



**NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION  
OF COUNTY HEALTH OFFICIALS**

*Leading the Way to Healthier Communities*

# Building Partnerships and Tools for Local Cooling Centers and Warming Centers

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**ORLEANS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**



Release Date: 7/30/2025



# NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY HEALTH OFFICIALS

*Leading the Way to Healthier Communities*

## 2025 Climate and Health Adaptation Project

### FINAL PRESENTATION



#### Project Leads:

- David Bell, PhD MPH  
Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator  
[david.bell@orleanscountyny.gov](mailto:david.bell@orleanscountyny.gov)
- Cora Young, BS  
Public Health Emergency Preparedness Educator  
[cora.young@orleanscountyny.gov](mailto:cora.young@orleanscountyny.gov)



# Our Project Goals

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1) Improve use and value of any “climate resource center” including:

- Summer Cooling Centers
- Cleaner Air Centers
- Winter Daytime Warming Centers

2) Collect baseline data related to use and value of climate resource centers including:

- Quantitative use
- Qualitative experience and feedback



# OVERALL AGENDA



Project Summary



Best Practices Developed or Enacted



Lessons Learned



Project Sustainability and Continuity





# Topical Agenda: Components of Project Summary

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BUILDING  
PARTNERSHIPS



CLIMATE RESOURCE  
CENTER RECEPTION  
PACKAGES



IDENTIFY, CREATE, AND  
SHARE INFORMATIONAL  
RESOURCES



ASSESS IMPACT AND  
POTENTIAL  
IMPROVEMENT



# Building Partnerships

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- Demonstration of support for facilities listed as Cooling Centers
- Better involvement of agencies willing to be listed as Cooling Centers
- Better recognition of established Cooling Centers among the public
- Tools at Cooling Centers to be either shared or redirected to persons more vulnerable (who may not be visiting the Cooling Center)
- Explore continuing Cooling Centers into the winter as Daytime Warming Centers

# Preparation of **24** Cooling/Warming Center Reception Packages

Primary give-away Cooling  
Center purchase totals  
included:

- **160 Cool Down Kits**
- **100 Neck Fans**

Primary give-away Warming  
Center purchase totals  
included:

- **160 Cool Down Kits**
- **100 Small Fleece Blankets**



## Climate Resource Center Reception Packages

Main focus on pre-assembled Cool Down Kits  
or Winter Warmup Kits



Current Winter Warmup Kit equivalents from  
ProPac seen here:

<https://propacusa.com/shop/search/warm+up+kit/product/K2096/WINTER-WARM-UP-KIT>



# Cooling Center Primary Giveaway Items

## Cool Down Kits (Average 8 per Reception Package)

- Cooling towel
- Cold pack
- Water packets
- Electrolyte mix
- Sunscreen towelette

## Cooling Fans with Batteries (5 per Reception Package)

## 20 Fully Stocked Reception Packages for Cooling Centers

Goal to include supplemental electrolyte packages as able



Current equivalents from ProPac seen here:

[https://propacusa.com/shop/search/cool+down/product/K2099\\*\\*\\*/SUMMER-COOL-DOWN-KIT](https://propacusa.com/shop/search/cool+down/product/K2099***/SUMMER-COOL-DOWN-KIT)



Current equivalent from Executive Advertising seen here:

[Customized Cool Breeze Portable Fan with Adjustable Lanyard](#) | [Promotional Cooling Fans](#) | [Custom Cool Breeze Portable Fan with Adjustable Lanyard](#)



# Climate Resource Center Reception Packages



# Climate resource center reception packages

1) Large Plastic Tub with Label and Supplemental Resupply Bag

2) “Cool Down Kit” Give-aways (8)

3) Branded Neck-fan Give-aways (5)

4) Three Types of Informational Resources (20 of each):

- NYSDOH “Keep Your Cool During Summer Heat” flier
- Local health department “Welcome to a Cooling Center” trifold brochure
- Local preparedness app promotional card

