



National Center for **HEALTHY HOUSING**

Using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funding to Improve Indoor Air Quality A Technical Assistance Tool

NCHH created this technical assistance brief to support local and state leaders (e.g., governments, agencies, programs, advocates, et cetera) in understanding how Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding can be used to accomplish housing repairs designed to create healthier, safer indoor environments. We use indoor air quality (IAQ) as an example of a housing-based environmental subject that CDBG funding can help to address throughout this brief, but the background and strategies could be applied across a range of housing health and safety hazards depending on your community priorities. We present opportunities, real-world examples, and discussion points to help communities consider how their CDBG programs can integrate priority IAQ solutions. Further, as this document presents an emerging opportunity for action, we'd love to hear about your experiences to help us build a collective understanding of how to leverage this funding source. If you have a home repair program that is funded (or partially funded) by CDBG and specifically addresses or targets IAQ issues such as radon, mold, pests, carbon monoxide, or others, we encourage you to contact us at askanexpert@nchh.org to share more.

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The Opportunity to Improve Health at Home with CDBG

Americans spend up to 90% of their time indoors, largely at home, where they may be exposed to common indoor air contaminants including fine and ultrafine particulate matter (< PM_{2.5}), radon, pesticides, mold, moisture, and other environmental asthma triggers, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and combustion byproducts, such as nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and carbon monoxide (CO). These indoor exposures can cause and worsen health risks including respiratory illnesses, cardiovascular disease, and cancers. Residential IAQ problems disproportionately impact low-income communities, communities of color, and people with underlying health conditions.

Many communities are taking action to improve indoor environments to promote population health. Others are interested in the first steps but feel challenged to find information about how to carry out and fund this type of work. Programs that pay for housing repairs to reduce or eliminate indoor air quality (IAQ) pollutants are essential to this effort.

Such repairs may include installing systems to reduce elevated radon levels that may increase the risk for lung cancer, eliminating leaks and openings that can let moisture and pests inside, installing range hoods, installing carbon monoxide alarms, increasing ventilation, and installing enhanced filtration systems to address contaminants like particulate matter (resulting from cooking, outdoor air pollution, combustion appliances inside the home, and tobacco smoke) and even viruses that can spread in indoor air.

One of the biggest barriers for communities in providing housing repairs that specifically address pollutants to improve indoor air quality is a lack of funding. Localities can use CDBG funding to begin providing these services and/or enhance, deepen, and expand existing programs. CDBG is a long-standing, stable, and widely used program at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that serves urban communities directly and smaller locales through states; it already funds a range of activities including housing activities, which comprises 26%¹ of CDBG expenditures nationally. CDBG is designed to be a flexible source of funding; communities can and do use it for various local priorities, including to improve the health and safety of homes and neighborhoods. For example, CDBG is already a source of funding that allows communities to address imminent health threats like carbon monoxide exposure. However, many other serious health and safety concerns do not pose imminent threats to health, and CDBG funding can be used to address those as well. This document



LEARN MORE

To learn more about healthy housing and IAQ in general, as well as specific indoor air pollutants and repairs to improve indoor environments, visit...

- [EPA's IAQ Home Page](#)
- [NCHH's *The Principles of a Healthy Home* Fact Sheet](#)
- [HUD's *Help Yourself to a Healthy Home* Booklet](#)
- [The National Healthy Housing Standard](#) (developed in partnership by NCHH and the American Public Health Association)
- [HUD's *Health@Home* Guidelines](#)

provides background on the CDBG program, how funds are allocated, and opportunities to leverage this funding to advance health and safety. It also offers examples of how some communities are leveraging this funding and considerations for anyone who wishes to use this funding source.

