

# THE HUD HEALTHY HOMES INITIATIVE

## National Center for Healthy Homes November 8, 2002

HUD Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control



## Improving children's health through improving housing







# HUD's Healthy Homes Initiative

 Executive Order 13045 "Reducing Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children"

"risks to health or to safety that are attributable to products or substances that the child is likely to come in contact with or ingest (such as the air we breathe, the food we eat the water we drink or use for recreation the soil we live on and the products we use or are exposed to)."

www.epa.gov/children

www.childrenshealth.gov



- Focus on "high priority" hazards
- Focus on application of low cost

assessment and control methods

 Address multiple housing-related health hazards vs. single hazard approach



Need Clear Risk Assessment Protocol
 Visual assessment
 Low cost envt. Sampling

Interdisciplinary approach

 e.g., housing agencies coordinating with health departments, architects with environmental engineers



- Cost-effective intervention strategies
  - e.g., deflecting groundwater from foundations
- Guidelines/standards



- Effective outreach materials
  - Clear and consistent message



- Grant Program
- Public Education
- Research
- Partnerships
- Interagency Cooperation



#### • Awarded in 1999, 2000, 2001

- 18 Demonstration and Education Grants (\$15.2 million total awarded)
- 9 Research Grants (\$4.8 million total awarded)
- 2 Mold and Moisture Grants
  - (\$4 million total awarded)
- 2002 NOFA awarded \$5.9 million to 9 Demonstration Grants and \$1.6 million in 3 Technical Studies Grants



- Develop protocols for hazard assessment and control
- Evaluate the effectiveness of interventions
- Build local capacity to sustain Healthy Homes programs
- Explore the relationship between housing and health



#### Visual assessment tools to evaluate hazards

- Task specs for hazard control
- Cost information
- Training work crews and home educators from the community



- Economic Opportunity
  - Work crews
  - Peer educators & community healthy works
  - Contractors (e.g., cleaning and IPM)



- Training
- Healthy Homes website
- Conferences
- Grantee activities

# Healthy Homes Web Site

#### http://www.hud.gov/offices/lead/hhi





- HHI funds research through grants, interagency agreements, and contracts to answer the questions
  - How do we accurately measure hazards in housing?
  - What are the important links between housing and health?
  - What interventions are the most cost-effective?



#### • Federal Task Forces

 CDC, EPA, Consumer Protection Safety Commission, DOE, NIST, NIH

### Interagency Agreements

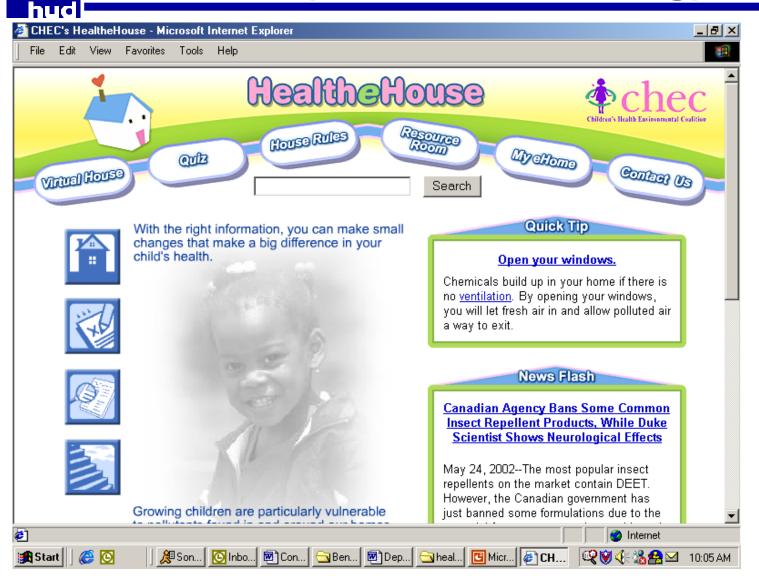
- USDA CSREES & FPL
- NIST BFRL
- CDC National Center for Environmental Health & National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health



#### Web resources

- Children's Health Environmental Coalition Web site - http://www.checnet.org
- Cooperative Extension Service Healthy Homes Partnership – www.uwex.edu/healthyhome/
- Healthy Homes Grantee Electronic Exchange www.icfhosting.net/HUD/HH/HealthyH.nsf

# Children's Health Environmental Coalition (www.checnet.org)





#### www.uwex.edu/healthyhome/





- Assessment tools
  - "Help Yourself to a Healthy Home"
  - Visual Assessment Checklist

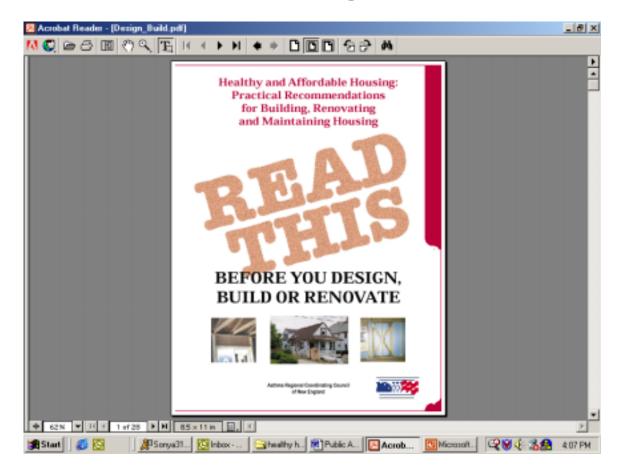
#### Building guidance

- Task specifications
- "Read This" Pamphlets
- ARC Building Guidance for Healthy Homes www.asthmaregionalcouncil.org





#### http://www.buildingscience.com



# HHI Results – Aiding Networks that Support HH Initiatives

- Partnerships to Promote High Performance Healthy Homes
- HUD Healthy Homes regional points of contact in the Northeast, Midwest and West Coast
- EPA and DOE Regional Partners
- USDA Extension Service Healthy Homes Coordinators in 40 states



- Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing <u>www.pathnet.org</u>
- Build a Better Home Coalition www.buildabetterhome.org
- Federal Fire Partnership
- SafeUSA



- State and local health and housing departments
- Community development agencies
- Community Action Agencies
- Community health centers
- Health educators
- Weatherization programs
- Head start programs
- Others?



## HHI Looking Forward – Other Allied Efforts

- Community Environmental Health Resource Centers
  - Project of the Alliance to End Childhood Lead Poisoning funds 13 local grantees
  - Tools and resources to assess hazards
  - Advocacy to protect children from health hazards
  - http://www.aeclp.org/cehrc.html

- Expanding participation in these networks
- Building effective coordination between housing and health agencies
- Leveraging energy efficiency & integrating Healthy Homes into "High Performance Housing"

High Performance Housing

- Energy Efficient
- Durable
- Sustainable

## Healthy and Safe for Occupants

 As championed by Affordable Comfort and EEBA, and "Green Building" organizations Contact information

- HUD Contact
  - Ellen Taylor: 202-755-1785, ext.116
    Ellen\_R.\_Taylor@hud.gov
  - HUD Healthy Homes Initiative Web site: www.hud.gov/offices/lead/hhi