

Celebrating Four Years of Success



Choose Safe Places
for Early Care and Education
Planning. Guidance. Protection.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE CHOOSE SAFE PLACES PROGRAM 2017–2021

BACKGROUND

Most children in the US attend some form of ECE facility



35+
HOURS A WEEK



ECE
EARLY CARE
& EDUCATION

ECE ENVIRONMENTS:
Public or Private Preschool
Child Care | Early Head Start

2-5% ↑
of **TOXIC ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURES**



have been projected due to the pandemic within child care facilities

**Information provided by states conducting environmental assessments*



LEAD & PESTICIDES  are common toxic environmental hazards that are linked to adverse health effects including:

Asthma & Diabetes 

RESPONSE

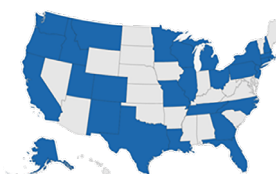
APPLETEREE:

Partnership to Promote Local Efforts to Reduce Environmental Exposure

28
STATES

EVALUATE PAST & PRESENT EXPOSURES

APPLETREE STATES



PREVENT FUTURE EXPOSURES

PROVIDE RESOURCES & GUIDANCE

Funded by



YEAR 1: 2017 - 2018

- ✓ Identified partners and stakeholders within ECE facilities, applicable data and sources including information on past land use and environmental contamination, and opportunities and barriers to implementing a safe siting program.
- ✓ Sought to learn the number of ECE centers that have had safe-siting concern.

YEAR 2: 2018 - 2019

- ✓ Developed a program plan for safe siting of ECE centers that includes: operation, training, data, and evaluation needs, as well as roles and responsibilities.
- ✓ Assessed potential limitations of the plan and how to overcome barriers.

YEAR 3: 2019 - 2020

- ✓ Implemented a pilot program that tests the feasibility and scalability of the program plan.
- ✓ Tested the differences between the pilot and fully implemented program and analyzed the number of facilities screened and evaluated.
- ✓ Looked at program implementation strengths and weaknesses and formed case studies of the successes.

YEAR 4: 2020 - 2021

- ✓ Developed guidance and best practices for ventilation, cleaning, and disinfecting to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among ECE centers.
- ✓ Continued to implement the program, identify strengths, weaknesses, best practices, and documented success stories.

RESOURCES DEVELOPED

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education Resource Library (CSPECE)

Tools and resources to start developing local programs, choose safe locations for facilities and resources to share.

Eco-Healthy Child Care® Safe Siting of Child Care Facilities Fact Sheet and FAQ

Safe siting factors to consider for child care facilities.

Caring for Our Children (CFOC) Assessment of the Environment at the Site Location (Standard 5.1.1.5)

National Resource Center for Health and Safety's Caring for Our Children (CFOC) National Health and Safety Standards for Early Care and Education Settings, Updated standards.

- Assessment of the Environment at the Site Location (5.1.1.5), Inspection of Buildings (5.1.1.2), Structurally Sound Facility (5.1.1.6)

ATSDR CSPECE Disaster Recovery Supplement

This supplement:

- defines places, in addition to early care, where children spend time,
- describes how to apply CSPECE elements to places where children spend time,
- identifies likely environmental hazards after a disaster and potential effects on children, and
- compiles resources for more information on each environmental hazard or topic.

Funding for Environmental Assessment and Remediation at Child Care Facilities: A Review of Selected Resources

Environmental Law Institute's (ELI) guide to federal, state, and non-governmental funding sources.

Addressing Environmental Site Hazards at Child Care Facilities: A Review of State Policy Strategies

ELI's guide to existing state laws, regulations, and voluntary initiatives for preventing and addressing exposure to environmental site hazards.

Federal, State and Local Policies Addressing Chemical Emissions from Dry Cleaners: Opportunities for Reducing Exposure at Child Care Facilities

ELI's review of strategies to reduce exposure to dry cleaner emissions through environmental, health, land use, and child care licensing policies.

Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education (CSPECEP) Guidance Manual

This manual was created by ATSDR. The manual offers tools and resources to help state and local public health agencies, and other partners, build programs to protect children in their communities.