5) Purchase or Give-Away Recommendation Sheet

6) Use-Tracker Jar with Plastic Marbles

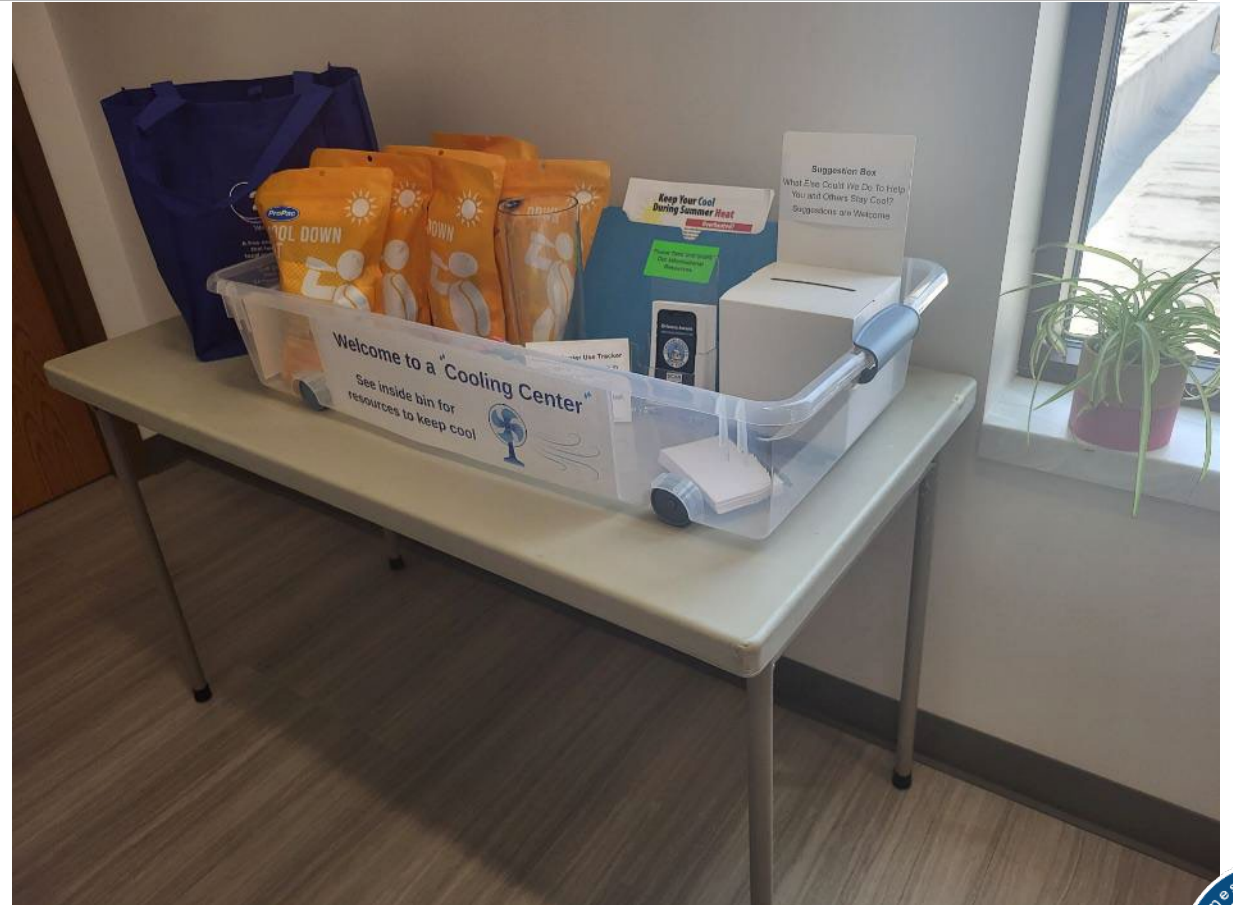
- “Was part of your reason in visiting today to cool off, or to use electrical outlets? If so, please put a rubber ball in this vase”

