

WILDFIRE & HEALTH

PROGRAM FACT SHEET - 2025



Since 2020, the aim of the **Wildfire and Health Program** has been to reduce the impacts of wildfire smoke on household and community health. Climate Smart Glacier Country (CSGC) has developed a variety of partnerships over the years to purchase and distribute HEPA filters 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. In 2025, CSGC is partnering with Montana health officials to establish community Clean Air Centers and support air filtration systems at child day-care facilities.

2020

- CSGC partnered with Flathead City-County Environmental Health to distribute 50 filters to low-income households. Project was funded 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 along with outreach and education efforts.

2022

- CSGC partnered with the Flathead Food Bank to provide 25 HEPA filters to at-risk low income seniors through their Commodity Supplemental Program. The project was funded through a Whitefish Community Foundation grant.

2023

- With Roundup for Safety funds CSGC donated 40 HEPA filters to the Logan Health Foundation. Logan Health distributed units to low-income at-risk patients with a demonstrated health need. Four units distributed to elementary school classrooms.

2024

- With funding from the Roundup for Safety program, CSGC was able to once again donate 40 HEPA filters to Logan Health Foundation. CSGC participated in a webinar panel for state health professionals to present the program as a model for other communities.

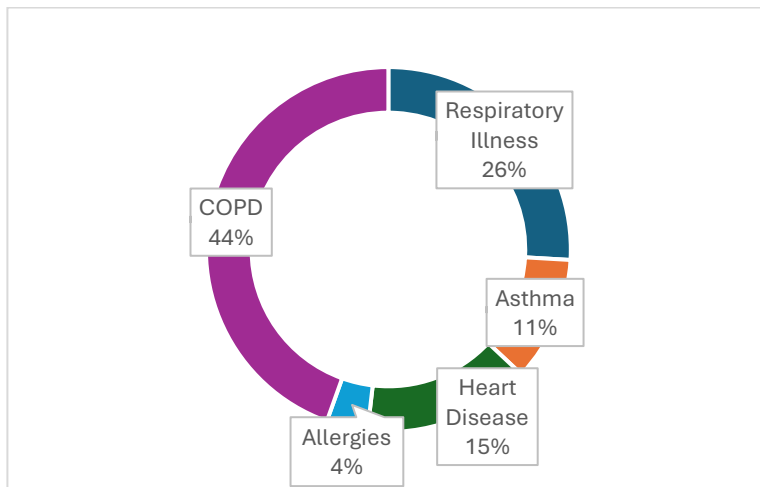
2025

- CSGC and Logan Health partnership distributes HEPA filters to low-income, at-risk households. With grants from Whitefish Community Foundation and Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network, the program expands to include day-care, infants and toddlers.

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 ensure 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/>

