COMMUNITY ADAPTATIONS TO CITY HEAT

URBAN HEAT ACTION
AND POLICY DATABASE

How are Los Angeles, Miami, and New York City protecting older adults from extreme heat?



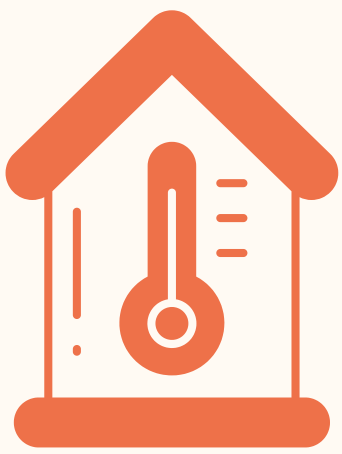
the CATCH HEAT PROJECT

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Funded by: wellcome

Older adults' bodies have a harder time regulating their temperature due to age-related physiological changes, underlying health conditions, and barriers to accessing reliable cooling.



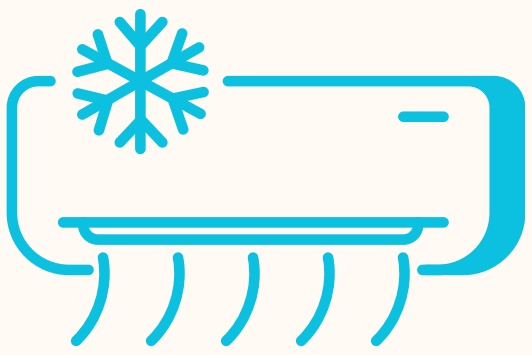


As temperatures rise, cities are developing targeted programs to help older residents stay safe - from providing air conditioning and financial assistance to conducting in-home wellness checks.

The following examples highlight approaches in **Los Angeles**, **Miami-Dade County**, and **New York City**.



Scroll to learn more!



Los Angeles

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power partners with the Department of Aging to host Cool LA Heat Relief for Seniors events, providing free air conditioners to prequalified customers aged 60 and older. These events also connect older adults with resources to manage extreme heat and reduce electricity costs.

Scan to read more about Cool LA Heat Relief for Seniors!

❄️ Providing cooling equipment can help older adults stay safe at home.

Miami

Miami-Dade County offers emergency energy assistance to low-income households with at least one resident aged 60 or older. The program helps households facing overdue utility bills or disconnection notices maintain access to essential electricity services.

Scan to read more about the energy assistance for older adults!

⚡ Energy assistance can help older adults maintain access to home cooling.

New York City

During its 2026 heat emergency, New York City launched COOL In-Home Wellness Checks, dispatching trained medical teams to visit older adults in their homes. These teams assess residents' health and identify needs for heat relief, reaching people who may have difficulty accessing cooling resources.

Scan to read more about the COOL Vans

🏠 Bringing wellness checks directly to older adults can strengthen heat protection.

Heat protections vary widely across cities — with major gaps in coverage and enforcement.

Do you know if your city has heat protection laws? Tell us!





Check out our database to learn more about heat action and policies!

Making **extreme heat** impacts visible in **frontline communities.**

Working in Boston, Phoenix, and New Orleans.

Expanded policy research in 15 cities including:
Albuquerque, Austin, Burlington (VT), Chicago, Houston, Little Rock, Los Angeles, Miami/Miami Beach, Minneapolis, New York City, Philadelphia, Portland (OR), San Francisco, Seattle, Washingon DC

the CATCH HEAT PROJECT

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https://www.catchcityheat.org/

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