7) Public Suggestion Box

- “What else could we do to help you and others stay cool? Suggestions are welcome”

8) Informational Packet for Facility Staff with Data Tracking Forms

- Request for input on giveaways, informational resources, better reaching vulnerable persons, and other forms of support





# Three Types of Informational Resources:

## **NYSDOH “Keep Your Cool During Summer Heat” Flyer**

<https://www.health.ny.gov/publications/1243.pdf>

## **GO Health “Welcome to a Cooling Center” Trifold Brochure**

<https://www.geneseeny.gov/files/sharedassets/county/v/1/health/programs-and-services/phep/extreme-weather-prep/welcome-to-a-cooling-center-trifold-brochure-vers.-6.2025.pdf>

## **Local Preparedness App Promotional Card**

# Purchase or Give Away Recommendation Sheet:



## **Ideas for Cooling Items to Purchase or Give Away**

### **Water Bottles**

Average Cost: \$2-\$20



### **Hand-Held Fans, Misters, or Wearable Fans**

Average Cost: \$4-\$15



### **Reusable Ice Cubes or Ice Packs**

Average Cost: \$1-\$10



### **Cooling Towel**

Average Cost: \$5-\$12



### **Drinks or Packets with Electrolytes**

(sugar-free drinks recommended)

Average Cost: \$2-\$10



Learn more about Extreme Weather Preparedness at: [bit.ly/GOExtremeWeather](https://bit.ly/GOExtremeWeather)

Vers.6.2025

Visit our website: [GOHealthNY.org](https://GOHealthNY.org)



