

2020-2021 Annual Report

Transforming lives by transforming housing.

National Center for
HEALTHY HOUSING



IN 1992, THE ALLIANCE TO END CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING AND THE ENTERPRISE FOUNDATION FOUNDED THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTHY HOUSING (FORMERLY THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR LEAD-SAFE HOUSING) WITH FUNDING FROM FANNIE MAE. TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS LATER, NCHH CONTINUES TO BE A LEADER IN SECURING HEALTHY HOMES FOR ALL AND IS A PASSIONATE ADVOCATE FOR THE IDEA THAT BETTER HOUSING CAN BE A POWERFUL PLATFORM FOR BETTER HEALTH.

NCHH remains committed to the elimination of childhood lead poisoning; but **over the past 27 years**, our mission has also expanded to tackle a range of residential hazards and housing-related illnesses and injury.

We achieve impact through a combination of **research** that helps us to understand both the problems we face and how we can prevent or mitigate many of those problems; **advocacy** at the federal, state, and local levels; and **capacity building** to ensure that our partners working on the front lines of healthy homes are equipped with the right data, tools, policies, and best practices to get the job done.

National events, including the California wildfires, multiple hurricanes, major floods in communities around the country (including our own backyard, in Ellicott City, MD), reinforced the importance and relevance of NCHH's work in 2016 and 2017. During this time, NCHH

also continued refocusing efforts on supporting action at the state and local levels.

As we close one decade and look to the next, we are humbled both by what we have achieved together and the opportunities that lay ahead of us.

Amanda L. Reddy
Amanda L. Reddy
Executive Director



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF HEALTHY HOUSING ADVOCACY

NCHH serves as the backbone agency for the **National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition (NSHHC)**, which turned 10 years old in July 2019. The NSHHC has seen incredible growth over the past two years, reaching over 700 individual members from 400 organizations, all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and some tribal communities. NCHH and other partners have spearheaded the NSHHC's focus on federal advocacy, including organizing a Hill Day in 2019 where 60 participants met with 62 offices, representing 18 different states. Thanks in part to this work, federal funding for lead poisoning prevention and healthy homes programs at HUD and CDC are now nearly twice what they were in 2017.



The Michigan Hill Day Team: Paul Haan of the Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan with constituent advocates Alisa Culbreath, Taquita "Moe" Culbreath, and Tabitha Williams; Representative Bill Huizenga's (R-MI-2) legislative assistant, Andrew Kohlrieser; and Karyn Ferrick from the City of Grand Rapids.

SUPPORTING SENIOR HEALTH

NCHH completed its *Aging Gracefully in Place* project, demonstrating that urban and micropolitan organizations with varying housing stocks, partnering strategies, and client bases can successfully provide CAPABLE© integrated, in-home services to over 150 older adults. In addition to the physical and mental health benefits, the project also revealed the benefits of cross-sector partnerships, extended healthcare and housing follow-up, and networking with other older adult community organizations.

NCHH is exploring opportunities to serve older and disabled adults in rural communities, particularly in areas lacking critical healthcare services, to see how home modifications can keep them out of emergency rooms, hospitals, and skilled nursing facilities.



“There is not another program doing this kind of work, where the owner gets both health education and home repairs together. This program is a true benefit to homeowners.”

—Gene Brown, Community Housing Solutions

PROTECTING KIDS FROM LEAD IN HOME-BASED CHILD CARE

NCHH worked with the Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN), Eco-Healthy Child Care®, the National Association of Family Child Care (NAFCC), and an expert advisory committee to create the *Lead-Safe Toolkit for Home-Based Child Care*, a new resource on NCHH's state-of-the-art website. The toolkit has reached hundreds of providers and the families they serve, increasing awareness of lead exposure hazards in childcare settings and providing crucial tools to find and mitigate those hazards. The toolkit has policies and resources to address lead in paint, drinking water, soil, and consumer products.



BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE



In January 2019, the [NCHH Board of Directors](#) elected Dr. Christopher Jones as Chair. Dr. Jones is Executive Director and Lead Maker of the Arkansas Regional Innovation Hub. He holds graduate degrees in nuclear engineering and urban planning, as well as 20 years of experience in energy and infrastructure, diversity, community development, housing, and management.

"Housing has a fundamental role in shaping our opportunities and well-being as individuals, families, households, and communities. Housing that is safe and affordable can be a springboard to better health but also a host of other important outcomes. It is a privilege to lead this talented team of directors and staff at a time when getting it right has never been more critical or more possible."

—Dr. Christopher Jones, NCHH Board Chair

NCHH's public successes are programmatic in nature, but they are only possible if our organization is strong and healthy. In 2019, NCHH worked with CommonHealth ACTION to begin a series of trainings to equip staff with an understanding of using an equity lens, in both NCHH's operations and its programmatic work. We are committed to deepening these efforts in the future. Staff and board are also collaborating on a new strategic plan to be unveiled in 2020.

JOINING THE GLOBAL FIGHT FOR HEALTHY HOUSING

Since 2014, NCHH has been designated as the [U.S. Collaborating Center for Healthy Housing and Research](#) by the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) and the [Pan American Health Organization \(PAHO\)](#). Collaborating Centers and the institutions where they are located typically donate time, expertise, and other resources to improve health around the globe and here in the United States. Most recently, NCHH was appointed to serve on the [Healthy Housing Guidelines Development Group](#), which released the [first-ever global healthy housing recommendations](#) for nations around the world. At the request of WHO, NCHH chaired a meeting to implement the guidelines in Geneva in January 2020.

NCHH's Chief Scientist, Dr. David Jacobs, also spent three months on sabbatical in Australia and New Zealand during the fall of 2019 to promote the new guidelines.



Photo credit: Bridget Foley

EQUIPPING THE FRONT LINE

Through a range of activities including grant awards, flexible technical assistance, online training modules, and conference scholarships, NCHH remained focused on supporting local action, equipping communities and practitioners to overcome barriers, and improving local capacity to create healthier housing. Selected actions advancing these capacity-building efforts as described below.

- Launching the *Equipping Communities for Action* initiative, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation with additional support from the New York Community Trust, to build local capacity and advance evidence-based lead poisoning prevention efforts through policy and systems change in nine localities through 18 months of tailored coaching and support, engagement in a peer learning network, a customized analysis calculating the cost of childhood lead exposure and the economic benefits of interventions, and a \$25,000 grant.

- Collaborating with the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA), the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), through cooperative agreements with CDC's National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH), to **award three local governmental agencies** grants of \$20,000 each and flexible technical assistance from the collaborating national partners to support their agency's challenge to implement a "Health in All Policies" strategy as part of their lead prevention implementation program and activities.

26
localities
leveraged over
\$362,000
in grants and
scholarships from
NCHH to build both
organizational and
community capacity
to create healthier
housing in 2018
and 2019.

- Supporting, with funding from The Kresge Foundation, four registration scholarships for community applicants to attend the NEHA 2018 Annual Educational Conference (AEC) and Exhibition and HUD Healthy Homes Conference, held in Anaheim, California, June 25-28, 2018.
- Awarding [10 \\$7,500 grants](#), with funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, to support communities' efforts to integrate healthy homes activities into their healthcare systems and policies as well as develop a well-trained, knowledgeable, and reliable workforce to provide healthy homes services.
- Working for a 12th year in concert with the New York State Department of Health to provide innovative, reliable, and responsive technical assistance and program evaluation to both the state and their [15 local Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program grantees](#).
- Maintaining and expanding the [Building Systems to Sustain Home-Based Asthma Services](#) online learning platform designed to equip staff in public health agencies, state asthma control programs, state Medicaid agencies, and other housing and health organizations with information on how to build the systems, infrastructure, and financing to place home-based asthma services in place in their respective states, communities, or regions.

