



**Department
of Health**

Climate and Health Adaptation Grant Program Recap 2024

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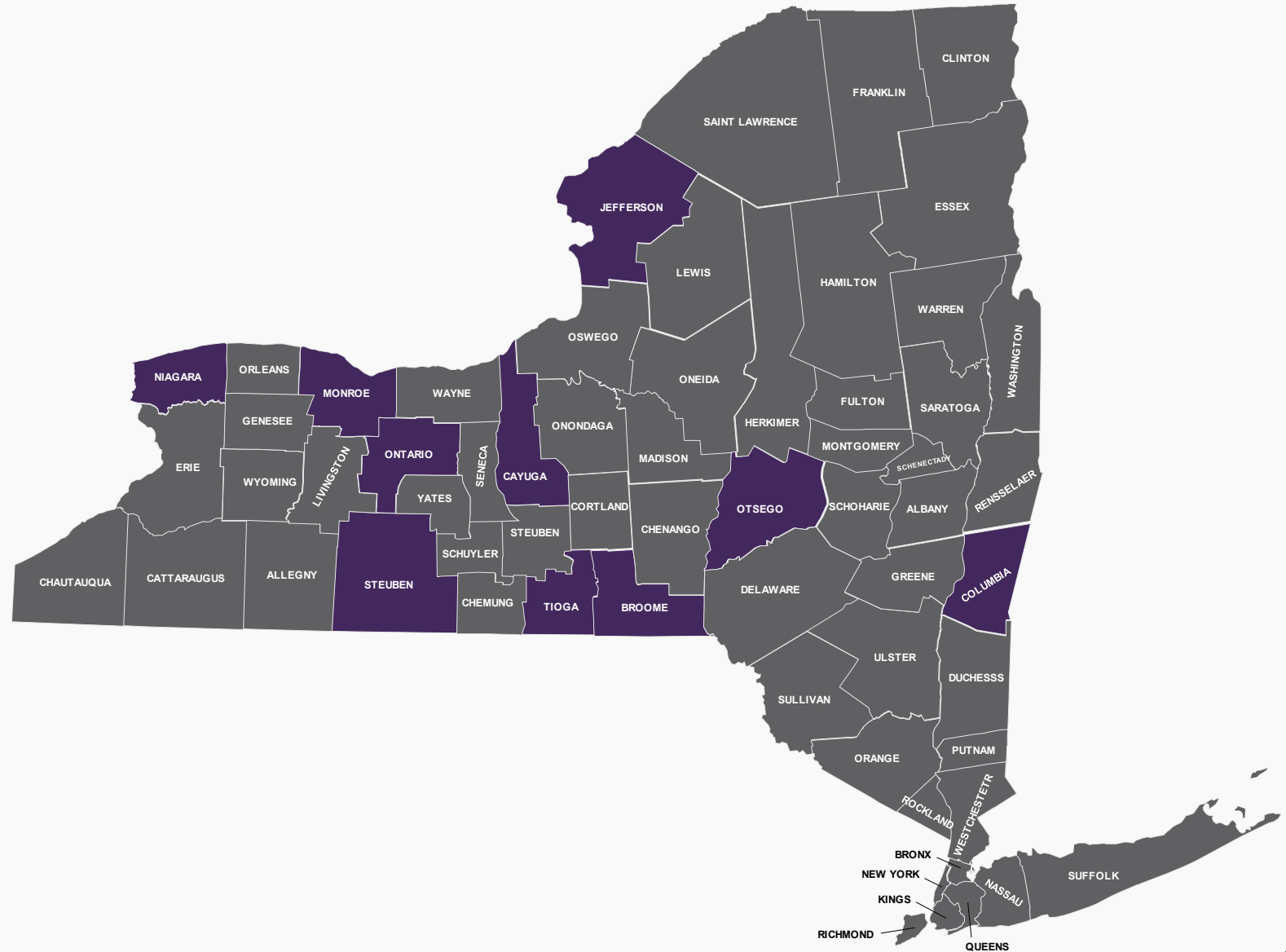
11/14/2024 | 2024 CLIMATE & HEALTH ADAPTATION PROJECTS WEBINAR