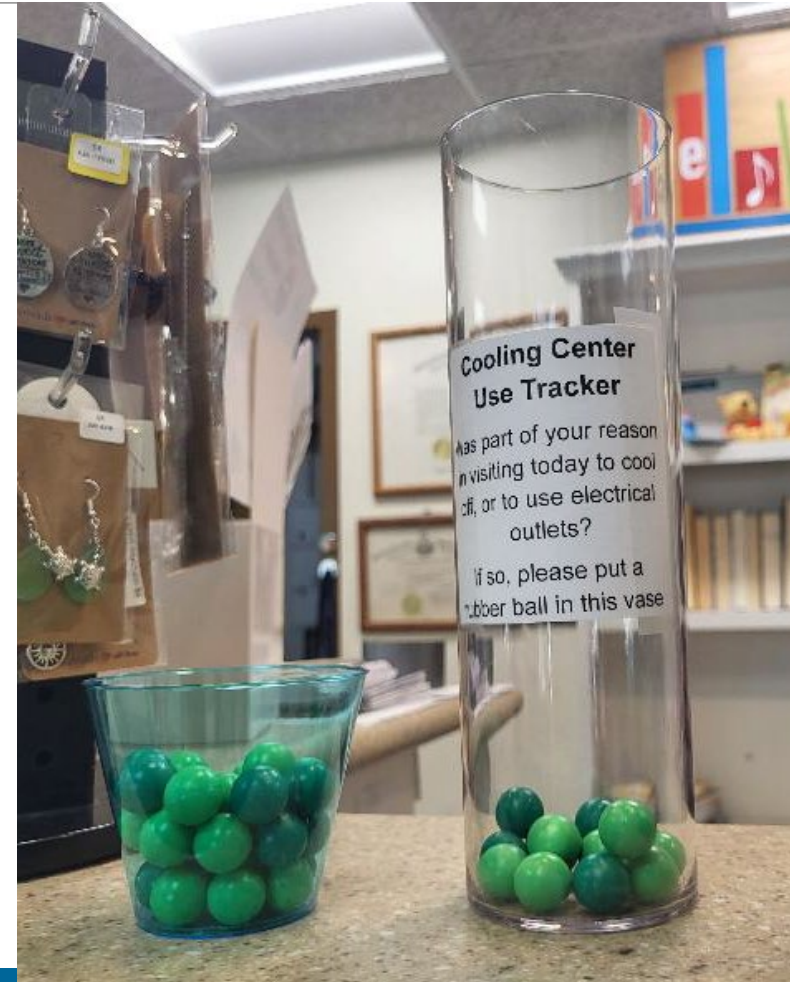


# Reception Package: Use Tracker Jar

## Cooling Center Use Tracker

Was part of your reason in visiting today to cool off, or to use electrical outlets?

If so, please put a rubber ball in this vase

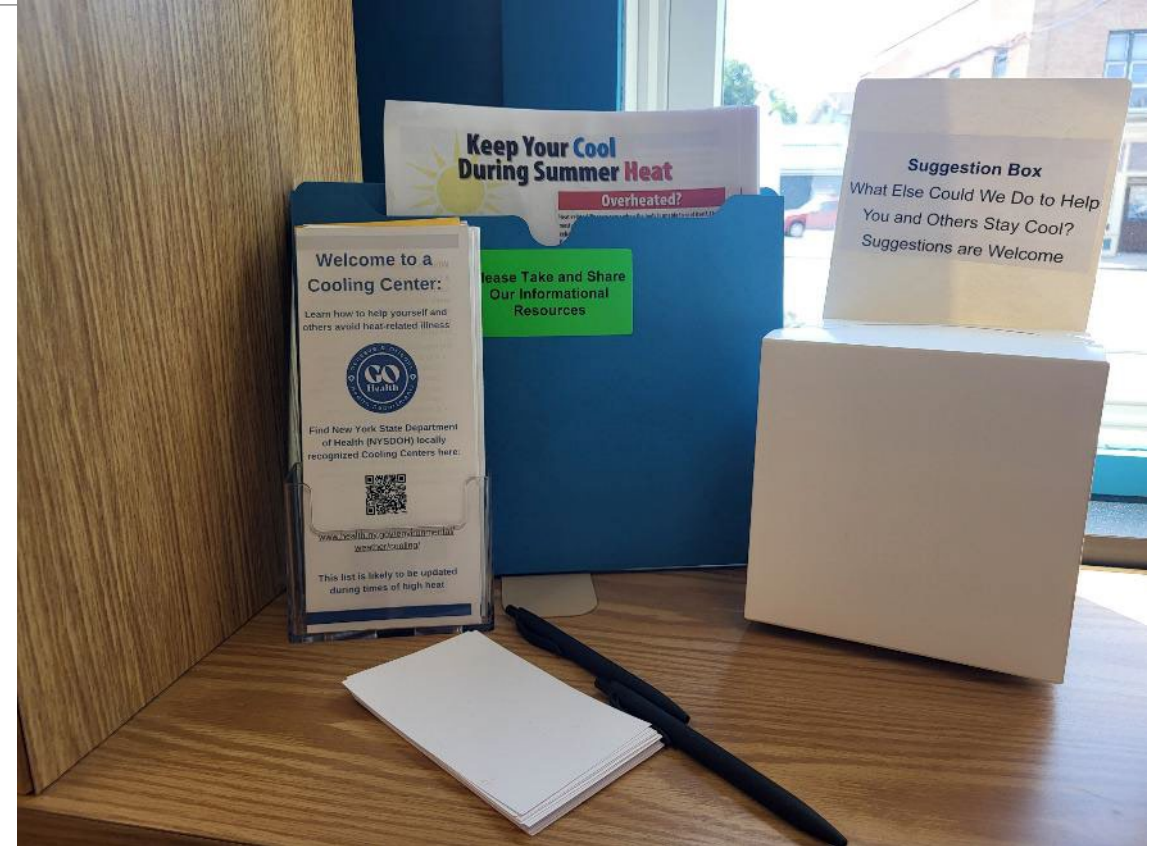


# Reception Package: Suggestion Box

## Suggestion Box

What else could we do to help  
you and others stay cool?

