



# Using Energy Efficiency to Improve Health and Housing

*Presented at the 2019 MES Resilience, Health and Energy*  
February 20, 2019



# The Impact of Housing and Energy Insecurity

## Economic Impacts

- Reduced productivity
- Lower job security
- Fewer benefits
  - Paid time off
  - Health insurance

## Health Impacts

- Exposure to environmental hazards
  - Lead based paint
  - Asthma triggers
- Mental health conditions
  - Stress
  - Anxiety
  - Depression
- Childhood stress
  - Chronic health conditions

## Education Impacts

- Poor grade level performance
- Lower graduation rates
- Lost earning potential

*Source: Green and Health Housing Initiative*



# The Pilot

Asthma in the Presence Health Saints  
Mary and Elizabeth Service Area



# The Team



Identifies and enrolls high-utilizing asthma patients, provides asthma education and PCP connection.



**ELEVATE** ENERGY  
Smarter energy use for all

Leverages expertise in energy efficiency and weatherization sectors to assess and remediate environmental triggers of asthma.



**Green & Healthy Homes Initiative®**

Provides comprehensive technical assistance modules, including stakeholder analysis, intervention planning, and sustainable funding options ranging from Pay For Success (PFS) financing to direct reimbursement.



# Pilot Details

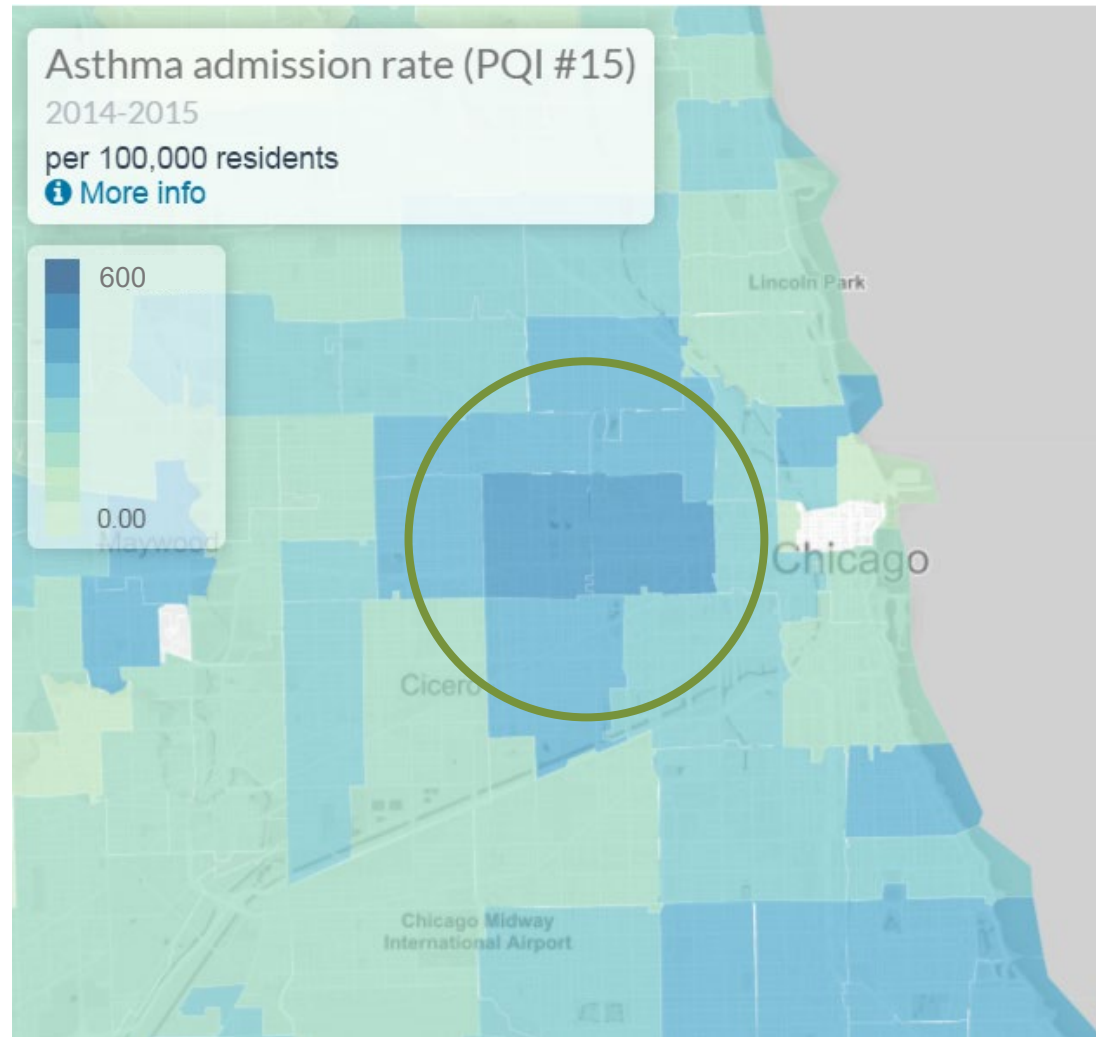
- **Timeframe:** December 2017 to September 2018
- **Budget:** \$100,000 (philanthropy, community benefit, in-kind contributions)
- **Eligibility:** At least 1 ED or inpatient admit for asthma in past 12 months, uninsured/Medicaid, under 65 years old
- **Enrollment:** 20 patients, identified through Presence Health records
- **Intervention:** HEPA vacuum/air filter, green cleaning, mattress and pillow cover (Tier 1); minor construction (Tier 2)
- **Data:** Presence and Elevate are using Efforts to Outcomes (case management software) to track client cases





