



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Seneca County, NY



Seneca County Health Department Senior Safeguard Program



Meet Your Presenters



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Introduction

The Seneca County Senior Safeguard Program targets residents of the county who are 65+ and living independently. Our goal is to educate this population about the risks that climate change and extreme weather pose to their health and aid in addressing those risks. We do this by hosting community-based presentations and by partnering with the Seneca County Healthy Neighborhoods Program.

Goals

- By **December 31, 2025**, Seneca County Health Department will work with the Healthy Neighborhood Program to extend and expand the program for the foreseeable future. The Healthy Neighborhoods Program will continue to offer “Go-Bags” to all program participants.
- By **November 30, 2025**, Seneca County Health Department Staff will have completed educational sessions with at least **120 individuals** (representing at least **75 households**) from the priority population.
 - At least **25%** of program participants, who complete a survey, will state they have signed up for Emergency Alerts through the state or county alert systems.
 - At least **50%** of all program participants will report an increased level of self-efficacy in surviving extreme precipitation or heat events.

What's Included

- Emergency “Go Bag”
- Assistance in signing up for NY Alerts and/or Hyper Reach
- Yellow Dot Program Paperwork
- Education:
 - Cooling Center Locations
 - HEAP handouts
 - What needs to be added to the “go bag”
 - How to prepare for extreme weather





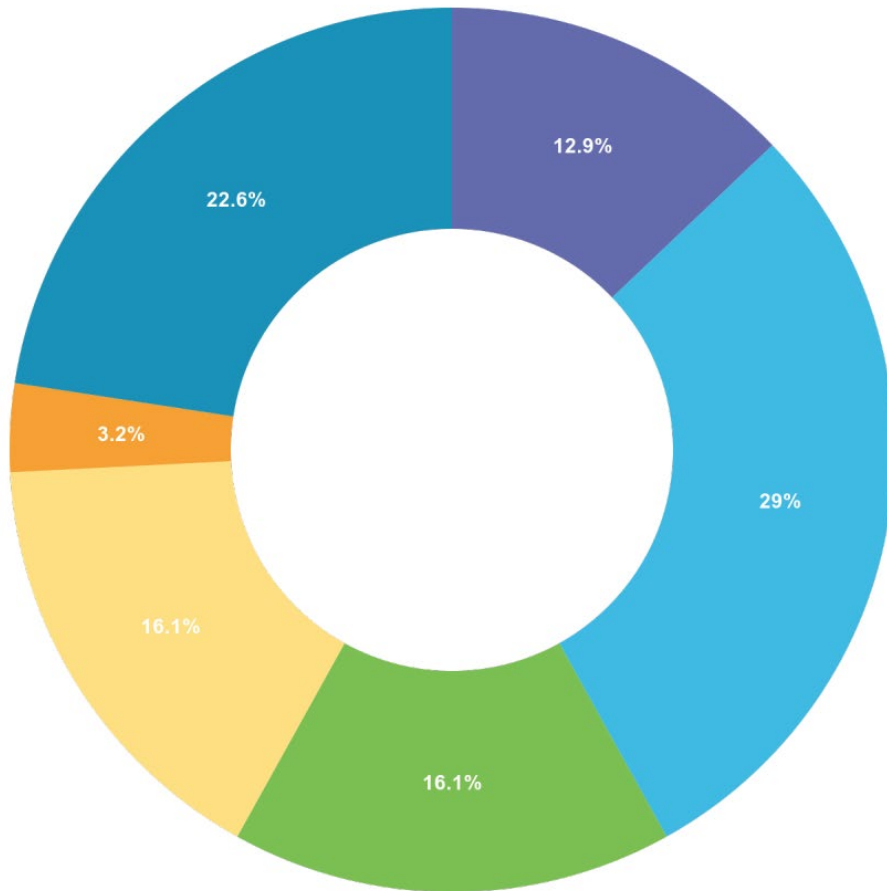
**OFA
Presentation
-5/13/2025-**

Presentation

- Where: Seneca County Office of the Aging
- When: During a nutrition site lunch event
- Number of participants: 26
- What was provided:
 - Definition of Extreme Weather
 - Barriers preventing preparedness
 - Resources to address the barriers
 - Ready-made “go bag” with essentials



Barriers that kept OFA participants from preparing for extreme weather events:



- Access to air conditioners – 4
- Health Issues (i.e., breathing, physical limitations) – 9
- Medication dependency – 5
- Transportation – 5
- Social Isolation – 1
- Healthcare Resources – 0
- Mental Health – 0
- Other/None – 7

(Most participants found that our presentation addressed these barriers)

