

# HEPA FILTER

## PROGRAM FACT SHEET



Since 2020, the aim of the **HEPA Filter Program** has been to heighten awareness of the correlation between poor air quality and health impacts, especially during periods of poor air quality. Climate Smart Glacier Country (CSGC) has developed a variety of partnerships over the years to purchase HEPA Filters for organizations that distribute the units to vulnerable, low-income households. Beneficiaries include seniors, infants, pregnant women, and individuals with respiratory or coronary disease. To date, CSGC has distributed 175 air filters.

2020

- During the 2020 pilot year, CSGC partnered with Flathead City-County Environmental Health to distribute 50 filters to low-income households. CSGC funded the \$5,000 cost of the program through grants from Whitefish Community Foundation and Flathead Electric Cooperative "Roundup for Safety" program.

2021

- With another Roundup for Safety grant CSGC continued its partnership with the County Environmental Health Office purchasing an additional 20 filters for distribution.

2022

- CSGC partnered with the Flathead Food Bank to provide 25 HEPA filters for at-risk seniors through their Commodity Supplemental Program. This specific distribution benefited low-income senior citizens and was funded through a Whitefish Community Foundation grant.

2023

- CSGC donated 40 HEPA filters to the Logan Health Foundation (an arm of the Logan Health medical center). Logan Health identified low-income at-risk patients with a demonstrated health need as well as elementary school classrooms as beneficiaries of this program. The Roundup for Safety once again provided a grant.

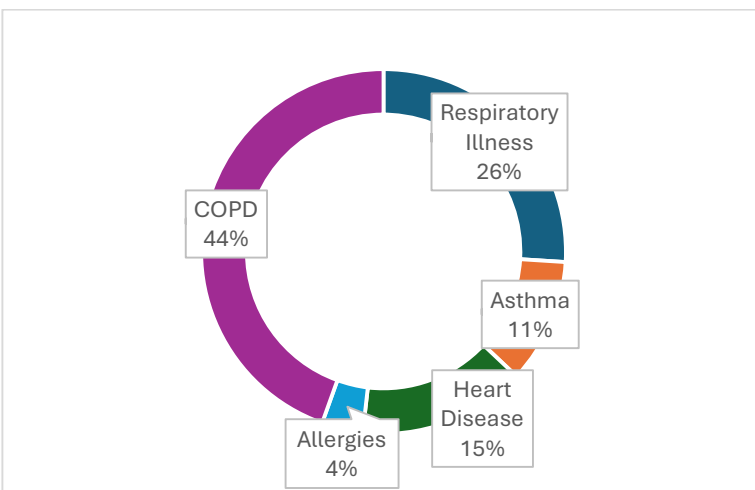
2024

- With funding from the Roundup for Safety program, CSGC was able to once again donate 36 air filters to Logan Health Foundation. Four filters were reserved to donate to other non-profits in the county.

## Beneficiary Profile

The individuals who have benefited from this program range from children to the elderly, all grappling with significant health issues. These include children with respiratory problems, seniors with conditions like diabetes, cancer, heart disease, and asbestos-related illnesses, and adults facing obesity, renal failure, cancer, and anxiety. Most individuals also contend with significant financial hardships and are managing high medical expenses. In a 2020 survey, completed by 47 beneficiaries, 68% of respondents indicated their households were 65 or older and the same percentage suffered from respiratory illness. In 2023, 71% of respondents were 50 or older and 44% suffered from COPD.

### Pre-Existing Conditions -2023



### Sample Survey Comments

*“86 yrs old. Diabetes type 2, anemia, low income; property taxes and pay are 1/2 the designated amount. I receive financial aid from the state of Montana on my prescription drugs.”*

*“My 8-year-old son Murray has these issues. Thanks for your consideration!”*

## Education and Outreach

In addition to the distributed filters, all beneficiaries receive information sheets detailing other strategies to protect themselves and insure healthy levels of indoor air quality. CSGC distributes “Wildfire FAQ” flyers on the health effects of wildfire smoke, reducing exposure to smoke, and resources to determine air quality levels. CSGC has promoted the HEPA Filter program through local press, radio programs, and presentations. Additionally, educational materials on wildfire smoke have been distributed through the United Way and at events such as Earth Day.

Links to info on wildfire smoke, clean air resources and how to donate to the program are available on the CSGC website.

<https://climatesmartglaciercountry.org/>