# Hospital Service Area

- A community served by our hospital suffered very high rates of hospitalization for asthma, especially among children.
- Illinois rate of hospitalization among children was 156 per 100,000 with a range from 63.5 to 233.
- West Side Chicago rates for children ranged from 145 to 487 per 100,000.



# Case #91740

- 3 unit building
- Patient lives in basement unit
- Patient is 19 years old
- Lives with his father and his younger siblings
- Hospitalized for asthma within the past 12 months
- Unemployed



# Issue: Point Source Moisture/Mold (before)



Moldy drywall by bathroom, kitchen, and hallway. Additionally, the Combustion Appliance Zone (CAZ) was not properly closed off.





# Issue: Point Source Moisture/Mold (after)

Moldy walls removed; new water resistant drywall was installed. Additionally, a door was added to properly close the CAZ.



# Issue: Flue Pitch/High Carbon Monoxide



Domestic Water Heater is negatively pitched. Additionally, we found the flue pipe had material blocking the full use of the pipe.



# Preliminary Results

- **19 out of 20** participants **improved their Asthma Control Test (ACT)** score (1 participant was lost to follow up)
- **18 out of 20** reached a **score of at least 19**. (19+ =participant has “controlled” asthma)
- The average improvement was 7.11 points—a **56% improvement over average baseline ACT score**
- **72%** of those who responded **experienced reduced interference with work and school** due to asthma and a **reduced reliance on their rescue inhaler**



# Preliminary Results

- Average Tier 1: \$378.29
- Average Tier 2: \$2,230.86
- Total cost \$25,412.61 of the supplies