Additional Data

Before Presentation

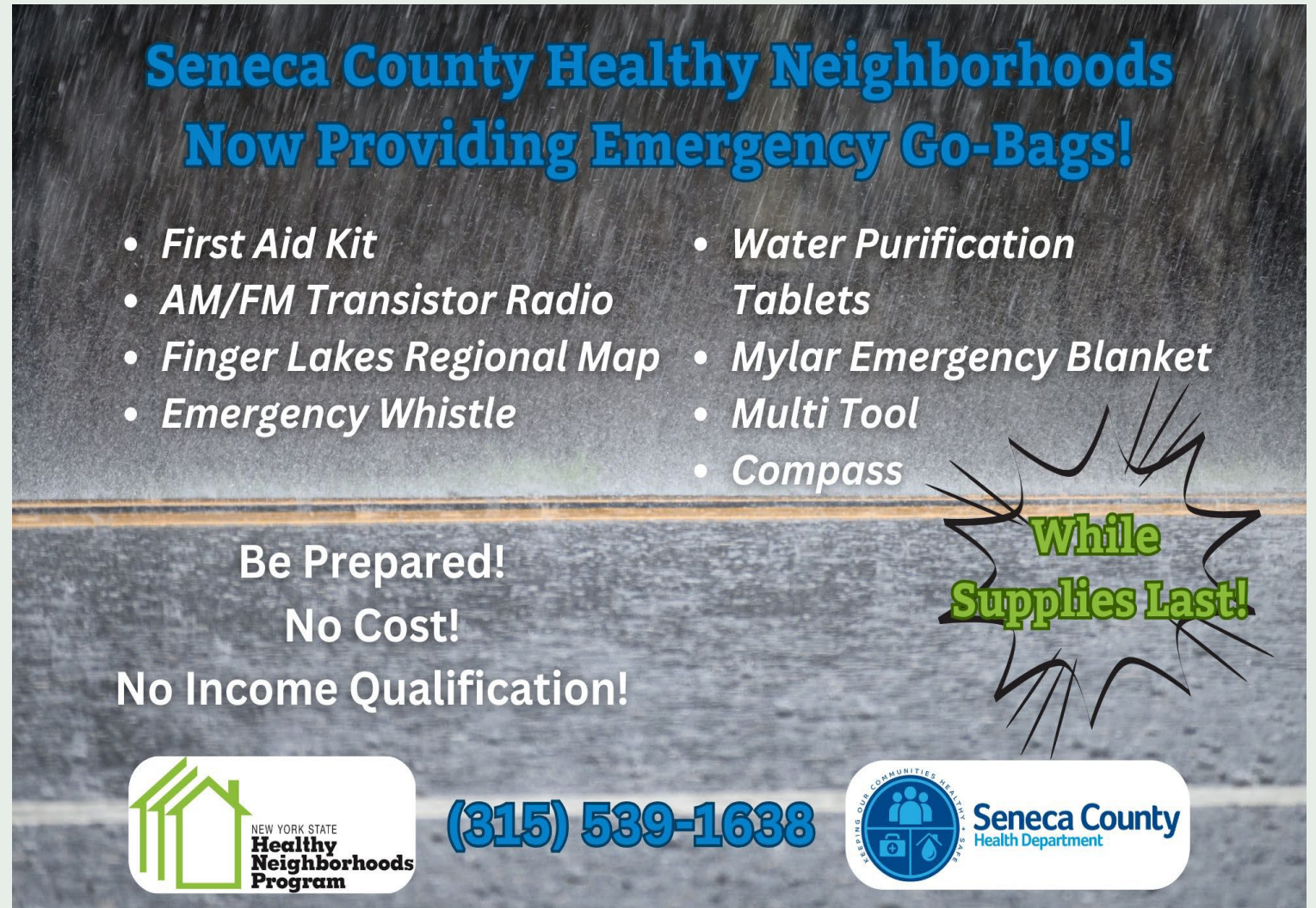
- Three participants knew where Seneca County Cooling Centers are located
- 50% (13) of the participants knew what a “Go-Bag” is
- 4 of the 13 participants had a “Go-Bag” prepared
- No participants were signed up for Emergency Alerts

After Presentation

- 73% participants stated they know where the Cooling Centers are in Seneca County
- 11% of participants failed to answer if they knew what a “Go-Bag” is and provide two examples of items that would be found in a “Go-Bag.”
- Everyone who attended the presentation went home with a “Go-Bag.”
- 27% of participants stated they did not know how to sign-up for Emergency Alerts.