Suggestions are Welcome

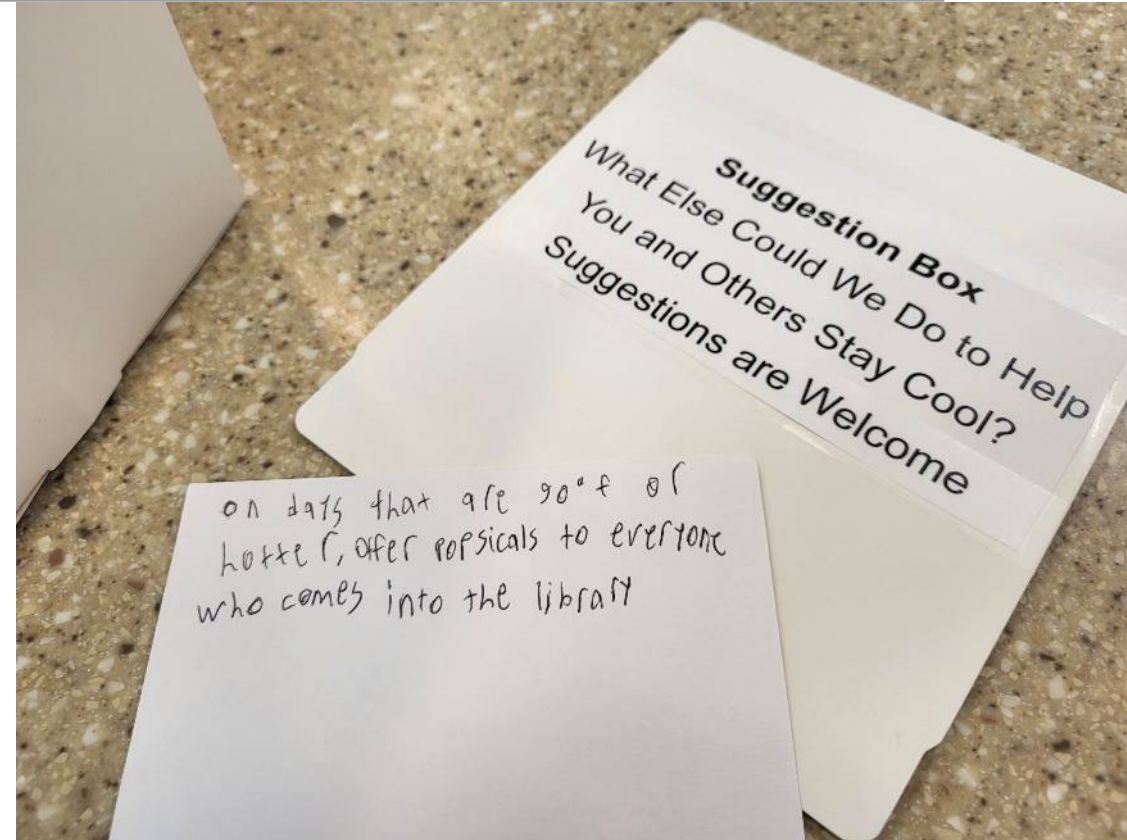


# Reception Package: Suggestion Box

*“On days that are 90F or hotter, offer popsicals (sic) to everyone who comes into the library”*

. . . And a response from the library . . .