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

- Held by NYS Association of County Health Officials (NYSACHO) in collaboration with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH)
- 10 counties received funding up to \$3,000
- Themes: Tickborne disease, emergency preparedness, reducing GHG emissions, air quality, food insecurity
- Timeline: March - July 2024

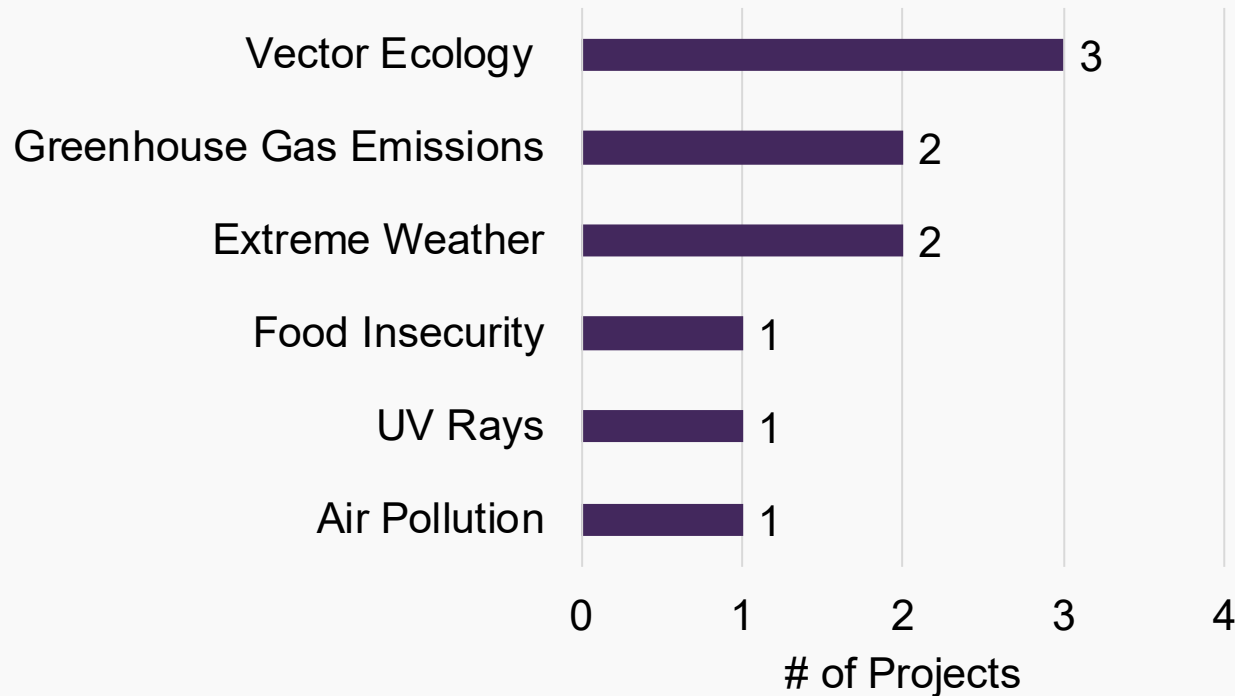
GRANTEE BACKGROUND

County	Population Size (2022)
Tioga	47,772
Otsego	60,636
Columbia	61,286
Cayuga	74,998
Stueben	92,599
Ontario	112,707
Jefferson	116,637
Broome	197,117
Niagara	210,880
Monroe	752,035



