The National Center for Health in Public Housing (NCHPH), a project of North American Management, is supported in part by a cooperative agreement grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

National Cooperative Agreements

- Section 330 (i) of the Public Health Service Act, as amended, authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts to provide necessary technical and non-financial assistance to potential and existing health centers.
- The Health Resources and Services Administration’s Bureau of Primary Health Care (HRSA’s BPHC) supports health center programs that provide access to primary care health services for medically underserved communities and vulnerable populations, such as public housing residents.

The National Center for Health in Public Housing

- The mission of the National Center for Health in Public Housing (NCHPH) is to strengthen the capacity of Public Housing Primary Care (PHPC) health center programs, section 330 (i), and other health center grantees by providing training and a range of technical assistance.
- The goal is to increase the capacity and improve the performance of HRSA supported health center programs and other safety net providers in meeting the specialized health care needs of the public housing residents. The National Center for Health in Public Housing has developed materials for training and education, disseminated best practices and mentored new grantees.

Public Housing Resident Facts

- From March 2013 to May 2016, approximately 2.1 million people lived in over 1 million public housing units across the U.S.
- Public housing residents are often from racial and ethnic minorities. Recent data shows that almost a quarter (24%) of public housing residents are Hispanic and the largest minority is blacks (45%).
- Overall, the general health and conditions that impact health for residents of public housing are often worse than other populations.
  - Children who live in public housing are more likely to suffer from asthma and mental health issues.
  - People from low-income households (incomes less than $20,000) are less likely to be physically active.
  - Public housing is also linked to poor nutrition for many residents.
  - Residents are more likely to have a decreased quality of life and are more likely to use substances.
- Although public housing was originally created to provide temporary relief, about 17% of people living in public housing remain residents for 10-20 years. The Department of Housing and Urban Development has developed new programs to promote self-sufficiency and more positive sustainable outcomes.

Sources: Housing and Health: Time Again for Public Health Action, 2002; Safe to Walk? Neighborhood Safety and Physical Activity Among Public Housing Residents, 2009; A Picture of Subsidized Housing, 2009

Subsidized Housing by County, 2008

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Health in Public Housing:

Main initiatives focus around the following:

- Conducting needs assessments with health center programs and health center program look-alikes to determine primary medical care service delivery needs among grantees that serve public housing residents
- Providing an annual Health Center and Public Housing National Symposium
- Offering remote, on-site, and one-on-one training and technical assistance and peer mentoring, and conducting a new HRSA BPHC grantee training and orientation call
- Developing protocols and tools
- Providing knowledge of health literacy and skills necessary to reading, understanding, and acting on basic health care information
- Facilitating outreach to public housing residents

On-line Resources:

- Calendar of events
- Funding opportunity alerts
- Health center program requirements
- HRSA & CMS updates
- In the news
- Key issues
- Outreach and enrollment
- Patient Centered Medical Home
- Community resources
- Understanding ACOs & Understanding Medicare and Medicaid
- Webinars
- Printed publications of tools and resources: monographs; fact sheets; monthly newsletters; useful links

For more information please visit: NCHPH: http://www.nchph.org

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