

**Escambia County Health Department**

***“Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in  
Environmental Health”***

**The “Kupfrian Park” PACE EH Project  
2006-2007**

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## *Community Health Assessment*

### **The “Kupfrian Park” PACE EH Project**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this proposal is to request funding to initiate a grassroots community-based program in Escambia County whereby Environmental Health concerns are identified, prioritized and addressed in the Kupfrian Park Neighborhood. This community has been selected for PACE EH or “Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health”. We envision expanding the boundaries of traditional “Environmental Health” and examine the relationships between general EH (sanitation, drinking water quality, food safety, rodent control etc), human health and quality of life. This Environmental Health project would be essentially “revisiting” the core functions of Public Health: Assessment, Policy development, and Assurance.

Following the principles of PACE EH, we will engage the community in identifying their own Environmental Health issues, and build a framework on which to address each issue. We will build coalitions among the local governmental agencies to efficiently address the Environmental Health issues and will rank and prioritize, using community collaboration at the forefront.

#### **Background**

The Kupfrian Park Neighborhood in Escambia County, Florida is a historical landmark in Pensacola. A large storm water pond in the center of this community is the former site of a horse race track, and was also the site where General Galvez of the Spanish Army, lead his men to camp, prior to taking Pensacola from the British Army. Now, Kupfrian Park is primarily populated by an elderly African-American community. A retirement complex sits on the north side of this stormwater pond, and several single family residences are located in this area. The community is partly city and partly county owned. A major local hospital borders this community on the east side. Approximately, 51.5% of the owner-occupied residences are below poverty level and approximately 27.2% of renter-occupied residences are below poverty level. The majority of the working population in this area is “for profit-wage” workers in the Education and Health Care Industry. Of the residents that are 65 years or older, 62.6% have a disability and the majority of the veterans from this group served in World War II. The majority of the houses were built in 1939 or earlier, and the majority of the owner-occupied units were populated by the current resident families in 1969 or earlier. (US Census Bureau-2000, Census Tract 4)

This area has been neglected for several years, but now there is hope of revitalization. Numerous problems related to Environmental Health have been identified; such as, failing septic tanks, flooding, mosquito’s, rodent control, lead-based paint exposure, inadequate lighting and no sidewalks; with storm water flooding as the major concern. It is easy to see how storm water flooding can create a “domino effect” of Environmental Health concerns. When the area floods, the septic tanks have difficulty, the mosquito’s begin to breed, rodents become “swimmers” and the streets become rivers. With elderly residents trying to walk or ride in their wheelchairs to their doctor’s appointments at the adjacent hospital, this flooding is a large and dangerous concern. Because there are no sidewalks, residents many times walk in the roadways to get to the hospital, as many do not drive.

Given the complexities of environmental health concerns in the Kupfrian Park Community, and the direct relation to the quality of life, the Kupfrian Park PACE EH project is being proposed as a sustainable tool to create a community-based health assessment. We propose to analyze the needs of this community, collect and analyze the data, rank and prioritize the issues and develop action plans to improve the overall health of this community. Neighborhood meetings have already been conducted to begin a foundation for PACE.

### **Summary**

The Escambia County Health Department is seeking to create a community-driven PACE EH project within the “Kupfrian Park” Neighborhood of Pensacola, Florida. This project is specifically geared toward empowering this community to solve the existing environmental health concerns that they have; such as, failing septic tanks, flooding, mosquito control, rodent control, lead-based paint exposure, inadequate lighting and no sidewalks; with storm water flooding as the major concern. It is also designed to engage community partners and governmental organizations to play a role in improving the quality of life of this relatively small community. By facilitating this initiative, and allowing the community to take control of their own issues while providing strong support, we hope to excite the community and find simple solutions to seemingly complex problems.

### **Objectives**

- To empower the community and build relationships within a structured Community Environmental Health Assessment Team (CHET).
- To create an Environmental Health Leadership Team (EHLT) to identify Environmental Health issues within the community and rank them in order of importance and community priority.
- To create a framework within which the CHET and EHLT can work to resolve the issues.
- To form alliances with other governmental entities such as, city and county officials, utility authorities, university scientists, non-profit agencies, faith-based organizations to seek further funding for a more sustainable program.

### **Goals**

- To improve the Kupfrian Park resident's quality of life by identifying and correcting environmental and general public health issues.
- To bridge the gaps between racial communities.
- To overcome unnecessary obstacles, and provide health education to residents and other stakeholders.
- To increase awareness among governmental agencies to see the disparity in the county, instead of overlooking it.
- To preserve historical landmarks by making them a better place to live and visit.

## Work Plan and Time Line

### July-September 2006

- Task 1: Determine community capacity
- Task 2: Define and characterize the community
- Task 3: Assemble community-based Environmental Health Assessment Team

### October-December 2006

- Task 4: Define the goals, objectives, and scope of the assessment
- Task 5: Generate a list of community specific environmental health issues
- Task 6: Analyze the issues with a systems framework

### January-February 2007

- Task 7: Develop locally appropriate indicators
- Task 8: Select standards against which local status can be compared

### March-June 2007

- Task 9: Create issue profiles
- Task 10: Rank the issues
- Task 11: Set priorities for action
- Task 12: Develop an Action Plan
- Task 13: Evaluate progress and plan for the future

### Proposed Project Budget

Cost Component	Possible Contributions	Total Project Budget	Amount Requested
Personnel	18,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
Equipment	500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00
Training	1000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Publicity	500.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Other	100.00	500.00	500.00
		Total Amount requested	25,000.00

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