CLIMATE AND HEALTH

Climate Hazards



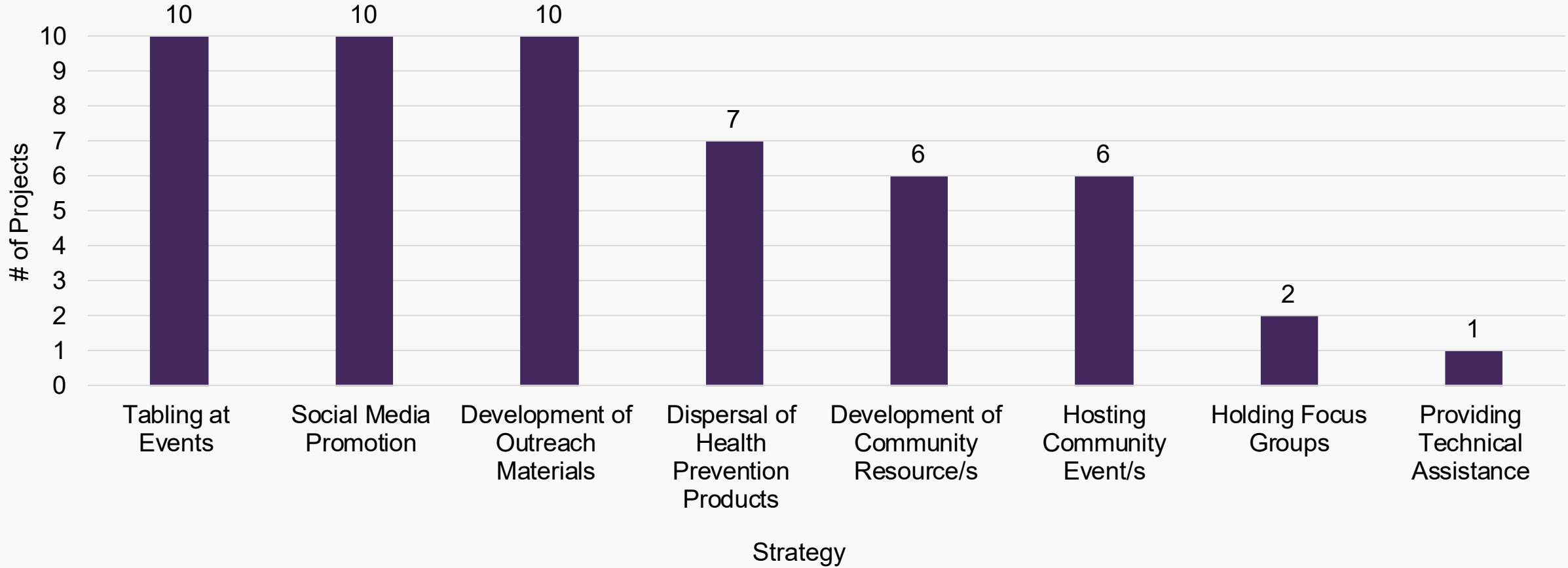
*Projects can address more than one climate hazard

Health Impacts or Climate Impacts Addressed

- Vector-borne Disease
- Extreme Weather-Related Impacts
- Climate-Related Health Outcomes
- Worsening of Chronic Conditions
- Skin Cancer
- Nutrition
- Green House Gas Emissions