*Popsicles may be available upon request when 90F or hotter while supplies last!*



# Welcome to a Cooling Center:

Learn how to help yourself and  
others avoid heat-related illness



Find New York State Department  
of Health (NYSDOH) locally  
recognized Cooling Centers here:



[www.health.ny.gov/environmental/  
weather/cooling/](http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/weather/cooling/)

This list is likely to be updated  
during times of high heat

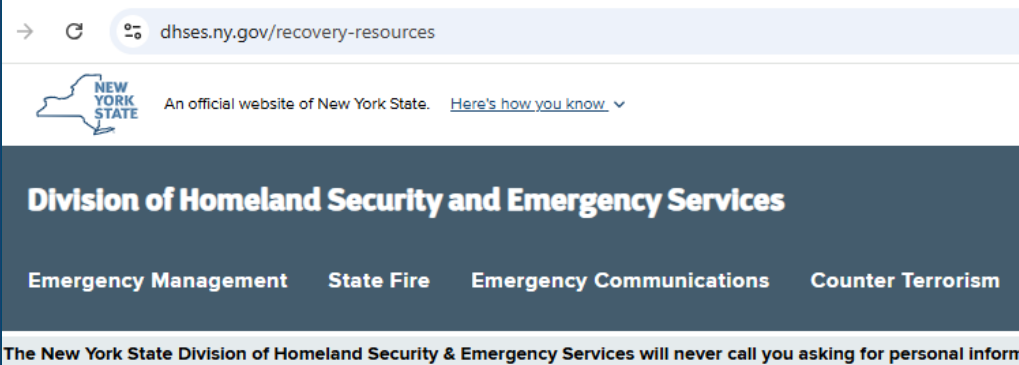


# Reception Package: Distribution Partners

Reception Packages made available to  
all regular Cooling Centers with regular  
open hours posted on the NYSDOH  
Cooling Center Finder list for Genesee  
and Orleans Counties

- All public libraries (10)
- Orleans County YMCA
- Office for the Aging
- Salvation Army
- 13 total facilities





# Reception Package: Partner Expansion

Reception Packages with NYSDOH link promoted to all partners associated with **Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD)** lists in both Orleans and Genesee Counties

COAD members may include:

- Non-profit organizations
- Governmental agencies
- Businesses
- Faith-based organizations
- Other community organizations

- Cornell Cooperative Extension
- Mental Health Association
- Independent Living
- Local Churches
- 5 total additions





# Identify, Create, and Share Informational Resources

## NYSDOH “Keep Your Cool During Summer Heat” Flyer

<https://www.health.ny.gov/publications/1243.pdf>



### Keep Your Cool During Summer Heat

Summertime heat can be dangerous for anyone. Some people are at risk of serious health effects – even death – from getting overheated. Here’s what you need to know about the effects of hot weather and what you can do to keep cool.

**What should I do before a heat wave?**

- Know the symptoms of heat-related illnesses (see table, right).
- Make sure that you can open your windows and/or that your air conditioner is working properly.
- Find out where to cool down – ask local officials about cooling centers in your area. If there are none, identify air-conditioned buildings where you can go (such as libraries, malls, supermarkets, or friends’ homes).
- Choose someone that you can call for help or who can check on you.
- Talk to your doctor or pharmacist to learn more about medications that might make you sensitive to the sun or heat.

