



Policy Brief:

Healthy homes for low-income people of color

WE ACT for Environmental Justice.

This poster will help people reduce environmental pollution inside their homes, understand the data about health issues impacting their neighborhood, and get involved in shaping policy to improve their communities' health.

About the advocate

WE ACT is a northern Manhattan community-based organization that works to build healthy communities by ensuring that people of color and/or low-income residents participate meaningfully in creating fair environmental health policies.

The issue

The condition of our homes affects our health. Everyone should live in a home environment that is clean, safe, well-ventilated, pest-free, and contaminant-free. But places with high poverty levels also have higher rates of illnesses like asthma, caused by poor air quality. People who live in Northern Manhattan are far more likely than other New Yorkers to have an illness caused by pollution in their home. Indoor pollution builds up from things like lead paint and water pipes, living close to outdoor pollution sources like power plants or highways, and landlords neglecting maintenance on mold or pest infestations. Research shows that these problems disproportionately impact low-income people of color, and learning about home environmental health can be difficult. The information is complex and rarely available in languages other than English.

The impact

This MPP will show people living in low-income communities the steps they can take to make their homes healthier places to live. It will also break down the data that proves the impacts of indoor environmental health are a result of racial

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and social injustice against low-income communities of color. And it will help people understand and more effectively advocate for the health of their communities.

The distribution network

WE ACT will distribute the MPP through monthly community organizing team meetings, other northern Manhattan community groups, and local political leaders. WE ACT will also distribute the digital version of the MPP through social media, their website, and their monthly newsletter. The content of the MPP will be used as the basis for training and organizing around these issues with their membership.



THE CENTER FOR URBAN PEDAGOGY

232 THIRD STREET, D 201

BROOKLYN, NY 11215

(718) 596-7721

welcometocup.org