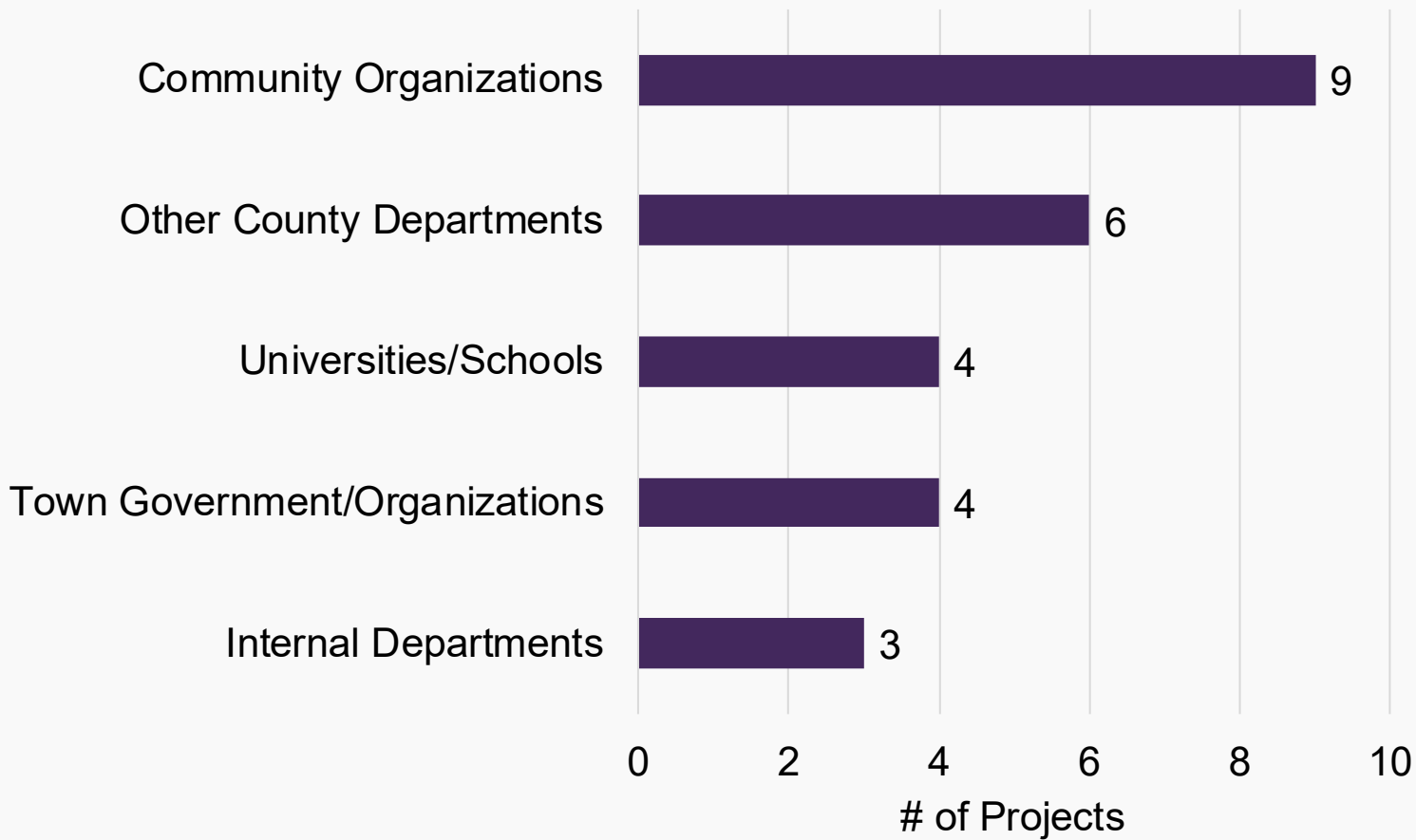
STRATEGIES

Strategies for Implementation



STAKEHOLDERS

Partners Utilized to Implement Projects



Partnership Examples:

County Departments

- Planning Departments, Emergency Services, Climate Change Task Force, Department of Social Services

Town Government/Organization

- Town/City Government, Climate Smart Community Taskforce, Farmers Market, Libraries, School

Community Organizations

- Cornell Cooperative Extension, Food Pantry, Hunger Coalition, Language Access Center, Churches

Businesses

- Local media, Local Farmers

Other: Universities

CHALLENGES



Environment/Weather



Supply Delays



Approval



Lack of Time



Cultural Relevance



Reaching and Engaging



Sustainability



Partner
Engagement/Coordination



Communicating
About Climate Change



Competing Priorities

HEALTH EQUITY

- 7 counties addressed health equity in their projects
- Vulnerable Populations Identified: People with low literacy levels, Spanish Speakers, People in DACs and High HVI, People who live in rural areas, Older adults
- Project Examples:
 - The Monroe County Department of Public Health engaged with Spanish-speaking residents in disadvantaged communities on the topic of heat illness to learn from residents how to best meet their information needs concerning air quality issues
 - Otsego County Public Health planted a community garden at the County owned Meadows Complex to grow, harvest, and distribute fresh produce through various channels to vulnerable populations.
 - The Broome County Health Department (BCHD) conducted focus groups with at-risk individuals to help develop effective messaging and action priorities around adaptation to climate change, health needs, and emergency preparedness.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

54 Educational Resources were utilized

Types of Materials

- Flyers
- Newsletters
- Brochures
- Social Media
- Websites



Broome County Health Department

Broome Residents on Climate Change and Emergency Preparedness

Structure ▶

The first part of the focus group prioritized understanding what types of things residents associated with climate change. Participants were first asked what the people around them say about climate change. Then they were asked about changes in the weather, plants, animals, or infrastructure that they had noticed locally that may be connected to climate change. They were also asked about how people they know have been or could be affected by climate change and how worried they are about climate change. Lastly, they were asked about climate actions that they are aware of and about which, if any, they think are effective.