Return on Investment (ROI)  
for Asthma Interventions  
\$5.30 to \$14.00

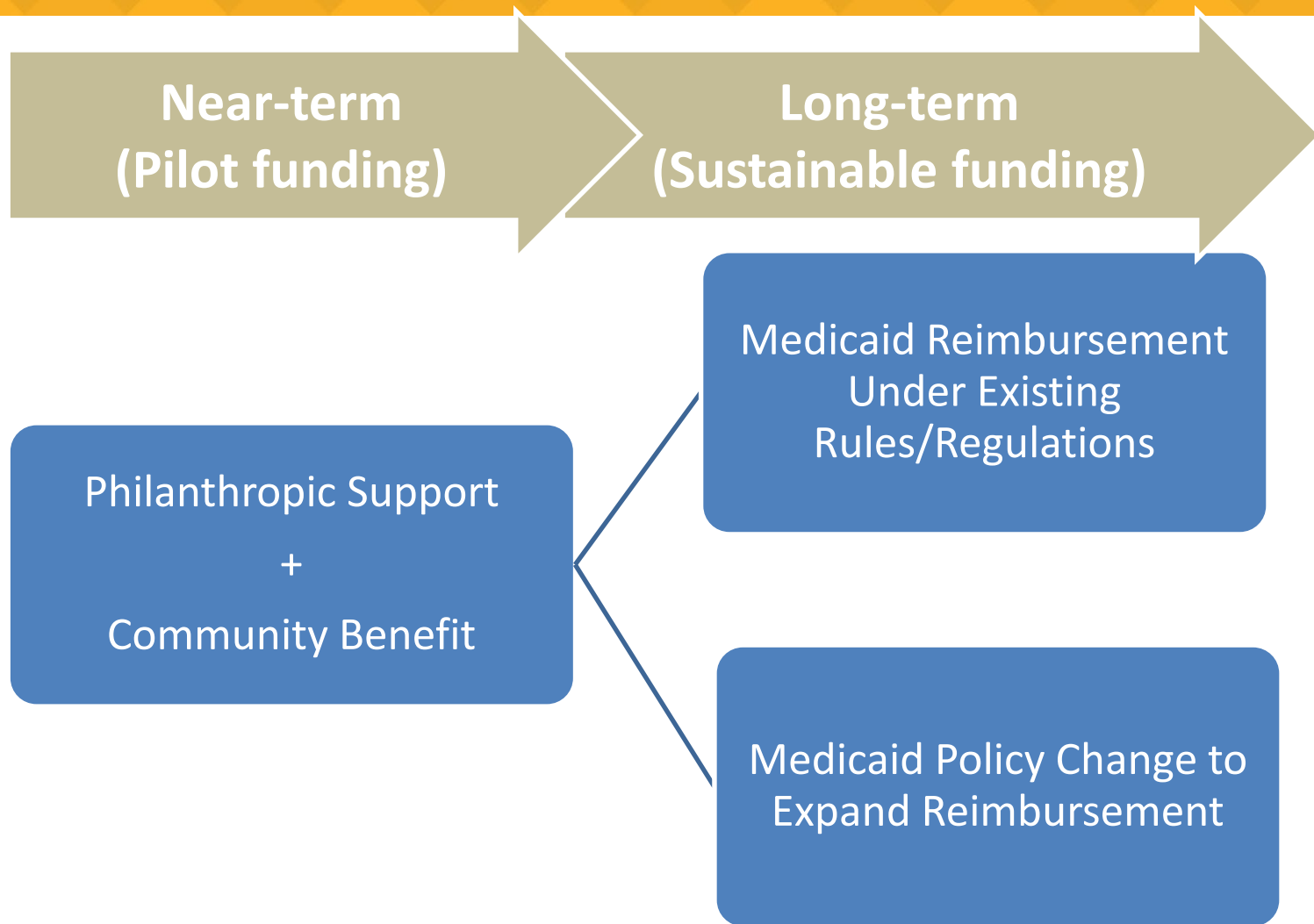
Pilot ROI= \$ 134,686 to  
\$355,776

*Source: Journal of public health management and practice*





# Program Sustainability: Healthcare



# Thank you!

**Amanda Escobar Gramigna**

***Manager, Environmental Health***

[Amanda.Gramigna@ElevateEnergy.org](mailto:Amanda.Gramigna@ElevateEnergy.org)

773-269-4015

[www.ElevateEnergy.org](http://www.ElevateEnergy.org)



@elevate\_energy



Facebook/elevateenergy



LinkedIn

