Healthy Homes Policy and Advocacy

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Outline

• Introduction to federal healthy housing policy

• The appropriations process

• How to take action

• Q&A
Federal Agencies

The big three:
• Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
• Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
• Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

And other programs at:
• Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
• Department of Energy (DOE)
• Department of Agriculture (USDA)
HUD

The National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition publishes annual funding requests for the programs in green.

[Image of HUD programs]

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The National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition publishes annual funding requests for the programs in green.

- **$290 million**: OLHCHH Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes. Supports state and local programs to reduce lead hazards from paint, dust, and soil in homes. Ensures disclosure of known lead during rent or sale.

- **$3 billion**: Many states and localities use CDBG Community Development Block Grants to provide match funding for HUD lead and healthy homes programs and for making affordable homes lead-safe when rehabilitating them.

- **$1.25 billion**: HOME Investment Partnership Program. HOME grants to state and localities are used for acquiring and rehabilitating affordable housing.
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**HEALTHY HOMES AND LEAD**
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

- Collects screening data to target prevention in high-risk areas.
- Awards grants to states and cities for blood lead surveillance, education, coordination, and local program development.
- Provides guidance to clinicians and allied professions.

**ASTHMA**
National Asthma Control Program

- Funds states, localities, and others to improve asthma surveillance, build coalitions that implement interventions, translate asthma guidelines into public health practice, collect and analyze data not available elsewhere, and increase asthma awareness.

**EPHT**
Environmental Public Health Tracking

- Delivers a core set of health, exposure, and hazards data, information, and tools to enable analysis, visualization, and reporting of insights drawn from data.

**EHL**
Environmental Health Laboratory

- Helps states measure and track exposure to harmful chemicals, including those that may come from the home by providing funding, expertise, training, and quality assurance to state public health laboratories.
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**HEALTHY HOMES AND LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM**
- Collects screening data to target prevention in high-risk areas.
- Provides guidance to clinicians and allied professions.
- $37 million

**ASTHMA PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROGRAM**
- Funds states, localities, and others to improve asthma surveillance, build coalitions that implement interventions, translate asthma research into practice, develop and disseminate actionable data not available elsewhere, and increase asthma awareness.
- $30 million

**EPHT Environmental Public Health Tracking**
- Delivers a core set of health, exposure, and hazards data, information, and tools to enable research, data analysis, surveillance, and reporting and insights drawn from data.
- $34 million

**EHL Environmental Health Laboratory**
- Helps states measure and track exposure to harmful chemicals, including toxins that may come from soil, dust, water, and paint, and to improve public health laboratories.
- $65 million
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EPA

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- $27 million
  - Lead Risk Education Program
  - Lead Categorical Grants Program
  - Updates and supports implementation of lead hazard standards.
  - Ensures treatment of residential drinking water.
  - Ensures disclosure of known lead during rent or sale.

- $10 million
  - RADON Indoor Air: Radon Categorical Grants Program
  - Promotes actions to reduce health risks from radon (National Radon Action Plan).
  - Incorporates radon reduction features in new home and school construction and test/fix radon in existing homes.

- $6.5 million
  - CHILDREN Children and Ozone Sensitive Populations Agency Coordination
  - Ensures that EPA programs protect children’s environmental health through the integration of community-level programs, and collecting/interpreting data.

- $13.7 million
  - IAQ Reduce Risk Indoor Air
  - Educates and equips individuals and organizations to reduce health risks from poor indoor air quality, including radon, secondhand smoke, carbon monoxide, indoor allergens and pests, and dust.

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And Others...

• Other programs at HHS, USDA, and DOE fund services that support:
  • Health, nutrition, and development for children up to age five
  • Pre- and postnatal care and home visits for women and infants
  • Affordable rural housing
  • Veterans housing
  • Weatherization and energy assistance for low-income homes
  • Development of energy efficiency solutions
Why do we advocate for these specific programs?
How Does the Funding Work?

• Typical timeline:
  • Subcommittees taking requests in March/April
  • Subcommittees and committees marking bills in June/July
  • Continuing resolutions in the fall
  • Omnibus bill passage in late fall/winter
  • Due to COVID-19, the timeline may be delayed this year

• Important subcommittees:
  • Transportation, Housing and Urban Development
  • Labor, Housing and Human Services, Education
  • Interior, Environment
Recent Funding Victories: HUD

HUD Lead Poisoning Prevention Investments by Fiscal Year
($ Millions)


National Center for HEALTHY HOUSING
Recent Funding Victories: CDC

**CDC Lead Poisoning Prevention Investments by Fiscal Year ($ Millions)**

*Does not include $35 million additional one-time funding authorized by the WIIN*
Ways to Take Action

1. Join the National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition: [nshhcoalition.org](http://nshhcoalition.org).


3. Connect with others in your community.

4. Meet with your member of Congress to talk about how healthy homes issues impact you, your family, or the place where you live.
Why Meet with Your Member of Congress?

• All members of Congress have offices both in DC and in their home districts.
• Meetings are usually with staff; the member of Congress may drop in.
• Short time commitment: Most meetings are about 15 minutes; they don’t usually go over 30 minutes.
• Staffer may oversee many other topics in addition to healthy housing – it’s up to you to educate them on how this is an issue in your district.
• They are looking to learn from you. If you build a strong relationship, they may start to look to you when they have more questions about the issue.
• Speaking to offices does NOT constitute lobbying if you do not discuss specific legislation – there are ways to talk about healthy housing issues, your work, and important federal programs without discussing specific legislation or funding numbers.
A Typical Meeting Structure

How much time do we have?

Introductions and Thank Yous

Ask
*Say upfront what you want your member of Congress to do.*

Tell Your Story

Reinforce with Talking Points
*Tie your story to the importance of healthy homes funding.*

Repeat Your Ask
How to Tell Your Story

1. This is how health hazards in the home have impacted your family, community, or state:

“In 2015, 2,121 of the children tested in North Carolina had an elevated blood lead level; children in NC with public health insurance have double the rate (15.5%) of current asthma than children with private insurance....”
How to Tell Your Story

2. This is what healthy homes programs have done for your family or your community:

“Lead dust was removed from my home when my two children were small....”

“We’ve had a HUD grant since 2012....”
3. This is why continued funding of surveillance, education, and remediation is important for your family and community:

“This is the unaddressed need....”

“I don’t want other children to suffer as Jason has....”
Preparing for Meetings

• NCHH is happy to schedule a meeting with you if you are interested.
• Review talking points about the need in your community and/or why federal programs matter.
• Resources:
  • Frequently asked questions: [nchh.org/build-the-movement/five-things/meet-your-member-of-congress-locally/](http://nchh.org/build-the-movement/five-things/meet-your-member-of-congress-locally/)
• Let us know if you’d like to review your information over the phone beforehand!
Further Resources

• Federal, state, and local policy recommendations to prevent lead poisoning: https://nchh.org/information-and-evidence/healthy-housing-policy/10-policies/

• NLC’s *City-Level Models to Advance Healthy Housing*: https://nchh.org/resource-library/nlc_city-level-models-to-advance-healthy-housing.pdf

• Learn about local housing codes: https://nchh.org/tools-and-data/housing-code-tools/
Questions?