The second part of the focus group was about emergency preparedness. We understand that climate to areas that are not used to being hit, and their diseases, farming or fishing is forced to leave the areas that they called community to be prepared. We used a nity resiliency. Climate change is said to sengers ecosystems, infrastructure, etc. People living in makeshift homes would ss money would notice increases in food ce changes in the pollen count, etc. We less vulnerable.

Results ▶

How to Safely Remove a Tick

1. Use a pair of pointed tweezers.
2. Grasp the tick by the head or mouth right where it enters the skin.
3. Pull firmly and steadily upward.
4. Place the tick in a small container of rubbing alcohol to kill it.
5. Clean the bite wound with rubbing alcohol or hydrogen peroxide.
6. Monitor the site of the bite for the next 30 days for the appearance of a rash.
7. If you develop a rash or flu-like symptoms, contact your health care provider immediately.

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Bringing Fresh Produce to Rural NY: Community Garden Distribution Initiative

Abigail Rosenblum MPH, DCH and Ross Scordifera
Orange County Department of Health
Cooperstown, NY

Background

- Large pockets of low food access
- Limited access to public transportation
- High population of low-income families

Target Population

- Phoenix Orchards "Tidy Homes" residents
- Single men, 18+ chronically homeless

Scope of the Program

- Community gardens have been historically used to combat food insecurity
- Benefits of starting a community garden/growing your own food
 - I need a multiple pounds of produce
 - Overcome loneliness + greater nutritional value
 - Eliminates the need for transportation

Project Goals

- Build better connections with our vulnerable populations
- Encourage self-confidence to grow, harvest and cook one's own food
- Promote self-sustainability
- Continue to strengthen our relationship with internal and external partners

Lessons Learned

- Be willing to adjust and improve
- "Many hands make light work"
- Having tweezers availability

Highlights

- Pop-up food distribution sites in low-income areas
- Cooking sessions with residents of Phoenix Orchards
- Over 100 households benefit from fresh produce incorporated into their home-determined meals