The CDBG Program

The **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)** program provides funds to states and localities for the creation and preservation of affordable and decent housing, support and improvement of public facilities, and economic development and job growth. The program is housed in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD allocates funding directly to cities with over 50,000 people, and urban counties with over 200,000 people (what HUD refers to as “entitlement communities”). Funding has been allocated directly from HUD to such localities since the program’s inception in 1974; funding for smaller (“non-entitlement”) cities and counties has been distributed via states since 1981.²

Annual funding levels for CDBG have changed over time. Since FY 2000, annual appropriations for CDBG have fluctuated from a high of around \$5 billion in FY

¹ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (n.d.). CDBG activity expenditure reports. Retrieved from <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/cdbg/cdbg-expenditure-reports/>

² Forty-nine (49) states and Puerto Rico participate in the state/non-entitlement program; HUD treats each of Hawaii’s counties as entitlement grantees. Four territories (American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) receive funding under CDBG’s Insular Areas program.



This flexibility, and the program's reliability, makes CDBG an important opportunity for funding healthy homes and indoor air quality at the local level.

2001 to recent annual appropriations of \$3–\$4 billion. Allocations for cities and states are determined by a formula based on census data covering population, poverty, and housing. In 2023, the median award for entitlement communities was \$900,327, and the median award for states was \$18,806,749. For an example of what this looked like in one state, 14 entitlement communities in Maryland received funds in 2023, ranging from \$21,225,885 in Baltimore to \$177,913 in Bowie; seven of the 14 communities received less than \$1 million. Additionally, the state of Maryland received \$8,165,077 for distribution to non-entitlement communities.

CDBG is built to be flexible. Communities develop their activities and goals to meet broad national program objectives, the first two of which have additional subcategories:

- Benefit low- and moderate-income people.
- Prevent or eliminate slums and blight.
- Address otherwise unfunded community development needs that are particularly urgent due to serious and immediate threats to community health and welfare.

Any CDBG-funded activity has to meet at least one national objective, and grantees must allocate at least

70% of funding toward the first objective, serving low- and moderate-income people. Read [more about the national objectives here](#).

This flexibility, and the program's reliability, makes CDBG an important opportunity for funding healthy homes and indoor air quality at the local level.

How Funding Is Allocated

Every community that receives CDBG funding directly is required to submit to HUD a strategic plan in HUD's [Consolidated Planning Process](#) every three to five years. The Consolidated Plan, which also covers the community's plans for other HUD Community Planning and Development housing programs (such as HOME and Emergency Shelter Grants), outlines the community's needs and priorities for how the jurisdiction plans to use allocated funding, based on an assessment of housing and community development needs, an analysis of housing and economic market conditions, and available resources.

Between Consolidated Plan submission years, each community creates and submits to HUD an Annual Action Plan, which details the annual projects, actions, activities, and the specific federal and nonfederal resources that will be used each year to address the priority needs and specific goals identified by the Consolidated Plan. Communities report on their progress and outcomes in a Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) annually.

During development of the Consolidated Plan, localities are legally required to consult with agencies and organizations that provide relevant services such as housing, health, social services, fair housing enforcement, and emergency management. HUD also requires localities to collect input from the public, through at least one public hearing and a public comment period of at least 30 days. See graphic on page 4 for a simple overview of the planning and reporting process.

The department or agency responsible for implementing CDBG funds and overseeing the development of consolidated planning varies by locality, but the process is generally led by a local housing agency or a community development agency. The city council (or county council, equivalent elected governing body, or other authorizing official) must vote to approve the

