

## The KC Regional Health Research Data Consortium (KC HRDC)

In the fall of 2013, in collaboration with Children's Mercy Hospital (CMH) of Kansas City, CEI was awarded grant funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for research into the relationship between environmental housing conditions and the prevalence of certain chronic childhood health conditions, specifically asthma and lead poisoning. The research plan entails the use of CEI's 12-year history of housing conditions survey data in combination with CMH's health history data to evaluate the relationship between observed exterior housing conditions and health, with a view toward the specification and testing of a valid predictive model. As of early 2017, the three-year duration of the original grant has run its course; preliminary testing of the model has been promising, and the research team is in the process of fine-tuning the model and publication of results.

The combination of CEI's long experience in the development and maintenance of an urban neighborhood indicators program for the Kansas City region and CMH's role as the region's leading pediatric medical center, however, has proven too valuable to allow to lapse at the end of the original grant period. The collaboration between CEI and CMH on this project has led to development of a long-term research agenda pursuing further investigation into the role of environmental factors and other social determinants of health in the perpetuation of urban health disparities in the Kansas City region, not only for specific chronic childhood morbidities, but for adverse health conditions among the general population.

Accordingly CEI and CMH have been involved in a number of initiatives designed to institutionalize this relationship, including the establishment of a regional health research data consortium (the KC RHDC), and development of the Kansas City Community Health & Housing Environmental Assessment Resources Tool (KC Community HEART), an innovative case-management/care-coordination system for targeting health services based on GIS mapping of health, environment, and community data. A number of grant proposals for funding of these initiatives are in various stages of development and submission.