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

19 Objectives Completed

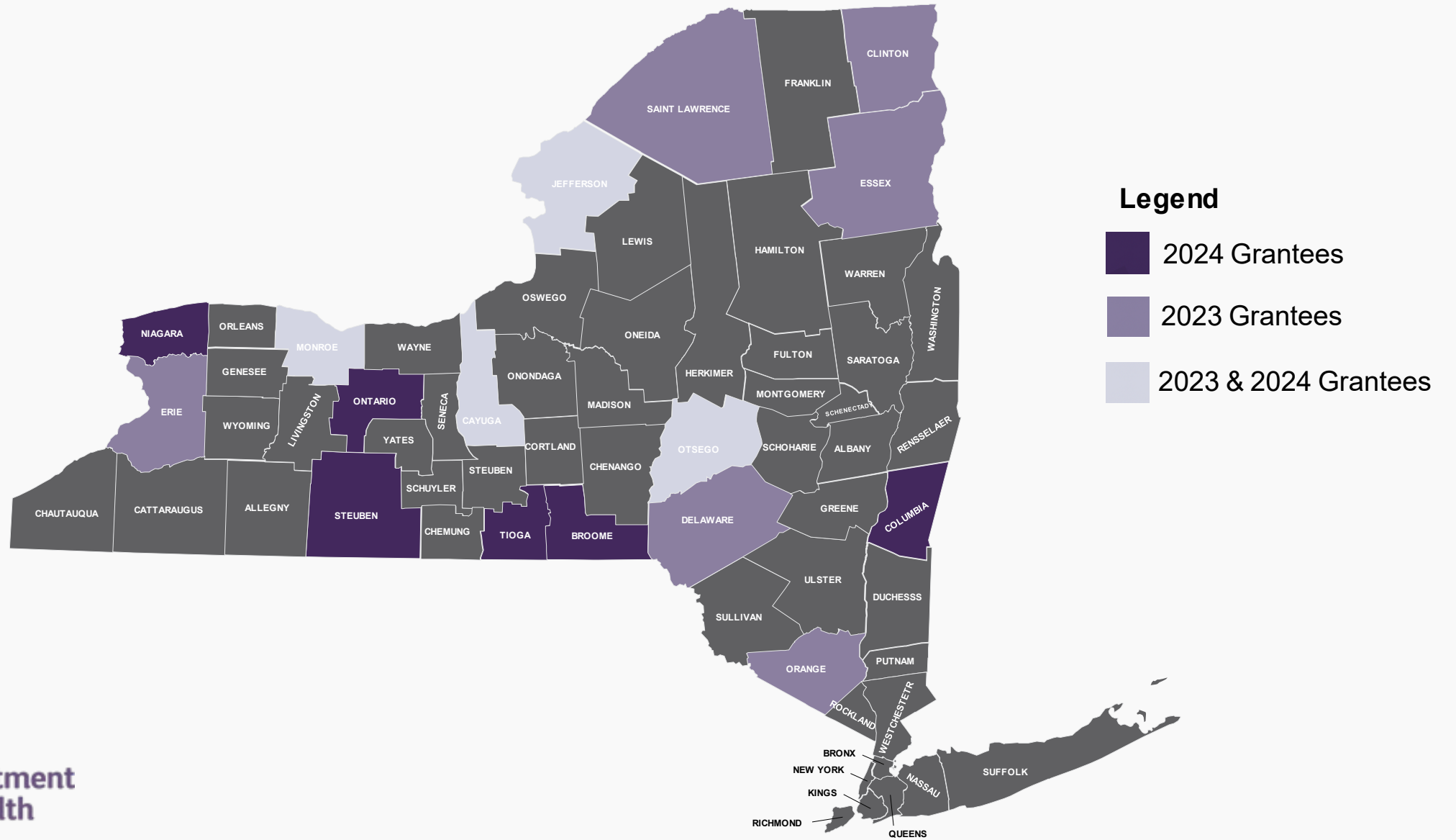
Objective Examples:

- Niagara delivered at least 10 educational community out-reach events/emergency kit assembly workshops throughout the county
- Monroe created a Spanish-language Public Service Announcement and it was aired 60 times on Spanish-language radio during Air Quality Awareness Week
- Jefferson helped develop the Climate Smart Communities Task Force for the Village of Clayton
- Cayuga worked with Cayuga County's Parks and Trails Department and New York State parks to post signs with tick education and distribute tick kits at parks

LESSONS LEARNED

- Building upon an existing project was valuable
- Have a better understanding of the target population before implementation
- Connect with and utilize volunteer organizations when possible
- Understand the importance of location and accessibility
- Budget for unforeseen circumstances