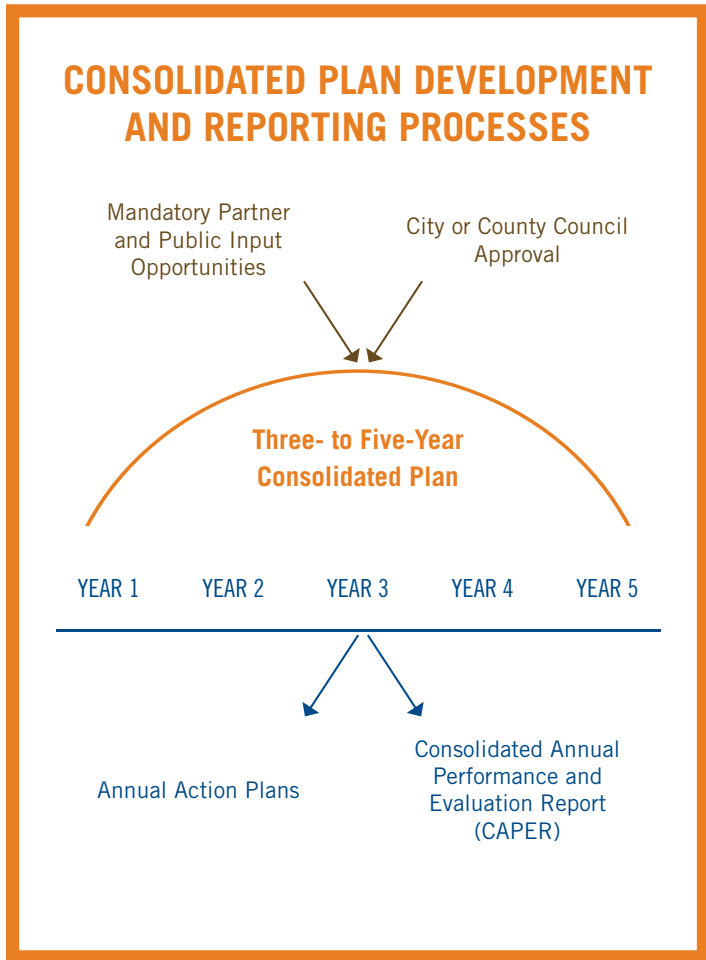


LEARN MORE

Read more about...

- [CDBG Entitlement programs](#)
- [CDBG state programs](#)
- [CDBG insular areas](#)
(American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands)
- [Your local allocation](#)
- [Your local plans and reports](#)
- [Citizen participation and consultation practices](#)

Also, see the text box on page 9 for more information on where to look in your local plan to identify housing rehabilitation goals and programs.



the **Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS)**. Repair activities, including those that address IAQ issues, can be outlined and reported under IDIS numbers 14A (single-unit rehab) and 14B (multiunit rehab). “Rehab” in the context of CDBG can include larger or small targeted repairs to address priority and/or emergency issues. Unlike HOME and other programs, CDBG includes any repair of an existing building and does not have a minimum dollar threshold or require that an entire house be completely rehabilitated or brought to a specific housing standard.⁴

Pathways for Using CDBG Funding for IAQ Repairs

Two pathways for using CDBG funding for IAQ repairs exist: (1) Include IAQ work in the Strategic Plan element of the multiyear Consolidated Plan, or (2) add IAQ work in an amendment to an Annual Action Plan. The choice for which route to take will depend on what works best for the community, according to factors like preferred local process, timing, and political environment. In addition, conducting an environmental review to comply with HUD regulations is an eligible CDBG expense, so grantees may address IAQ or other healthy homes issues through the environmental review process. See the section on environmental review and radon later in this brief for more information.

Communities frequently use CDBG funds to support home repair programs to provide grants or low- or

consolidated plan and may be involved in drafting or revising plan documents.

Opportunities for Addressing Residential Indoor Air Quality and Improving Housing Quality

Home repairs and interventions to address IAQ pollutants³ qualify as eligible activities under the CDBG regulation (see the text box on right), which specifically lists deferred maintenance, installation of security devices like smoke detectors, and abatement of contaminants; broad categories under which a range of activities to improve IAQ (e.g., reducing elevated radon levels, installing carbon monoxide detectors, replacing gas stoves) can be addressed.

CDBG grantees submit Consolidated Plans, Annual Action Plans and CAPER reports to HUD through

³ While this brief focuses on IAQ, communities also use CDBG to support other repairs that address housing quality and health hazards in the home.

⁴ In setting up their repair programs, some communities have chosen to use Section 8 Housing Quality Standards and/or local housing codes as a standard for repair.