| Illness                                                                       | Symptoms                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | What to Do                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Heat stroke (sun stroke)</b><br><br><b>This is an EMERGENCY! Act FAST!</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hot, dry, red skin</li><li>• Rapid pulse</li><li>• High body temperature <math>\geq 105^{\circ}\text{F}</math></li><li>• Loss of alertness</li><li>• Confusion</li><li>• Unconsciousness or coma</li><li>• Rapid and shallow breathing</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Call 911 immediately.</li><li>• Cool the person quickly.</li><li>• Bring to a cool place and use a cool bath or sponges, fans and AC.</li></ul> <p>Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wrap ice packs in cloth and place on neck, wrists, ankles and armpits.</li></ul> <p>Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Remove clothing and wrap the person in cool, wet sheets.</li></ul> |
| <b>Heat exhaustion</b>                                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Heavy sweating</li><li>• Fainting</li><li>• Vomiting</li><li>• Cold, pale, clammy skin</li><li>• Dizziness</li><li>• Headache</li><li>• Nausea</li><li>• Weakness</li></ul>                                                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Heat exhaustion can quickly lead to heat stroke so if symptoms worsen or don’t improve get medical help.</li><li>• Move the person to a cool place.</li><li>• Loosen clothes and apply cool, wet cloths to the neck, face and arms.</li><li>• Have the person sip water slowly. Provide half a glass of water every 15 minutes up to about 1 quart. Stop giving water if vomiting occurs.</li></ul>     |
| <b>Heat cramps</b>                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Muscle cramps in the abdominal area or extremities</li><li>• Heavy sweating</li><li>• Mild nausea</li></ul>                                                                                                                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Move the person to a cool place.</li><li>• Apply firm pressure to the cramping muscle.</li><li>• Gently stretch the cramped muscle and hold it for 20 seconds followed by gentle massage.</li><li>• Have the person drink some cool water.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Heat rash</b>                                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Skin irritation that looks like a red cluster of pimples or small blisters</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Move the person to a cool place.</li><li>• Keep the affected area dry.</li><li>• Have the person use talcum powder to increase comfort.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

Goal of local Cooling Center brochure is to complement awareness of heat-related illness in NYSDOH flier, with greater attention to:

- Importance of checking on vulnerable persons
- Available local resources and sources of information
- Information on local Cooling Centers

A local Daytime Warming Center brochure is under construction, with a main focus of local resources and information.





# Assess Impact and Potential Improvement: Quantitative

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- Use trackers suggest higher use when temperatures are elevated
- Most consistent data based on weekly counts of use-tracker balls, with numbers ranging from 8 – 95 per week
- Larger and busier libraries recorded the most use trackers
- Giveaways were distributed quickly, but based on preferred methods of facility directors
- Distribution of printed materials was minimal



# Assess Impact and Potential Improvement: Qualitative

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- Combination of higher value giveaways with more lower value giveaways (such as individual electrolyte packages)
- Give-aways appreciated by both public and facility, and were successful in drawing attention to the topic and informational resources
- Use trackers were successful in drawing attention to the topic and informational resources
- High interest from facilities to be recognized as Daytime Warming Centers, particularly if any informational or logistical support can be offered.
  - Local public libraries often consider themselves to already be providing this service



# Best Practices Developed or Enacted (*Successes*):

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- Partnership building through collaboration and ongoing communication
- Relatively low-stakes point of dispensing (POD) created for public health assets
- Inclusion of partner agencies in the process of community engagement
- Flexibility afforded to partner agencies within set parameters
- Recognition of value to retain boxes for additional giveaways as needed
- Collaborative use of informational resources
- Growing community awareness, both among public and additional partner agencies
- Ability to expand partner collaboration through visibility, and connection to COAD
- Use trackers and giveaways made project fun



