Supporting Fulton County Cooling Centers/Agencies with Cooling Kits



NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY HEALTH OFFICIALS

Leading the Way to Healthier Communities

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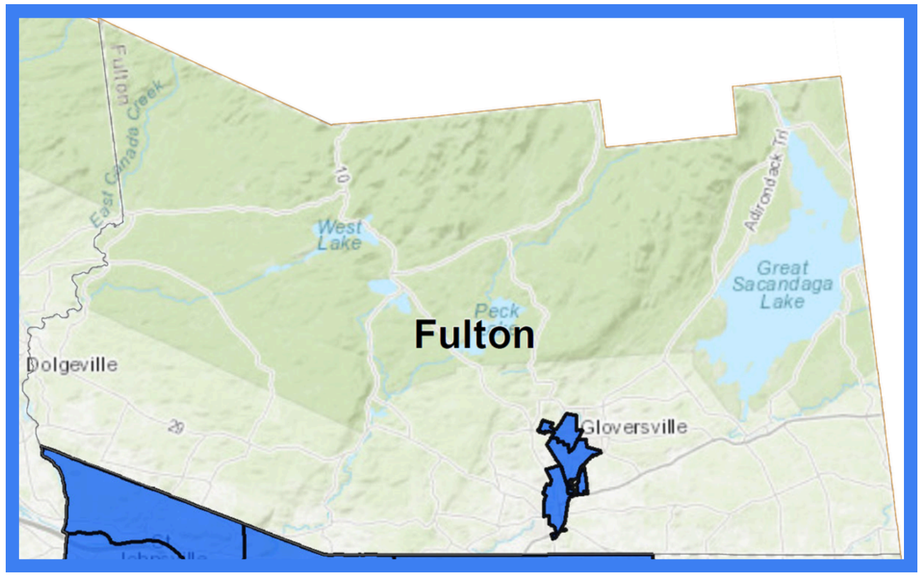
Presentation Overview

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Communities' Description

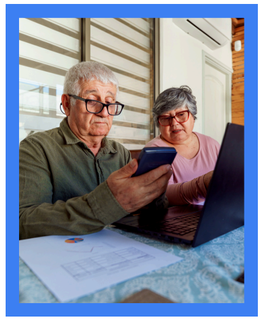
- The communities identified for this project were DACs in Fulton County:
  - 2 DACs in Gloversville
    - Population: ~ 15,000
  - 1 DAC in Johnstown
    - Population: ~ 8,000



- Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) are areas experiencing challenges that expose them to more climate-related poor health outcomes

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Intended Audiences





- **This project aimed to focus on residents of Fulton County who were most vulnerable to extreme heat, including:**
  - Older adults
  - People living in low socioeconomic status (SES) areas
  - Individuals with chronic health conditions
  - Individuals with disabilities
  - Outdoor workforce members





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Project Partners

- **Fulton County Cooling Centers:**
  - The Gloversville Public Library
  - The Johnstown Public Library
  - The Senior Citizen Service Center of Gloversville and Fulton County
  - The Shirley J. Luck Senior Citizen Center
- **Lexington, Chapter of The Arc New York**
- **The Fulton County Office of Emergency Management**
- **The Fulton County Office for Aging**

Additional Partners

- The Fulton County Domestic Violence Program
- HFM Prevention Council

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Project Objectives

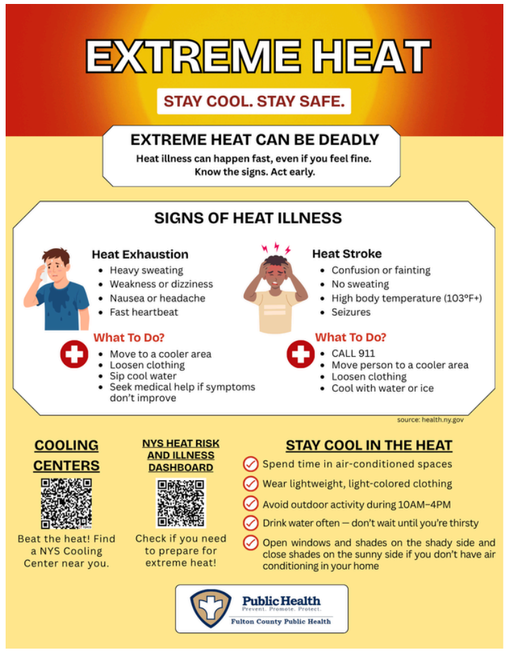
- **Starting when the cooling centers open and ending on 7/31/26:**
  - Increase the amount of individuals using Fulton County Cooling Centers in the cities of Johnstown and Gloversville by 10% each week the centers are open by offering bags of educational materials and items in order to prevent heat-related injury.
  - Offer optional surveys to clients using Fulton County Cooling Centers in the cities of Johnstown and Gloversville in order to determine ways to improve the centers.
- **Starting on 6/1/26 and ending on 7/31/26:**
  - Distribute bags of educational materials and items to clients using the Fulton County Office for Aging meal-delivery service in order to prevent heat-related injury for people who cannot easily leave their home.
  - Distribute bags of educational materials and items to clients using services provided by the Fulton County Domestic Violence Program of Catholic Charities of Fulton and Montgomery Counties in order to prevent heat-related injury for impacted by domestic violence.