24 CFR § 570.202

ELIGIBLE REHABILITATION AND PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES

- (b) *Types of assistance*
 - (2) Labor, materials, and other costs of rehabilitation of properties, including repair directed toward an accumulation of **deferred maintenance**, replacement of principal fixtures and components of existing structures, installation of security devices, **including smoke detectors** and dead bolt locks, and renovation through alterations, additions to, or enhancement of existing structures and improvements, abatement of asbestos hazards (and **other contaminants**) in buildings and improvements that may be undertaken singly, or in combination;

no-interest and/or deferred loans to low- and moderate-income property owners. Because these programs often address health and safety issues, adding IAQ aligns with the goals of these programs. Numerous locations across the country already use CDBG funds for IAQ-related repairs. Here are some examples of home repair programs that have added radon testing and remediation to their eligible activities.

- **Leavenworth's Home Repair Program.** The City of Leavenworth, Kansas, has operated a home repair program using CDBG funds since 2015. Starting in June 2023, they added a radon requirement, seeking to address anticipated new environmental review guidance from HUD (see below). Leavenworth now requires that every home in their program perform a radon test before work begins. Program staff conduct the tests using kits from Kansas State University, which cost about \$6 each; results generally take 5-7 days. Leavenworth allocates up to \$13,000 for low-income owners and up to \$10,000 for moderate-income owners in total home repair funds to each home in the program, with a lien placed on the home that is forgiven after three years if the home isn't sold. When a home tests for radon at or above 4 pCi/L, an additional \$1,000 is awarded to cover the cost of mitigation, and that amount is excluded from the lien. Leavenworth contracts with a certified radon professional to conduct the mitigation. As of April 2024, of the 11 homes that had gone through the program since June 2023, two had required radon mitigation.
- **Salt Lake City's Home Repair Program.** Salt Lake City, Utah, has been operating a CDBG home repair program for over 20 years. For the last three years, they have offered home repair grants to households under 50% area median income (AMI) and low-interest loans to households between 51-80% AMI. The city conducts a radon test on every home in the program. If the test result is over 4 pCi/L and the homeowner requests it, radon mitigation will be included in the repairs. The program notes that homeowners tend to prioritize structural issues. They serve about 15 homes a year; in the most recent fiscal year, one home received radon mitigation.
- **Iowa's Exterior Home Improvements Program.** Until it ended in 2022, the Iowa Economic Development Authority administered an exterior home repairs program along with other CDBG-funded housing programs. The program provided five-year forgivable grants to 203 homes from 2012 to 2022. Each home in the program was tested for radon. If the home was above 3.9 pCi/L, mitigation would be included unless the homeowner signed a

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Radon seems to be skipped over by many homeowners; if that is something that a program wants to prioritize, it should be made clear up front since it may take away from other repairs the homeowner may want.

Housing Stability Division, Salt Lake City Corporation

waiver opting out of the mitigation. Notably, radon mitigation and lead hazard control activities (when hazards were present) were the only interior repairs allowed under this program.

- **SEDA-COG's Housing Rehabilitation Programs.** A public organization created by 11 counties, SEDA-Council of Governments (SEDA-COG) operates housing rehabilitation programs in 14 communities in central Pennsylvania. SEDA-COG manages CDBG funding for counties and municipalities as well as CDBG state funds provided through Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development. SEDA-COG's programs address and mitigate radon, lead, asbestos, mold, and other health and safety and code issues. The program estimates that 75-80% of participating homes have lead hazards, and at least 60% have radon levels over the U.S. EPA action level of 4 pCi/L of indoor air. The program requires testing for lead and radon.
- **Maine's Home Repair Network.** Maine's Department of Economic and Community Development provides state CDBG funding for housing rehabilitation to communities in the state that don't receive CDBG entitlement funds. The program is operated regionally by community action agencies. IAQ risk management activities, including testing and repair for asbestos and radon, are eligible under this program.
- **Champaign's Minor Home Repair Program.** For several years, the city of Champaign, Illinois, has operated a Minor Home Repair Program funded directly by CDBG. Eligible Champaign homeowners are provided grants and forgivable deferred payment loans to correct housing deficiencies that threaten the structural integrity of the building or the health and safety of the occupants in the home. Building Safety Inspectors and Rehab Technicians inspect the property, including conducting radon tests, and the homeowners are advised about the results. Radon mitigation is performed when radon

testing determines that it is necessary (4.0 pCi/L or more). Radon mitigation is a newer part of this program; so far only two homes have received it.