CLIMATE ADAPTATION ALL GRANTEES

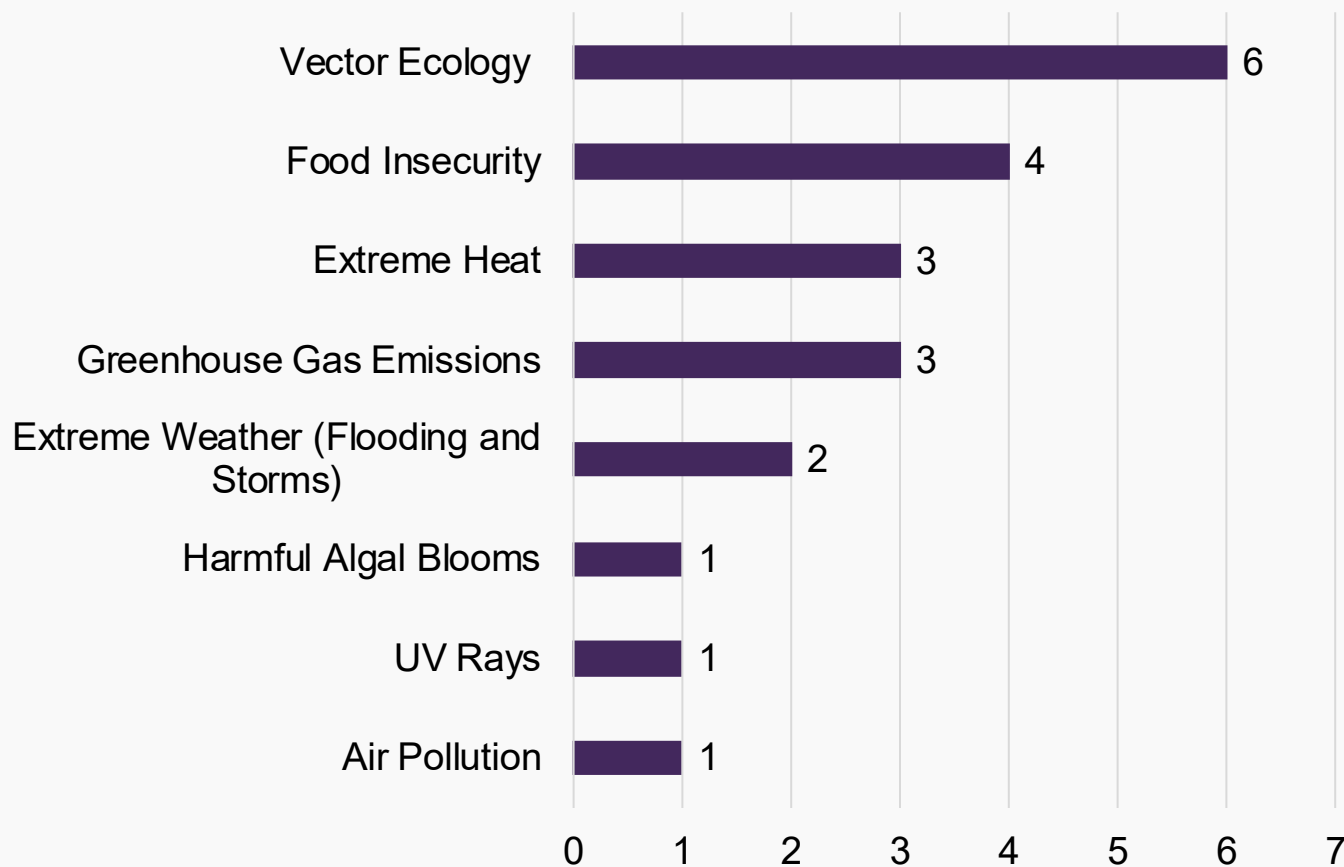


Legend

- 2024 Grantees
- 2023 Grantees
- 2023 & 2024 Grantees

CLIMATE ADAPTATION ALL GRANTEES

Climate Hazards



Accomplishments

- 51 Objectives Completed
- 14 projects fully addressed health equity in their projects
- 82 educational resources utilized to implement projects

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS



Department
of Health

CLIMATE CHANGE AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOCUS GROUPS

- **Department:** Broome County Health Department
- **Climate Hazard:** Extreme Weather
- **Project:** Conducted focus groups with at-risk individuals to help develop effective messaging and action priorities around adaptation to climate change, health needs, and emergency preparedness.
- **Lessons Learned:** Location and accessibility for events are important, budget for unforeseen circumstances, planning for focus groups take time
- **Successes:** Facilitated 5 focus groups, evaluated results, and reported out findings to partners

PREVENTING TICK BITES AND TICKBORNE DISEASES

- **Department:** Cayuga County Health Department
- **Climate Hazard:** Vector Ecology
- **Project:** Install educational signage and distribute free tick kits to visitors at several regional parks and nature centers
- **Lessons Learned:** Get approval early, develop content in other languages
- **Successes:** Fostered and developed partnerships, created unexpected partnerships, worked to meet a growing public health need, sustainability (branding for education, permanent signs, reuseable kits)

BE TICK FREE IN COLUMBIA COUNTY!

