within the City
 3. Obtain funding to establish healthy home program
 4. Commitment from local leaders
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Challenges..... Challenges...?

1. New program/new people to deal with?
2. Changes in job description/duties ?
3. Staff may see this as no or little incentives?
4. Cross training issues?
5. What IF healthy home objectives can not be addressed by current program?
6. Community partners/local leaders buy-ins
7. FUNDING...FUNDING...FUNDING???????

Accomplishments

- Screened over 170,000 children.
- 15 Healthy homes training sessions by Healthy Homes Training Center since 2007 (Two days Essentials, Launching, IPM Making the Connection)
- Pre Conferences at State and National Professional Meetings (NACCHO, TPHA, APHA)
- BREATHE presentation to Asthma Coalition of Texas meeting, Dallas, TX
- Partnered with Gulf Coast Head Start to train 28 teachers on Healthy Homes.
- Healthy Homes training to 200 staff of Early Head Start program.
- Part of City of Houston staff development program, trained 72 administrative support staff on Healthy Home concepts.

Bureau of Community and Children's Environmental Health

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