



COOK COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
**Environment &
Sustainability**

A Cook County and Elevate Initiative

Healthy Homes for Healthy Families

January 31, 2024

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Environment and Sustainability



Agenda

- **Cook County Priorities**
- **Existing relevant health programs at the County**
- **American Rescue Plan Act Funding Opportunity and Collaboration**
- **Establishment of Healthy Homes for Healthy Families Program**
- **Pilot Phase**
- **Program Phase**
- **Next Steps**



County Priorities

Healthy Communities and Sustainable Communities:

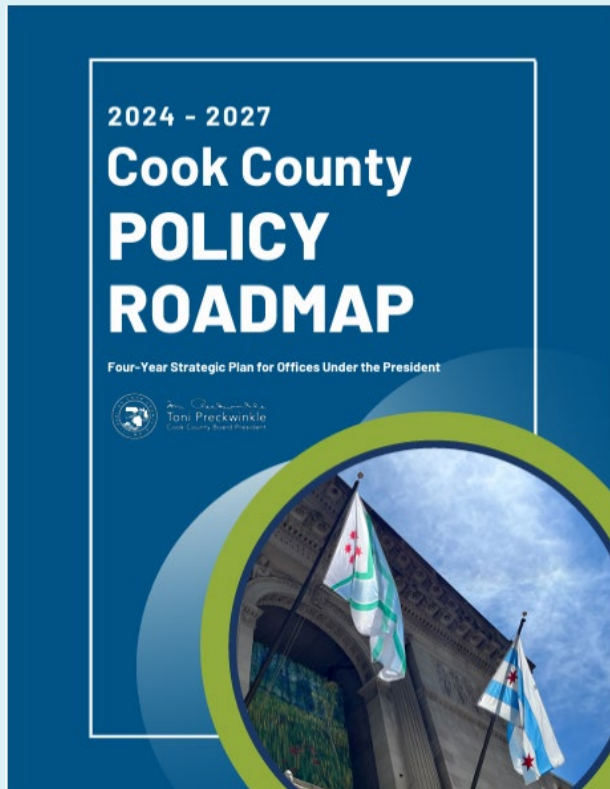
2 of the 6 pillars of the County's Policy Roadmap

Healthy Communities

- Improve the physical, mental, and social well-being of Cook County residents and communities

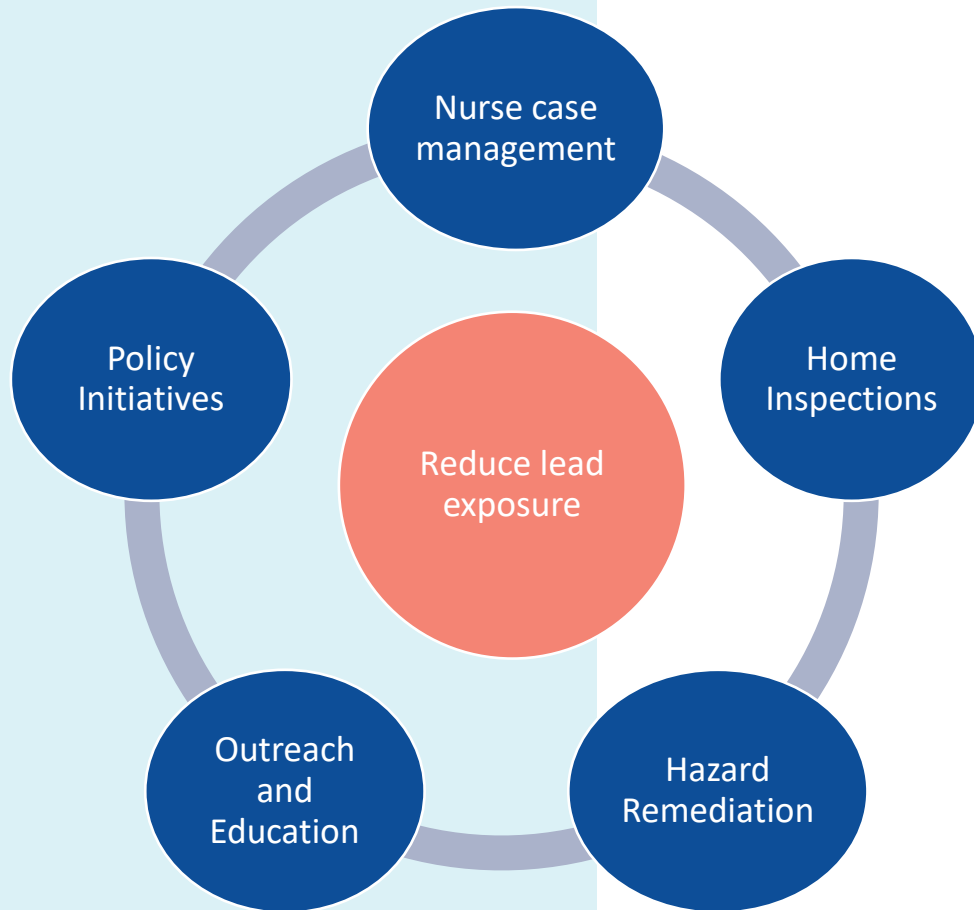
Sustainable Communities

- Support healthy, resilient communities that thrive economically, socially, and environmentally
 - Focus on energy efficiency, climate mitigation and supporting increased access to environmental resources
 - Collaboration