- **Department:** Columbia County Department of Health
- **Climate Hazard:** Vector Ecology
- **Project:** Provided residents with the tools and knowledge to prevent transmission of tick-borne disease
- **Lessons Learned:** Bulk orders take time, printing companies can offer better quality materials than doing in-house, make materials available in different languages
- **Successes:** New and strengthened partnerships, targeted outreach, improved tick kits, started arthropod task force meetings again

CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES PLANNING WITH VILLAGE OF CLAYTON

- **Department:** Jefferson County Public Health Service
- **Climate Hazard:** Climate change/Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- **Project:** Partnered with Village of Clayton leaders to advance Climate Smart Community (CSC) program work
- **Lessons Learned:** Establish a CSC Task Force Coordinator early on who can learn the program and teach others
- **Successes:** Held a town Hall style educational session on tick-borne disease & introduction to CSC program to community members, held public workshop to convene a task force & designate a CSC coordinator, installed sunscreen dispensers in the community

BE AIR AWARE

- **Department:** Monroe County Department of Public Health
- **Climate Hazard:** Air Quality
- **Project:** Engage with Spanish-speaking residents in disadvantaged communities on the topic of heat illness to learn from residents how to best meet their information needs concerning air quality issues.
- **Lessons Learned:** Hold focus groups and surveys and utilize information learned to craft messaging
- **Successes:** Created a Spanish-language Public Service Announcement and it was aired 60 times on Spanish-language radio during Air Quality Awareness Week.

SAFETY-IN-A-BAG

- **Department:** Niagara County Department of Health
- **Climate Hazard:** Extreme Weather
- **Project:** Increase emergency preparedness knowledge and readiness through outreach and educational events; help residents build a basic emergency preparedness safety kit
- **Lessons Learned:** Group/classroom-based training was a more effective; adjust curriculum to be less dependent on cell phones; Utilize volunteer organizations to help with implementation
- **Successes:** Delivered 10 educational community out-reach events/emergency kit assembly workshops throughout Niagara County

SUN SAFETY FOR ALL

- **Department:** Ontario County Public Health
- **Climate Hazard:** Harmful UV Rays; Extreme Heat
- **Project:** Place sunscreen dispensers and promote heat health education in disadvantaged communities and areas with moderate/high heat vulnerability index scores.
- **Lessons Learned:** Utilize different supply company in future; Internal partners were heavily relied on
- **Successes:** Installed sunscreen dispensers at different parks and provided free sunscreen to community

COMMUNITY GARDENING PROGRAM

- **Department:** Otsego County Department of Health
- **Climate Hazard:** Food Insecurity
- **Project:** Plant a community garden at the to grow, harvest, and distribute fresh produce through various channels to vulnerable populations
- **Lessons Learned:** Be willing to adapt and improvise; Utilize county DOH staff to assist with gardening duties; Raised garden beds help reduce cost towards site work and weed control
- **Successes:** 5 pop-up food distribution sites planned for August; Two educational cooking sessions scheduled with the residents of Phoenix Orchards; Over 100 homebound seniors had fresh food included in their home delivered meals

CLIMATE CHANGE AWARENESS AND HEALTH EDUCATION INITIATIVE

- **Department:** Steuben County Public Health
- **Climate Hazard:** Climate change/Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- **Project:** Climate change and its health impacts and to promote adaptation strategies among Steuben County residents
- **Lessons Learned:** Building upon existing projects was valuable; Have a better understanding of population
- **Successes:** Strong collaboration with partners; effective targeted outreach with help from our partners; promotional items given away at in-person events; neutral to low-conflict language used

TICK SMART TIOGA!

- **Department:** Tioga County Public Health Department
- **Climate Hazard:** Vector Ecology
- **Project:** Assemble tick kits and repellent wipes, with a specific focus on dissemination to older adults, men, and outdoor workers
- **Lessons Learned:** Include audience participation during the presentation; Get ahead of misinformation
- **Successes:** Placemats and tick kits with education on tickborne illnesses was delivered to local food establishments; NYSDOT learned how to use permethrin to treat their work clothing