"We got exactly what we needed, when we needed it, and didn't have to jump through a bunch of hoops to get started or to keep going. We felt very well supported by the NCHH team. The wide variety of expertise and the depth of knowledge the team offered serviced our needs perfectly. The information sharing kept us from repeating the mistakes learned by previous programs in this field. Facilitating access to this national wealth of support for our state, and the knowledge, skills, and abilities our staff received through the TA support, has elevated our organization's capacity and reputation in the healthy homes market." –Efficiency Vermont

HELPING COMMUNITIES PLAN AND RESPOND TO EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

As extreme weather events become more frequent, NCHH is working to equip communities in [planning for and responding to these disasters](#).

In 2019, NCHH partnered with the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) and began work on an online resource dedicated to providing guidance to residents facing the negative health impacts of [wildfires and significant wildfire smoke events](#). This resource includes information for individuals and families to protect their health and home environments before, during, and after a wildfire. In 2018, the Center, supported by NEHA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, collaborated with Enterprise Community Partners to update guidance on how to [clean up and decontaminate flooded homes](#) safely and affordably. The updated guide, available in English and Spanish, reflects current best practices across a variety of housing types. An new elearning module is also available online.



CRACKING THE CODE

NCHH has worked extensively to develop tools and resources to help cities and states improve their housing and property maintenance codes to protect health. [NCHH's Code Comparison Tool](#) provides communities with an easy way to compare their codes to the [National Healthy Housing Standard](#) (designed by NCHH and the American Public Health Association) and the International Property Maintenance Code and generate a personalized report.

NCHH has provided specialized technical assistance about improving housing codes to six cities in Michigan and the New Mexico Department of Health and has also partnered with ChangeLab Solutions and Earthjustice to form the [Lead Legal Strategies Partnership](#) and develop new tools and resources to help communities improve their housing codes and code enforcement.

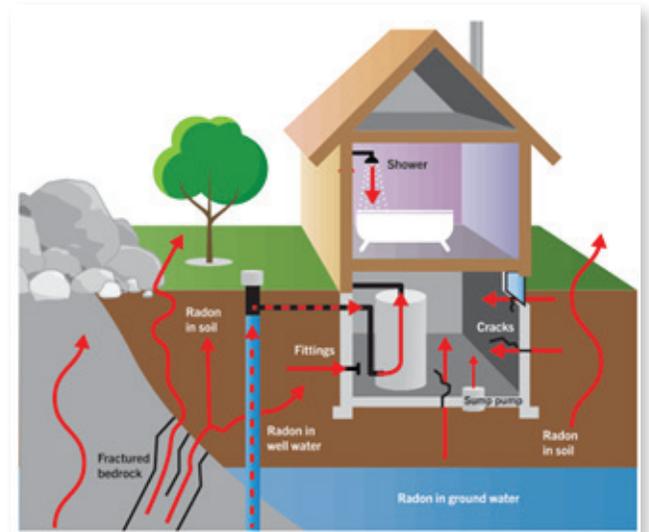


RESEARCH THAT TRANSLATES INTO PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS

NCHH partnered with the New York State Department of Health and the American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (AARST) to [investigate radon testing protocols for multifamily housing](#). Although this research is ongoing, the project has already paid dividends by influencing policy at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Late in 2019, HUD's Office of Multifamily Housing used our early findings to update their radon testing requirements. The plan was released for public comment in early 2020.

NCHH co-authored two reports with the University of Illinois assessing steps weatherization agencies take to protect their clients from radon. Past research found that tightening homes for energy efficiency can have the unintended consequence of raising radon levels.

Our research found that radon levels did not rise when weatherization agencies followed directives from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to install adequate ventilation and to follow U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidance on covering holes and bare dirt. Our research has reinforced DOE's commitment to these health and safety policies.



GETTING THE WORD OUT

NCHH launched a [new website](#) in 2018, designed to connect those on the front lines of healthy housing to the right data, tools, policies, best practices, and other resources. The website is organized around four main menus ([Who We Are](#), [Information and Evidence](#), [Tools and Data](#), and [Build the Movement](#)) aimed at helping visitors learn more about NCHH, explore healthy housing research, find tools and resources, and get involved in making the case for healthy housing.