ELI released the Radon in Child Care: Review of State Policies Report

All 50 states and the District of Columbia, as well as many tribes and local governments, establish health and safety standards for licensed child care. This report discusses how state laws and regulations address one pollutant that may pose a health hazard at some child care facilities: Radon.

*Safe siting is a public health term that refers to locating ECE programs on sites free of chemical and physical hazards.



Illustrating Opportunities to Protect Massachusetts Children in Environmental Justice Areas



**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
CHOOSE SAFE PLACES FOR EARLY CARE & EDUCATION PROGRAM**

- Partnership with the MA Dept. of Early Education and Care
 - Uses maps and data from [MA Environmental Public Health Tracking](#)
- <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/environmental-justice-policy>

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (EJ)

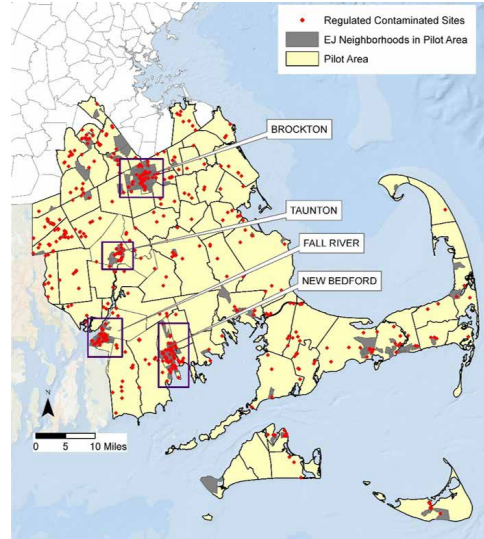
Higher burden of contaminated sites in EJ neighborhoods creates challenges and opportunities for safe siting

EJ NEIGHBORHOODS DEFINED AS

US Census Bureau census block groups that meet at least one criteria for income, percent minority, or English isolation

EJ NEIGHBORHOODS IN THE PILOT AREA MAKE UP

5% of land area in pilot region
but home to: **20%** of the population,
25% of children under age 5 years,
30% of regulated contaminated sites.



<https://matracking.ehs.state.ma.us/reports-and-outreach.html>

The Choose Safe Places program can provide a key service to prevent or minimize environmental exposures to children at child care programs due to poor siting.

Massachusetts Department of Public Health | **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

[✉ Jessica.Burkhamer@mass.gov](mailto:Jessica.Burkhamer@mass.gov) | [🌐 https://www.mass.gov/choose-safe-places-for-early-care-and-education](https://www.mass.gov/choose-safe-places-for-early-care-and-education)



Partnerships Help Ohio Create Safe Places Across the State

OHIO CHOOSE SAFE PLACES (OCSP)

OCSP is currently in phase IV, which includes:

- 1 Non-regulatory education-based program to help ensure child care centers in Ohio are in properties free from environmental hazards
- 2 Statewide program for new child care centers and centers seeking re-licensure following a change in ownership or location



DEVELOPED RESOURCES:

- [OCSP Overview Video](#)
- [OCSP Factsheet](#)
- [OCSP Environmental Resource Guide](#)

PROGRAM SUCCESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

- ✓ A robust workgroup w/ expertise in:
 - Environmental health and regulation
 - Health education and outreach
 - School and ECE policy
 - School nurse programs
- ✓ Ohio Choose Safe Places Workgroup
 - ODH Health Assessment Section
 - ODH School Nursing Program
 - ODH Healthy Homes
 - OH Department of Job and Family Services
 - OH Department of Education
 - Ohio EPA
- ✓ Federal and other partners
 - ATSDR
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - US Environmental Protection Agency
 - Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU)
 - Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN)
 - Fellow APPLETREE Partners

Allison Buck-Priddy, MPH, Health Educator/Community Involvement Coordinator, Health Assessment Section | **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

[✉ Allison.buck-priddy@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:Allison.buck-priddy@odh.ohio.gov) | [🌐 https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/health-assessment-section/ohio-choose-safe-places](https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/health-assessment-section/ohio-choose-safe-places)



<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/safeplacesforECE/index.html>



cehn.org



naccho.org



eli.org