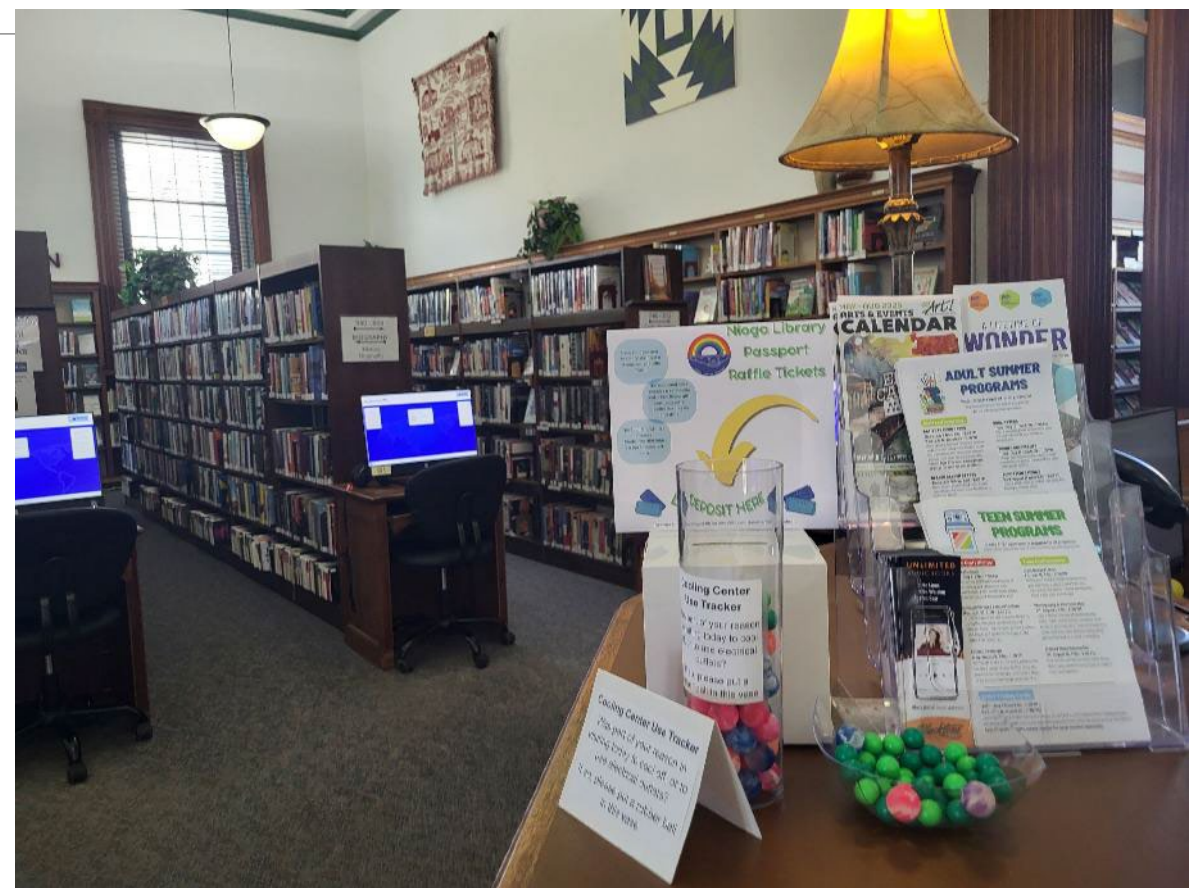
# Best Practices Developed or Enacted (*Successes*): Flexibility



Some agencies kept the Reception Package together, while others split it apart.



# Best Practices Developed or Enacted (*Successes*): Flexibility





# Lessons Learned (*Potential Improvements*): Use Tracker Choice

- Washable plastic?
- Bouncy balls?
- Mini plush toys?





# Lessons Learned (*Potential Improvements*):

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- High enough quantity or value of assets to warrant effort and oversight
- A balance between high-value giveaways and a larger quantity of lower-value items
- Potential format of educational resources to increase their value (i.e., a magnet)
- Change and the integration of new partners can be a slow process



# Project Sustainability and Continuity:

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- New development of a comprehensive preparedness memorandum of understanding (MOU) template
  - Inclusion of cooling centers, daytime warming centers, temporary shelters, point of distribution, and clinical countermeasure site
- Simultaneous development of Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) with needs of climate resource centers
- Growing awareness and recognition for established local Cooling Centers
- Utilization of Reception Packages for ongoing asset and informational resource giveaways
- Creation of a new local Cooling Center brochure
- Ongoing collaboration towards establishment and promotion of Daytime Warming Centers, including a new local brochure
- More robust local website associated with extreme weather, as seen here:  
<https://www.geneseeny.gov/gohealth/Home/Programs-and-Services/Public-Health-Emergency-Preparedness-PHEP/Extreme-Weather-Preparedness>



THANK YOU to all of  
our participating Cooling  
Center agencies . . .



And to NYSACHO staff  
for all technical  
assistance and support.



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