



CHINESE
PROGRESSIVE
ASSOCIATION

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Measuring Air Quality at 8-10 Sites in Chinatown & Lower East Side of Manh. (CB3)

Proposal from Asthma Free School Zone/Chinese Progressive Association to Con Ed Settlement Fund

Answers to questions from Community Board 3 Con Ed Task Force asked on Oct. 28, 2010

The purpose, design, distribution and validity of the survey being used

The purpose of the Chinese Progressive Association's (CPA) asthma and air quality survey is to investigate and document the prevalence of asthma and community members' ideas about multiple sources of poor air quality in our neighborhood through a community based participatory survey. We will conduct a survey with 500 residents living in the 10002, 10013, and 10038 zip codes. This survey asks residents about the impact of air quality on their health, as well as asks for their input regarding the possible environmental sources of poor air quality and possible solutions to better air quality.

We are also conducting in-depth interviews with community, business, and government leaders (community board members included in this group). We will release a report that will contain the findings and make recommendations based upon the input residents, workers, business people and leaders mentioned above. The report is to be shared with others and brought to community, business and government leaders so that they can take actions to reduce the environmental harms and risks. This survey project is being funded by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Environmental Justice Small Grants Program.

In connection with the proposed air sampling project, the data from those living within the boundaries of Community Board 3 will be used to identify "hot spots" where an air monitor might be placed. The survey asks many questions but only the data from the relevant questions would be used to inform us as to where to locate the air monitors, and could be used to correlate with the data that comes from the proposed air sampling project.

The air quality sampling plan (locations, time periods) and how CPA would arrange for this

In consultation with Asthma Free School Zone, CPA will select the air sampling sites using the following criteria –

- places that have higher or lower incidents of asthma or other respiratory health problems as shown by the health survey results
- visual observation of the area around the location to see if there are activities that might contribute to poor air quality (idling buses, high traffic, etc.)
- willingness of the tenant/owner at the site have the monitor placed there

How the funded work would be carried out or used by CPA.

The data from the air sampling project will be used to supplement and correlate with the data from the health survey project. While community input is very important, corroborating it with scientific data makes it much more powerful. We can also write a separate addendum to our health survey report, share it with others, and use it to advocate for actions that will improve our neighborhood's air

Clarification of the staffing and budget including the two persons who would work on this for six weeks for a total of \$600

The role of the CPA project associates will be to accompany the Asthma Free School Zone staff to visit the air sampling sites once a week to check on the monitors placed there and replace any supplies and filters. If the tenant/owner of the site does not speak English well, they will also provide interpretation with the AFSZ staff. This will be done within a 4 week period. The project associate would be paid for 5 hours per day, one day per week for 4 weeks (a total of 4 days each). They would be trained and supervised by a staff person from Asthma Free School Zone to check and replace any supplies and filters needed for the air monitors. If additional time is needed for this work of checking the air monitors, the Chinese Progressive Association will discuss with Asthma Free School Zone the need to amend the budget.

The Chinese Progressive Association's environmental health project is an on-going one, staffed by a part time project director and project associate with some resources for education, outreach, and organizing. There is no available funding for the air sampling project being proposed here.