

ICARP Adaptation Clearing House

CivicSpark Case Study: Climate Change and Health Equity Capacity Building for Local Health Departments

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2016-17 CivicSpark Fellow

California Department of Public Health

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Local
Government
Commission

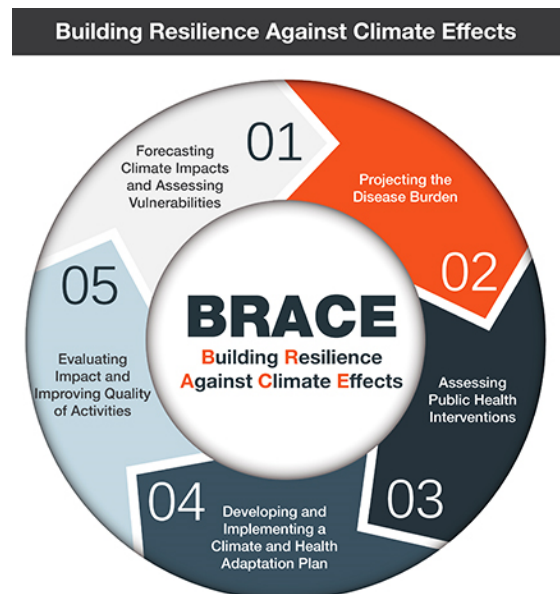
Leaders for Livable Communities



“The County of Kings greatly appreciates Rickie Cleere’s work with Kings County’s Climate and Health Program as a CDPH CivicSpark fellow. Rickie has worked closely with our local Health Department staff, assisting in the development of valuable, targeted educational materials and staff presentations to help spread the important message of the Climate/Health nexus. His technical support has been an asset, and his guidance and assistance has increased our in-house efficiency, freeing up our staff time to work on other issues. Our partnership with Civic Spark and Rickie has been a fruitful one, and we look forward to continuing this productive relationship in the future.”

*-Lee Johnson, MPH, REHS
Environmental Health Supervisor, Kings County Department of Public Health*

The California Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (CalBRACE) Project enhances the California Department of Public Health’s (CDPH) capability to plan for and reduce health risks associated with climate change. Using a five-step process (right), CalBRACE works with health departments to support the development and implementation of a unified climate and health adaptation strategy for local jurisdictions, while allowing flexibility for local and regional conditions and needs. The program provides resources and technical assistance for the state and local public health departments to build climate adaptation capacity and enhance resilience at the local and regional levels. CalBRACE is funded by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and joins 15 other states and two cities across the United States that are also conducting climate adaptation planning efforts from a public health perspective through the CDC Climate Ready States and Cities Initiative.



As a CivicSpark fellow in the Office of Health Equity (OHE), my project work mostly consisted of supporting the Climate Change and Health Equity Program as well as the CalBRACE Project through the development of brochures and fact sheets for the OutsideIn campaign in Kings County and the Capital Region (which includes Sacramento, Yuba, Yolo, El Dorado, Sutter, and Placer counties). The OutsideIn climate change and health communications campaign was piloted in San Luis Obispo in 2014 and helps communicate ways in which the public can mitigate their climate impact while promoting their health.

OUTSIDE IN
WE TAKE HEALTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE PERSONALLY

OutsideIn means that the outside environment (climate) affects us on the inside (health). Now is the time to come together as a community and talk about how hotter temperatures, drought risks, and other climate change impacts are affecting our well-being. The good news is many actions that help reduce climate impacts also improve the health of

our families and community. The campaign's messaging emphasizes co-benefit behaviors that people can take on an individual and community level. Different focus areas include Healthy Climate-Friendly Food and Travel, as well as Climate, Health, and Drought, Heat, Air Quality, and Wetter Weather.



In addition to expanding OutsideIn, I also gave presentations and trainings on climate change and health equity for local health departments and started getting local health officers involved in discussions about how climate change can be integrated into local health department programming. I assisted Kings, Yolo, El Dorado, Placer, and Sutter Counties in completing CalBRACE Climate and Health Assessments, which provide an overview of climate concerns and impacts, scan existing policy, programming, and other initiatives going on related to climate change and public health, and identify next steps for action. CalBRACE Assessments/Inventories had been completed with more than a dozen other local health departments that partnered with CDPH during earlier phases of the CalBRACE project



The California Department of Public Health is the leading agency of this project and Dorette English, a Health Program Specialist in the Office of Health Equity, is the CalBRACE Program Manager. She was my primary supervisor during my CivicSpark service year. Our main contact and partner at the Kings County Health department was Environmental Health Educator Darcy Pickens, and our other contact was Judy Robinson, who is a Sustainability Manager for Sacramento County, Steering Committee member of the Capital Region Climate Readiness Collaborative, and the Advisory Council Chair of Design 4 Active Sacramento.