Cook County Lead Poisoning Prevention Program



- Supports families through referral, education and resources
- Provide outreach, education and engagement to increase awareness/change behavior
- Reduces lead hazards through grant-funded remediation



Cook County Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Remediations by CCDPH District, 2018 - present

CCDPH District	% of all remediations
West	50%
South	33%
Southwest	13%
North	3%

- CCDPH provides lead poisoning prevention services for children with elevated blood lead levels in all 120+ municipalities in our jurisdiction.
- CCDPH uses the funds to remediate residential homes from lead hazards in suburban Cook County through a grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- Communities that have large proportions of children with elevated blood lead levels, as well as high proportions of children under 6 years old, lower-income families, and pre-1940 housing are prioritized for lead hazard remediation activities, outreach and education, but these services are available throughout suburban Cook County.
- Federal funds (HUD) are used for below 80% AMI, local grant funds are for between 80-120% AMI



American Rescue Plan Act Funding

Cook County was allocated \$1 billion through the American Rescue Plan Act

- Embarked on process to get internal and external input on what the County's allocation should go towards

Health and Economic Impacts

- Supporting populations that have been hit hardest by COVID 19 both in health outcomes and financially

Healthy Homes, Water Conservation and Deep Energy Retrofits for Residential Homes is born *aka Healthy Homes for Healthy Families*

More flexible funding source— Allows for a wider array of upgrades because it's not just energy efficiency funding or healthy homes funding



Program Development

Maximize Impact by building upon CCDPH's 20+ years of work in remediating household lead risks for residents in Cook County, Healthy Homes for Healthy Families combines Public Health, Sustainability, and Economic Development efforts to improve physical, environmental, and fiscal health for families

Looking towards collaboration

Combining program priorities by addressing health hazards, structural improvements, energy and water efficiency improvements

Established implementation partner— **Elevate** is leading this work for the County and has been an incredible partner as we have been creating a new program

Holistic— Whole home upgrades, reducing disturbances to program participants and making programs more streamlined

Theoretically cost-effective investments due to completing the work in sequence and all at once instead of piecemeal



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Healthy Homes for Healthy Families



Healthy Homes for Healthy Families

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Healthy Homes for Healthy Families

Program Design

Assessing the whole home by providing a variety of whole home upgrades at no cost to owners or renters of single-family or 2- to 4-unit residential buildings in suburban Cook County, looking to address both health concerns and improve the energy and water efficiency of these homes

No cost for the assessment or for the upgrades

Tailored to program participants needs – since every home is different, Healthy Homes for Healthy Families works to determine with the program participant what upgrades are needed through a customized assessment

Pre and post data collection focused on home comfort and safety, energy use, household health

Areas of Focus Could Include:

- Removal or treatment of health hazards, such as mold, pests, unsafe electrical or radon
- Lead remediation work, such as window replacement, repainting, or sealing surfaces of walls, ceilings or porches
- Structural repairs
- Plumbing repairs and water conservation upgrades
- Weatherization, such as air sealing and insulation
- Installation of high efficiency appliances, such as heating and cooling systems, water heaters, stoves, ovens or dryers



Healthy Homes for Healthy Families

Pilot phase

Serving CCDPH's current and recent past program participants first. Had already gained trust of government and residents were more likely to be comfortable with having contractors in their home

Program Pilot Timeline

- Started assessments in March 2023
- Started construction in July 2023
- Have completed 68 assessments so far
- Construction is complete in 12 homes



Healthy Homes for Healthy Families

Full program

Public Launch of Program

- January 30, 2024
- Aim to serve up to 600 households over the next 3 years

Program eligibility

- Homeowners or renters of single-family and small multi-family residences of four units or less located within suburban Cook County
- Earning up to 120% of the Area Median Income
- Residing in a high-risk zip code for pediatric lead poisoning as determined by Illinois Department of Public Health OR living in a disadvantaged census tract defined by the US Government's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CJEST)



Next Steps

Improve the health, safety, and efficiency of your home with free upgrades!



Healthy Homes
for **Healthy Families**

A Cook County and Elmhurst Initiative



Where do we go from here?

- **Program replicability**
- **Case studies with focus on beneficial electrification**
- **Lessons learned**



Healthy Homes for Healthy Families

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