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Cooling Kit Materials



- Each cooling kit included:
  - An insulated tote bag
  - A cooling towel
  - A handheld fan
  - A water bottle
  - A reusable ice pack
  - Two electrolyte solution tablets
  - Educational Materials
    - Cooling Kit Item Card
    - Extreme Heat Flyer



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Cooling Kit Assembly

- On May 5th and 7th, two groups from The Arc Lexington assisted in assembling the cooling kits for this project.
- During the two days, the groups assembled a total of 342 cooling kits.
- After the kits were assembled, plans for their distribution around Fulton County began.



The Arc
For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

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Cooling Kit Distribution



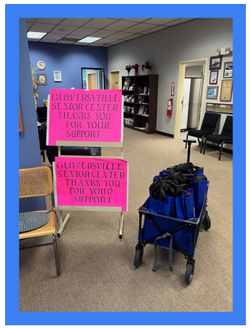
The Fulton County Domestic Violence Program

Received 20 Cooling Kits



The Gloversville Public Library

Received 105 Cooling Kits



The Senior Citizen Service Center of Gloversville

Received 45 Cooling Kits



The Johnstown Public Library

Received 83 Cooling Kits



The Shirley J. Luck Senior Citizen Center

Received 45 Cooling Kits



HFM Prevention Council

Received 20 Cooling Kits

The Fulton County OFFICE FOR AGING

Vital information for vital generations

Received 20 Cooling Kits

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Social and Physical Media



- **During times of high temperatures/extreme heat, this graphic was shared on Facebook and our app.**
  - The social media posts also stated where the cooling kits were available.



- **This flyer was posted at the partnering cooling centers to promote the cooling kits.**

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Kits Distributed to the Public

- **As of July 24, 2026, 327 cooling kits have been distributed to residents of Climate DACs in Fulton County. The following is a breakdown of kits distributed by agency:**

- The Fulton County Domestic Violence Program: **20 Kits**
- The Gloversville Public Library: **105 Kits**
- The Senior Citizen Service Center of Gloversville: **43 Kits**
- *Public Walk-In: **4 Kits***
- The Johnstown Public Library: **83 Kits**
- The Shirley J. Luck Senior Citizen Center: **32 Kits**
- HFM Prevention Council: **20 Kits**
- The Fulton County Office for Aging: **20 Kits**



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Expected Challenges Review

- **Individuals taking prevention materials without realizing what they are used for.**
  - This expected issue was avoided because partnering cooling centers distributed the cooling kits from pre-determined areas at their respective locations.
- **Individuals taking certain materials out of the bags instead of taking the entire bag.**
  - This issue was also avoided because of the centralized distribution areas that the cooling centers decided upon.
- **The Domestic Violence Program of Fulton County recently transitioned to a new oversight agency.**
  - The program's new oversight agency, Catholic Charities of Fulton and Montgomery Counties, were great partners in this project and provided great collaboration and feedback.
- **The Fulton County Office for Aging has had some issues with meal delivery drivers, which is one method that may be used for distributing the extreme heat prevention materials and resources.**
  - The Fulton County Office for Aging did not report any issues with a lack of drivers for delivering their home meals.

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Actual Project Challenges

- **Fulton County Public Health lost 5 staff members and 1 fellow between the time of applying for the grant to the beginning of starting project activities.**
  - This led to multiple staff members having to take on different responsibilities in addition to handling responsibilities associated with this project.
- **Discrepancies in the information listed online for the cooling centers.**
  - During this project, many of the cooling centers transitioned to summer hours, which lead to some issues with delivering cooling kits and communicating with them in general.
- **Slight confusion from the public on where they could receive the cooling kits.**
  - We received a few calls/ in-person inquiries about acquiring the cooling kits.

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Lessons Learned



- Out of all the cooling centers/agencies that we partnered with for this project, libraries distributed the most kits.
- Cooling kit distribution was more random than previously expected before the project.
- The pre-determined distribution areas at distribution sites did not deter the public from wanting to receive a cooling kit.



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Sustainability/Future Plans

- The staff at the Gloversville Public Library has contacted us regarding the possibility of a future partnership to help them create their own cooling kits to distribute in the future.
- Fulton County Public Health will offer surveys to the cooling center distribution sites to receive feedback regarding the cooling kits, the needs of the populations they serve, and any public feedback they received from those who received cooling kits.

GLOVERSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY



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We'd like to thank NYSACHO and our partnering agencies/cooling centers for their participation and assistance during this project.

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