Seneca County Healthy Neighborhoods Program Partnership

June 2025 - Ongoing



**Seneca County Healthy Neighborhoods
Now Providing Emergency Go-Bags!**

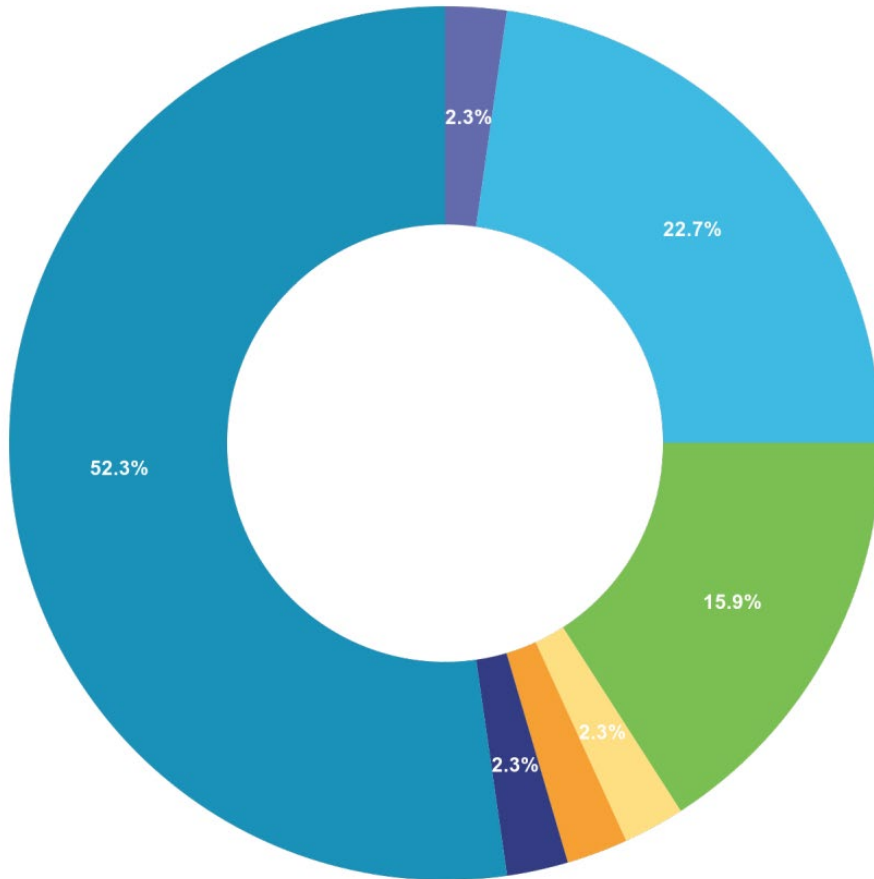
- *First Aid Kit*
- *AM/FM Transistor Radio*
- *Finger Lakes Regional Map*
- *Emergency Whistle*
- *Water Purification Tablets*
- *Mylar Emergency Blanket*
- *Multi Tool*
- *Compass*

Be Prepared!
No Cost!
No Income Qualification!

**While
Supplies Last!**

 **(315) 539-1638** 

Barriers that kept Healthy Neighborhood respondents from preparing for extreme weather:



- Access to air conditioners – 1
- Health Issues (i.e. breathing, physical limitations) – 10
- Medication dependency – 7
- Transportation – 1
- Social Isolation – 1
- Healthcare Resources – 0
- Mental Health – 1
- Other/None – 23

So far, information and materials received through this program, all respondents who completed a post-program survey have stated they no longer feel that these barriers affect their preparation.

Additional Data

Before Home Visit

- Two participants knew where the Seneca County Cooling Centers are located.
- <35% of participants knew what a “Go-Bag” was
- One participant had a “Go Bag”
- 1/3 of participants were signed up for emergency alerts

After Home Visit

Every Participant:

- Receives a magnet listing Seneca County Cooling Centers
- Has a “Go-Bag” and knows what it is
- Receives assistance in signing up for emergency alerts

Results

- We are continuing and expanding the Senior Safeguard Program with the help of the Healthy Neighborhood Program and funding from the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program.
 - Long term sustainability will be through Healthy Neighborhoods Program funding.
- As of October 14, 2025, we have had:
 - **26** participants attend the OFA presentation
 - **63** individuals representing **34** households participated in home visits.
- **87%** of participants have signed up for Emergency Alerts.

Lesson's Learned

Emergency Preparedness Training:

- This was an established group, however, participants funneled in throughout the presentation, so the feedback these members provided was skewed.
- Having the option to attend a group presentation or participate in a home visit allowed us to engage a wide range of individuals with different needs.

Healthy Neighborhoods Program Visits:

- We found an opportunity to assist HNP participants with documenting their emergency contact and medical provider.
- We do have periodic Healthy Neighborhoods appointment cancellations.

Thank you

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Emergency Preparedness
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