- **Lee's Summit Home Preservation Program.** Since 2019, the City of Lee's Summit, Missouri, has funded minor home repairs for residents using CDBG funds. The City of Lee's Summit partners with the Truman Heritage Habitat for Humanity to provide home preservation services. The repairs include minor exterior repairs and critical repair services that may cause danger to the homeowner and surrounding neighbors. Each home that is chosen for participation in the program is subject to radon testing. Free radon tests are provided by the State of Missouri on its website ([Free Radon Test Kit Offer](#)). The radon tests are then administered by the homeowner using the instructions on the test kit. The original result of the test must be submitted to the city. Should radon levels be found above the established threshold in the home, 4 pCi/L or greater, radon mitigation must occur before the Home Preservation Program can commit funds to pay for exterior repairs on the home. Mitigation system and installation is an eligible expense under the program with preapproval from the city. In the last year, Truman Habitat for Humanity assisted 10 homes with repairs including radon mitigation, new roofs, and minor painting.

Several communities have paired CDBG with other HUD funding sources, or used other funding sources within HUD that have some relationship to CDBG, to address IAQ, including the following:

- **Chicago's Healthy Homes Program.** Chicago operates a grant from HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes that includes Healthy Homes Supplemental Program funding. The city uses CDBG funding to support salaries for four inspectors who work on this program. CDBG funds have also supported training for inspectors.
- **Buffalo's CDBG-CV Renter and Owner Rehab.** In 2021-2023, the city of Buffalo partnered with four local nonprofits to operate a new home repair program that combined both regular CDBG and Community Development Block Grant CARES Act (CDBG-CV) funding to address repairs including leaking roofing and siding, adding ventilation to bathrooms and kitchens, sealing access points for pest intrusion, and addressing lead hazards. This program was unique because it focused on IAQ pollutants and utilized CARES Act funding while also requiring participants to demonstrate that they had received a COVID-19 diagnosis or were vulnerable to it due to preexisting conditions.

Do you have a home repair program that is funded (or partially funded) by CDBG and specifically addresses or targets IAQ issues like radon, mold, pests, carbon monoxide, or something else? If so, we want to hear about it!

Contact us to share:

askanexpert@nchh.org

- **The Spokane Tribe of Indians' Radon Mitigation Program.** The Spokane Tribe of Indians received funding from HUD's Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) Imminent Threat Funds to **mitigate radon** in 21 homes and also in the tribe's water system in 2013. ICDBG was originally established a few years after CDBG; it was funded out of the Community Development Fund alongside CDBG until FY20 and is administered by the Office of Native American Programs.

For more examples of local home repair programs that address healthy housing issues, including many that are CDBG-funded, see NCHH's technical assistance tool, [Establishing and Running a Local Home Repair Program](#).

CDBG and Environmental Review

Programs using CDBG funds, like other HUD-funded programs, must conduct an environmental review on assisted properties before spending the funds. **24 CFR 58.5(i)**, within the federal regulations for environmental review, states that:

[I]t is HUD policy that all properties that are being proposed for use in HUD programs be free of hazardous materials, contamination, toxic chemicals and gases, and radioactive substances, where a hazard could affect the health and safety of occupants or conflict with the intended utilization of the property.

While this does not mention any IAQ issues specifically, IAQ hazards may fall under one of these enunciated categories. For example, radon, as a radioactive substance, would count. HUD expanded on this specifically for radon with the release of a notice on [Departmental Policy for Addressing Radon in the Environmental Review Process](#), issued January 11, 2024. The effective date for this new policy was April 11, 2024, for nontribal recipients and January 11, 2026, for tribal recipients.

