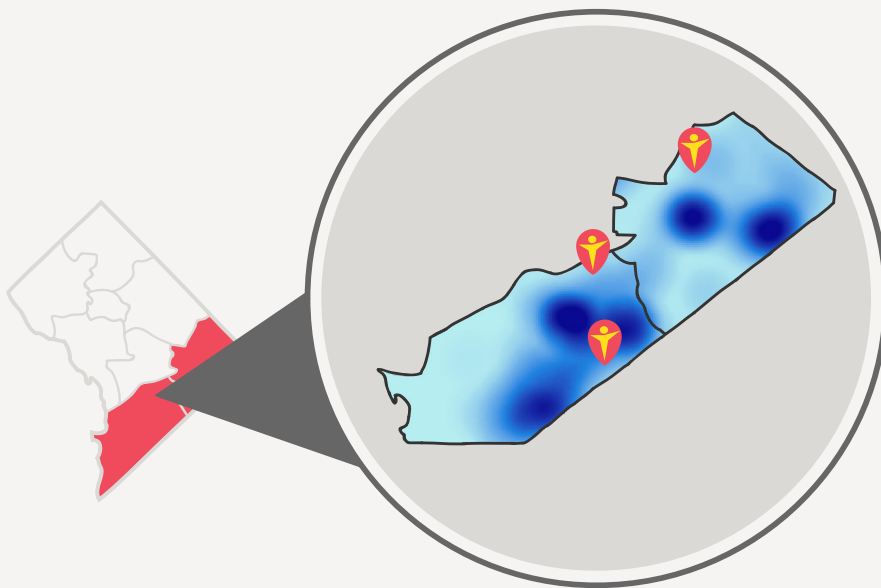


PRIORITIZING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: A BUILD HEALTH UPDATE

In 2017, Children’s Law Center won the BUILD Health Challenge, a national program that improves health through community partnerships. Working with IMPACT DC (Children’s National’s asthma program) and the DC Department of Health, Children’s Law Center developed a three-pronged strategy to address the stark health disparities of children living in poverty in Wards 7 and 8: (1) using client feedback to improve individual assistance, (2) strengthening government collaboration to develop citywide solutions to the housing crisis, and (3) sharing data to identify trends to guide the future work of CLC and our partners.

BUILD HEALTH ANALYZES DATA TO DIRECT PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE



The darker areas of this map indicate the blocks and buildings with the most concentrated health-related housing referrals to CLC. This information can focus the District’s efforts to improve children’s health.

 Health clinics with on-site CLC lawyers

Data Source: Children’s Law Center, 2015 - 2018

Through our medical-legal partnerships, CLC attorneys are placed in neighborhoods where adverse housing conditions—and associated health problems—persist. Early on, we encountered a problem that similar partnerships across the nation face: families caring for chronically ill children, while managing the already overwhelming struggles of living in poverty, have limited bandwidth to work with a lawyer. But without information and updates from the family, lawyers are unable to resolve unhealthy housing conditions.

The BUILD Health partnership built on Children’s National’s experience with patient families to improve communication between lawyers, doctors and patient families. Hosting focus groups and feedback meetings with parents of children with asthma allowed us to hear firsthand about the challenges they face to stay connected. Gathering that valuable input will help us overcome these barriers so families can successfully partner with lawyers to resolve the unhealthy housing conditions that cause poor health.



I’ve lost count of how many patients I care for with asthma that are now healthier, out of the emergency room, and back in school because of Children’s Law Center.



Dr. Ankoor Y. Shah, M.D., M.P.H.

Medical Director for the IMPACT DC Asthma Clinic and general pediatrician at Children’s Health Center at THEARC