In 2018 and 2019, NCHH also published [39 blogs](#), maintained the [Healthyhomesnet](#) and [Leadnet](#) listservs with a combined 1,400 subscribers, and increased our social media presence. Compared to the previous two-year period, we increased our impressions across platforms by 1,441% and our engagement by 412%. The Center also [authored or contributed to](#) six peer-reviewed articles and eight reports, white papers, and book chapters during this time.



CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS*

*National Center for Healthy Housing,
Inc. and Subsidiary, *Consolidated
Statements of Activities for the Fiscal
Year Ending September 30, 2018*

2018

Support and Revenue

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Unrestricted	Total
Grants and contracts	\$2,276,284	\$0	\$2,276,284
Contributions	13,563	350,000	363,563
Interest income	266	0	266
Other revenue	28,325	0	28,325
	2,318,438	350,000	2,668,438
Net assets released from restriction	1,073,852	(1,073,852)	0
Total Support and Revenue Expenses	3,392,290	723,582	2,668,438
Program	3,351,123	0	3,351,123
General and administrative	170,435	0	170,435
Fundraising	51,245	0	51,245
Total Expenses	3,572,803	0	3,572,803
Change in net assets before provision for income taxes	(180,513)	(723,852)	(904,365)
Recovery of income taxes	(38,199)	0	(38,199)
Change in net assets	(142,314)	(723,852)	(866,166)
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	633,544	1,540,234	2,173,778
Net Assets - End of Year	\$491,230	\$816,382	\$1,307,612

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS*

*National Center for Healthy Housing,
Inc. and Subsidiary, *Consolidated
Statements of Activities for the Fiscal
Year Ending September 30, 2019*

2019

Support and Revenue

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Unrestricted	Total
Grants and contracts	\$2,113,935	\$0	\$2,113,935
Contributions	338,728	1,100,000	1,438,728
Interest income	294	0	294
Other revenue	4,916	0	4,916
	<hr/>		
	2,457,873	1,100,000	3,557,873
Net assets released from restriction	1,132,874	(1,132,874)	0
Total Support and Revenue Expenses	3,590,747	(32,874)	3,557,873
Program	3,471,843	0	3,471,843
General and administrative	138,590	0	138,590
Fundraising	52,419	0	52,419
	<hr/>		
Total Expenses	3,662,852		3,662,852
Change in net assets before provision for income taxes	(72,105)	(32,874)	(104,979)
Provision for income taxes	38,478	0	38,478
Change in net assets	(110,583)	(32,874)	(143,457)
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Net Assets - Beginning of Year	491,230	816,382	1,307,612
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Net Assets - End of Year	\$380,647	\$783,508	\$1,164,155

NCHH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We thank our [board](#) for its volunteerism, financial support, and commitment to our mission.

Dr. C. Patrick Chaulk

Assistant Commissioner, HIV/STD Services, Bureau of Communicable Disease, Baltimore City Health Department

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Executive Director, Minnesota Community Health Worker Alliance

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Professor of Pediatrics, Arkansas Medical Center; formerly Surgeon General of the Public Health Service

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Product Sustainability Manager, Tarkett North America

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Assistant Vice President for State Government Affairs, Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago

NCHH STAFF

NCHH's [staff](#) includes housing, health, and environmental professionals with expertise in biostatistics, epidemiology, environmental health, public health, housing policy, industrial hygiene, and healthcare financing.

Lillian Agbeyegbe, DrPH

Project Manager

Christopher Bloom

Communications and Marketing Officer

Jill Breysse, MHS, CIH

Project Manager

Sherry Dixon, PhD

Biostatistician

Laura Fudala

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Michelle Harvey

Chief Operating Officer

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Deputy Director and CFO

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Rebuilding Together
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The W.K. Kellogg Foundation
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University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Wells Fargo Foundation

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