

# Strategic Plan January 2016- December 2018 Executive Summary



The ongoing prevalence of asthma and its impact on individuals, families, and communities as well as the enormity of asthma disparities necessitate a strong and comprehensive response. Regional Asthma Management & Prevention (RAMP) is a project of the Public Health Institute that has been working to reduce the burden of asthma since 1996. RAMP is seen as the “go to place” for information about asthma programs and policies and plays a unique and important role in implementing and promoting a range of strategies that address asthma disparities and the social and environmental inequities that lead to those disparities. This plan outlines the desired goals of RAMP over a three year period beginning in January 2016 aimed at building on past successes and working closer toward reducing the burden of asthma in California.

### Vision and mission

RAMP envisions healthy communities where asthma is reduced and well-managed, and the health, social, and environmental inequities that contribute to the unequal burden of the disease are eliminated.

RAMP’s mission is to reduce the burden of asthma through a comprehensive approach, ranging from clinical management to environmental protection. We collaborate, coordinate, share resources, advocate, and promote policy change in order to reduce inequities, strengthen asthma prevention efforts, and improve management for all communities.

**Overarching themes:** As RAMP implements this three-year strategic plan, we are committed to the following:

- *Focusing on inequities:* RAMP is committed to focusing on the social and environmental inequities that contribute to asthma disparities, such as, inequitable exposure to air pollution or substandard housing.
- *Incorporating an emphasis on climate change:* Given this connection between climate change and health, RAMP will explore ways to more actively engage in climate change work, using asthma as the lever.

**Strategies:** In order to achieve the goals in this strategic plan, we will utilize four core strategies.

- *Informing:* RAMP aims to keep the field abreast of best practices, opportunities and to frame asthma work through a focus on inequities.
- *Supporting:* Whether through disseminating tools, providing strategic guidance, or facilitating technical assistance, RAMP aims to lift up the entire field to increase our collective impact on reducing the burden of asthma.
- *Creating linkages:* RAMP is committed to enhancing collaboration and creating linkages that will help reduce the burden of asthma.
- *Advocating:* RAMP is committed to policy change as a strategy to address asthma, asthma disparities, and social and environmental inequities.

## Goals

Over the next 3 years, RAMP will apply a combination of strategies to address the following goal areas:

### **Reducing substandard housing conditions that contribute to poor indoor air quality (IAQ)**

Low-income communities and communities of color are disproportionately exposed to substandard housing and associated asthma triggers. RAMP will build on past successes and momentum by continuing the pursuit of state-level policy changes aimed at reducing components of substandard housing that impact asthma. This work has the potential to positively impact indoor air quality in homes of millions of Californians, particularly for low-income communities and communities of color, thus improving asthma outcomes and reducing disparities. Indicators of success will include: successful mobilization of a network of healthy housing advocates; the passage and implementation of policies aimed at reducing substandard housing conditions; the incorporation of health and equity into housing discussions by policymakers and community and economic development advocates; and an increase in state-level policy action by other states.

### **Reducing air pollution and inequitable exposure to air pollution with a focus on particulate matter and ozone**

Air pollution can have long-term effects on health and inequitably affects low-income communities and communities of color. Particulate matter (PM) and ozone are air contaminants of particular concern because they have specifically been linked to the development and exacerbation of asthma. RAMP will build on its past work by continuing to incorporate health and equity into the development and implementation of freight transportation plans at local, regional, and state levels and advocating for policies to improve overall outdoor air quality in disproportionately impacted communities. This work has the potential to positively impact outdoor air quality across California, particularly for low-income communities and communities of color, thus improving asthma outcomes and reducing disparities. Indicators of success will include the mobilization of networks of advocates to reduce air pollution generated from the freight transportation system; the incorporation of health and equity principles into freight transportation plans; the incorporation of health and equity into policymaker discussions about freight transportation; and the implementation of freight infrastructure and mitigation projects that reduce pollution burden and inequities.

### **Creating linkages between asthma clinical management and prevention, particularly for underserved communities**

RAMP has been investigating ways that health system transformation can more effectively link asthma clinical management with prevention. RAMP will conduct advocacy aimed at sustainable financing mechanisms to support asthma services through an array of specific policies targeting Medi-Cal services. RAMP will also consider strategic opportunities to create financing opportunities at the local level through such mechanisms as social impact financing and reimbursement by the Medi-Cal Managed Care Organizations, with the goal of lifting those up as models for replication across the state and nation. RAMP will also support an array of providers including community health workers and school-based health center staff through tool development, capacity-building, and advocacy. This work has the potential to positively impact access to quality asthma management services for millions of Californians, particularly for low-income communities, thus improving asthma outcomes and reducing disparities. Indicators of success will include the mobilization of advocates create sustainable financing mechanisms; the adoption of state policies to increase access to Medi-Cal enrollees with asthma; the adoption of new financing mechanisms at the local level; the replication of such models across the country; the adoption of policies supporting the inclusion of CHWs in the health care financing system; and the implementation of environmental asthma interventions by school-based health centers.

We at RAMP are confident that the collection of activities outlined in this plan will help us work toward our vision of healthy communities where asthma is reduced and well-managed, and the health, social, and environmental inequities that contribute to the unequal burden of the disease are eliminated.



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