



National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition

Policy Agenda

Three core themes pervade any “short list” of the next steps to be taken toward mainstreaming healthy homes: The need for enforcing housing standards; the need for well-targeted resources for prevention and capacity building; and the opportunity in 2010-2011 to synchronize energy efficiency programs with public health goals. Advancing the national movement requires that we pursue all three, simultaneously.

FY 2010 Agenda Items

Healthy Housing Codes and Standards

1. Incentivize effective code enforcement by enacting the Community Building Code Administration Grant Act (S. 970, H.R. 2246/2336) to fortify local agencies’ capacity.

Financing Healthy Homes

1. Sustain and expand funding for Healthy Housing grant programs by increasing funding for the HUD’s Healthy Homes Program by another \$30 million above the President’s request to expand the number of healthy homes created nationwide, and increasing CDC’s Healthy Homes appropriation by \$15 million above the President’s request to transition local programs from lead poisoning prevention alone to healthy homes.

2. Pass Senator Jack Reed’s and Congressman Bob Brady’s Safe and Healthy Housing Act.

3. Advocate for HUD to incorporate evidence-based health and safety requirements into assisted housing programs.

4. Secure health sector payments for home-based education and environmental services for asthma patients.

Integrating Energy Efficiency and Health

1. Facilitate interagency coordination and fund integrated health and energy efficiency activities through enactment of the Reed-Brady Safe and Healthy Housing Act (H.R. 3891), Healthy Housing Council Bill (S. 1658, H.R. 3793), and other measures that empower the relevant agencies to coordinate interagency activities integrating safe and healthy housing considerations with green design/energy retrofits.

2. Develop a voluntary healthy housing label for single-family and multifamily existing homes, such as the “Healthy Home Seal of Approval” label in Section 301 of the Safe and Healthy Housing Act (H.R. 3891), to support the evaluation and promotion of health protective products, materials, and criteria for existing housing.

FY2011 Agenda Items (Discussion Draft)

In addition to continuing to pursue the above policy initiatives, the Coalition is proposing to add the following initiatives to its priorities for FY2011:

Healthy Housing Standards

1. Amend the Safe Chemicals Act of 2010 (S. 3209) to include standards for building materials and indoor exposure.
2. Amend the Home Star Program (H.R. 5019, S. 3177) to require minimum standards for health and safety in subsidies for home energy retrofits.
3. Amend the International Code Council (ICC) model housing and building codes to prevent radon exposure in new homes, unsafe renovation work, and moldy building materials.
4. Establish a minimum federal standard for private rental housing to establish a baseline for tenants' and rental property owners' expectations of what constitutes decent housing.

Financing Healthy Homes

1. Fully fund the National Housing Trust Fund and support eligible/required healthy housing measures in substantial rehabilitation/new construction NHTF Projects.
2. Require minimum standards for health and safety in subsidies for home energy retrofits in the Home Star Program (H.R. 5019, S. 3177)
3. Incorporate healthy homes recommendations into the Energy Efficiency in Housing Act of 2009 (S. 1379 and H.R. 2336)
4. Incorporate housing quality into the federal Sustainability Partnership and the Livable Communities Act (S. 1619 and H.R. 4690)

Integrating Energy Efficiency and Health

1. Make "Energy-Efficient Mortgages" Healthy. Work with the Congress and the Administration to build a standard healthy housing component into energy-efficient mortgages proposed in the Energy Efficiency in Housing Act (S. 1379 and H.R. 2336).
2. Work with the Administration to incentivize flexible use of categorical funding programs to advance energy, home repair, and health and safety goals. For example, with 15% flexibility, the Weatherization Assistance Program and the Lead Hazard Control Program could address basic safety and healthy hazards.
3. Modify energy auditing software to report monetized benefits of improved health in the return-on-investment (ROI) calculations.