

Healthy Homes Program

Energy Outreach Colorado & City of Denver, Colorado



Overview

- **Awarded Recipient:** Energy Outreach Colorado (EOC)
- **Collaborating City:** The City of Denver, Colorado
- **Collaboration Period:** June 2023 - December 2024
- **Program Name:** Healthy Homes Program

Program Purpose & Key Objectives

Building on decades of experience addressing energy burden, EOC seeks to redesign the traditional weatherization (WX) process with a data-led approach to determine cost-avoidance (health+energy) benefits rather than the traditional cost-effectiveness (energy-only) benefits. Partnering with Denver-area health care providers, EOC will create a WX prescription and provide a national model for equitable program development.

Below are the core objectives of the program:

- Support the City in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 65% by 2030
- Improve access to energy efficiency and renewable energy program
- Lower pollution and lower impact on climate change
- Enhance indoor air quality
- Support just energy transition
- Reduce healthcare costs

Achievements

Since the award in November 2022, the Healthy Home program has accomplished several achievements, including:

- Completed 21 pre-assessments and comprehensive home assessments in homes earmarked for ICLEI USA funding, including signing program paperwork, reviewing program expectations, completing Solar Garden forms, filling out Healthy Homes questionnaires, and more.
- Completed major measures and final inspections for two homes.
- Major measures near completion for six homes
- Additional seven homes are currently in the installation phase.
- The remaining six homes are in the bid stage, with reports being finalized and bid walk days being scheduled with contractors.





Challenges and Solutions

While the departure of the primary General Contractor, Helio Homes, presents a setback, the program remains focused on finding solutions and completing projects. Post-installation, the team is actively learning and adapting to address unexpected issues, such as rebuild and drywall installation post mechanical, electrical, ventilation, and mold remediation completion, demonstrating their dedication to delivering high-quality outcomes. Additionally, while navigating communication challenges with Xcel Energy regarding gas meter disconnections and upcoming rebate changes, the program team maintains optimism and engages with stakeholders to find collaborative solutions. Through proactive problem-solving and perseverance, the Healthy Homes Program remains steadfast in its mission to create healthier, more energy-efficient homes for the Denver community.



Left to right: Before and after house renovations from the Healthy Homes Project.



This funding for the Healthy Homes Program will enable us to remove barriers for vulnerable households to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve indoor air quality, and reduce unsafe exposure to pollutants in the home.

— **Luke Ilderton, Energy Outreach Colorado Executive Director**



Next Steps

The Healthy Homes Program aims to complete measure installations and final inspections in at least ten homes by the end of 2024 and, depending on contractor and participant availability, finalize measures in the remaining homes as soon as possible.

Ongoing efforts focus on monitoring and reducing project costs to maximize funding, as well as providing post-install follow-up and participant support by addressing utility bill questions, participant feedback, and installation issues (e.g., heat pump operation and thermostat settings). Additionally, the program strives to enhance communication and education for participants through the evolution of a decision matrix, ensuring transparent communication about project timelines and providing educational follow-up on installed measures.





Conclusion

During the remaining funding period, EOC will focus on completing measure installations, reducing project costs, and providing post-install follow-up and participant support, while also enhancing communication and education for participants and ensuring equitable access to energy efficiency measures through the program. Overall, the Healthy Homes Program strives to enhance indoor air quality, facilitate a just energy transition, and reduce healthcare costs. Through energy-efficient installations, cost-reduction strategies, and improved communication, the program aims to ensure equitable access to energy efficiency measures, fostering healthier and more sustainable living homes.



A participant signing up for the program.



Visual depiction of the programs goals.

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