



For Health Service Advisory Committees

Make “Care for their Air” work! Involve your Health Services Advisory Committee.

- ✓ Make this issue a priority for your Health Services Advisory Committee (HSAC).
- ✓ Orient committee members to the project’s mission—*“Improving the overall health and well-being of Head Start children by improving their indoor air quality, especially exposure to secondhand smoke and other environmental asthma triggers.”*
- ✓ Familiarize HSAC members with the key messages, activities and resources included in the “Care for their Air” project.
- ✓ Ensure messages are conveyed consistently across program options.
- ✓ Identify key HSAC members to champion the program’s efforts. *These can be community partners identified below or parents, pediatricians or Head Start staff.*
- ✓ Assist the program to ensure a monitoring system is in place for staff to document their work with families in this area. This may mean using existing tracking systems or creating new ones.
- ✓ Assist the program with revising health forms (e.g., health history, health tracking and progress notes) to gather information about children’s exposure to secondhand smoke.



Photo courtesy of Roosevelt Center



- ✓ Assist the program in collecting information regarding asthma, secondhand smoke and other triggers as part of your program's community assessment.
- ✓ Use HSAC members' knowledge of the community and best practices for promoting healthy air to develop guidelines for implementation of the project.
- ✓ Develop strategies to help parents and the community-at-large understand this is an important issue that affects all children, not just those whose parents smoke or children who have asthma.
- ✓ Seek out community partners.
 - American Lung Association - <http://www.lungusa.org>
 - Cancer Association - <http://www.cancer.org>
 - National SIDS/Infant Death Resource Center - <http://www.sidscenter.org>
 - Regional EPA offices - <http://www.epa.gov/epahome/locate2.htm>
 - Local clinics and doctors
 - Community leaders and advocates for children's health
- ✓ Plan or participate in community events that support getting the message out.
 - A Family Health Fair – include information on the harmful effects of secondhand smoke from EPA's "Smoke-Free Homes" Program. Have participants who are ready "Take the Pledge." <http://www.epa.gov/smokefree/pledge/index.html>
 - Celebrate "Asthma Awareness Month" and "World Asthma Day." <http://www.epa.gov/asthma/awm.html>
 - See what other communities are doing. Create your own Smoke-Free activity! http://www.epa.gov/smokefree/images/local_program_brochure.pdf