



PROJECT: FSL Home Improvements (FSLHI) Healthy Homes Initiative in Maricopa County (HHI)

PROJECT DIRECTOR: Katie Martin, Administrator of Home Improvements and Community Services at FSL

PROJECT OBJECTIVES: The HHI's objectives are to: 1. Eliminate health and safety hazards for Medicare and Medicaid recipients with chronic conditions whose housing and home hazards contribute to poor health outcomes; 2. Align work with current weatherization programs (WAP) to eliminate duplication and to ensure whole house approach; 3. Validate health care cost savings; 4. Disseminate proof-of-concept for replication across the U.S., and 5. Identify potential sustainable funding mechanisms for non-energy health-related measures.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: FSLHI, Arizona's largest provider of weatherization assistance (WAP), proposes to address health and safety hazards that worsen health conditions but are not allowable expenses under WAP. FSLHI will conduct the HHI intervention, a pilot program, in 100 underserved, WAP-eligible households of Medicaid-insured individuals with chronic conditions in Maricopa County, Arizona. Hazards to be remediated may include roofing, electrical, sewer, septic, flooring, carpet repair and/or replacement, moisture mitigation, pest control, and other environmental conditions. FSLHI will utilize Department of Energy funding to cover expenses related only to the HHI intervention.

FSLHI has provided home improvements to under-resourced homeowners, primarily older adults, for decades. For the HHI initiative, FSLHI will utilize its team of experienced contractors who, last fiscal year, served 1,662 clients, providing 1,027 households with WAP valued at \$10,412,938, and providing 370 homes with accessibility modifications (ramps, lowered countertops, etc.), valued at \$179,005.

PROJECT PARTNERS: FSLHI will leverage its current WAP resources through its contract with Maricopa County. FSLHI will collaborate with Mercy Care, an Arizona Medicaid insurer, and Three³ Inc., a nonprofit organization with expertise in evaluation and social science research. Through an innovative data agreement with Mercy Care and pre-/post intervention surveys with households, Three³ Inc. will analyze pre-/post health and claims data and prepare a post evaluation and analysis report for distribution.

PROJECT IMPACT: FSLHI expects the intervention to demonstrate that removing health and safety hazards in the home improve health outcomes and reduce health care costs. Three³ Inc.'s findings will document the health impacts experienced by the households in the pilot and the monetized value, i.e., financial savings, to both households and insurers that are attributed to the project as well as documentation of outcomes that promote an equitable clean energy transition.