Public Health
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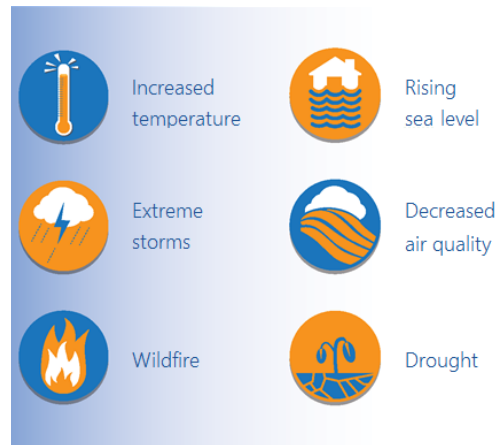
**CAPITAL REGION
CLIMATE READINESS
COLLABORATIVE**

CDPH's collaboration with Kings County and the Capital Region Climate Readiness Collaborative over the course of my service year consisted of bi-weekly calls and ongoing email correspondence about the content and layout of the OutsideIn materials. Based on the more conservative environment in Kings County, it was determined that fewer focus areas and a readability level tailored more from the general public was more appropriate approach. In contrast, the OutsideIn Cap Region campaign touched on more focus areas and utilized more technical language. In addition to this work, my partners and myself also worked to coordinate and schedule times where I could present and/or facilitate discussion centered on climate change and health equity capacity building. By the end of the service year I gave two webinar presentations to Kings County Health Department staff and one live presentation at the 2nd Regional Convening of Public Health Officers and Planning Directors in Sacramento. I worked directly with Darcy to prepare a CalBRACE Climate Change and Health Assessment document for Kings County, and oversaw two UC Berkeley Master's in Public Health student volunteers who completed assessments for

Yolo, El Dorado, Placer, and Sutter Counties through research, policy scans, and key informant interviews.

In the Office of Health Equity, we recognize that the drivers of climate change and health inequities share similar root causes, which are the inequitable distribution of social, political and economic power. These power imbalances result in systems that drive both health inequities and greenhouse gas emissions, such as our economic system, transportation systems, and land use systems, leaving us with inequitable living conditions such as communities of color living in more polluted areas, and with climate change impacts such as increased heat and storms, culminating in the combination of inequitable health impacts from climate change and other health inequities. While climate change effects everyone, people at greater risk include children, seniors, people with chronic diseases, outdoor workers, people living in poverty, and some communities of color. While my work as a CivicSpark Fellow was intended to benefit the general populations of Kings County and the Capital Region, I made sure to pay special attention in considering more vulnerable subpopulations.

Kings County and the Capital Region both experience the greatest climate change risks from extreme heat, drought, flooding from heavy rain events, and reduced air quality. The Sacramento Region's location and development pattern also make it susceptible to the impacts of Urban Heat Islands (UHI) sea level rise from the Sacramento Delta, and some wildfires. My project addresses these impacts with communications materials and outreach strategies that inform the public and engage people around actions that reduce emissions as well as improve health and resilience to climate impacts. Some of these actions include purchasing local produce at farmers markets, utilizing community gardens, using more active forms of transportation like walking and biking, and planting and caring for shade trees. The CalBRACE Climate Change and Health Assessments also assist local health departments in considering these impacts as well as possible programs and partnerships that promote adaption and resilience.



As mentioned earlier, my service project was a component of the CDC-funded CalBRACE project. Not only was my placement at CDPH funded through CDC grant funding, but local partners are also able to receive Local Health Department Partnership funds to defray the costs incurred over the course of the collaboration. The CalBRACE Project recently received its next round of funding for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

My service work is very replicable. In fact, an OutsideIn California campaign is currently in the formative stages of development. This statewide effort is intended to create customizable templates for use by local health departments across the state, helping build capacity around

public outreach and engagement concerning climate-related health risks. CalBRACE Climate Change and Health Assessments can also be developed alongside counties who have not already completed one.

If you would like more background on the CalBRACE Project and its work with local departments, please visit the California Department of Public Health website at <https://archive.cdph.ca.gov/programs/Pages/CalBRACE.aspx>. For more information on OutsideIn SLO, visit <http://www.healslo.com/outsidein-slo/>. The OutsideIn Kings campaign can be found at <https://www.countyofkings.com/departments/health-welfare/public-health/climate-health>, and the Outside in Capital Region campaign can be found at <http://climatereadiness.info/outsidein-capital-region/>. For further information about the CalBRACE Project, please contact the CalBRACE Program Manager, Dorette English, at Dorette.english@cdph.ca.gov.