In the program notice, HUD clarifies that radon must be considered during environmental review per the regulation listed above. The notice does not impose radon testing requirements, but it does provide guidance on options for considering radon in environmental review. Options listed range from testing each home (as in the Leavenworth and Salt Lake City examples above) to using existing data to determine average radon levels in the area. When a level over 4 pCi/L is identified, the program must include a mitigation plan.

To support the new program notice, HUD held a webinar series on radon and housing; [recordings](#), [slide decks](#), and a [Q&A document on the radon policy notice](#) are available online.

Benefits of Addressing Residential Indoor Air Quality

Housing-related illness, including asthma and other respiratory disease, radon-induced lung cancer, cardiovascular disease, and other illnesses pose a significant and costly disease burden in the U.S. [Housing hazards cost the U.S. billions](#) annually, contributing to total costs of \$81.9 billion for asthma, \$2.9 billion from radon-induced lung cancer, and \$1.3 billion from accidental CO poisonings, among other costs. Further, substandard indoor environments and exposures to harmful IAQ are health equity issues: There are persistent racial and economic disparities in both exposure to and health consequences of poor indoor environments.

However, there is potential to improve population health while taking health inequities seriously, specifically by addressing IAQ where housing-based risks accumulate, particularly for low-income communities and populations that are disproportionately and historically exposed to poor indoor air. For example, strong science demonstrates that [installing a carbon monoxide detector provides a return of over \\$7.00 for each dollar spent](#), and [each dollar invested to reduce asthma triggers at home provides a return on investment of at least \\$2.03](#). The returns on such IAQ investments can be higher where asthma risk is concentrated in clusters of housing, as can be reflected in data like emergency department visit rates by city block or housing development, for example.

In addition to improving public health, programs that improve IAQ and housing quality also support job creation, increase home values, lower residents' energy bills, decrease carbon emissions, and can result in better educational outcomes for children. Ensuring that people are not harmed by the air they breathe at home is a vital and concrete action that communities can take

to fulfill the goals of the CDBG program to build stronger and more resilient communities.

Considerations

Consider the following points as you explore incorporating IAQ activities into CDBG home repair plans:

- Programs that address healthy housing and/or indoor air quality are generally most effective when they function as part of a larger package of programs, policies, and incentives. Therefore, when planning programs, connect the effort to complementary programs. For IAQ, key partnerships often include the local health department and partners that provide home visiting services to help residents identify and control IAQ pollutants for asthma, including clinical partners and healthcare payers (e.g., [Children's Mercy Kansas City's Healthy Homes Program](#)). These programs may be able to refer residents to a CDBG-funded repair program (and vice versa). Another important partnership to consider may be weatherization and energy efficiency programs⁵ and energy access services, which can assist with some minimal health and safety improvements including improving air quality where feasible in their work.
- Though this technical assistance brief focuses on improving IAQ, communities frequently and appropriately consider the connections between IAQ, energy efficiency, equity, and public health and identify opportunities to take action that advances efforts across multiple sectors. When considering using CDBG funding for IAQ-related home repairs, it can be helpful to think about the home environment in the broadest sense and look for integrated, strategic activities that combine CDBG funds with other funds supporting neighborhood-level work. For example, many communities receive funding from both CDBG and the [HOME Investment Partnerships Program](#) (HOME). HOME is also funded through HUD and uses the same consolidated planning process but has stricter requirements governing rehabilitation work. Some communities use CDBG and HOME to develop home repair programs that operate in tandem, targeting different home repair needs (for

⁵ All states receive funding from the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP); the programs are often administered at the local level by community action agencies. You can learn about each state's program and contact information through [DOE](#) or the [National Association of State Community Services Programs](#). WAP funding includes support for health and safety measures, usually at 15% of program operations; you can read more about how WAP works in [this brief](#).

example, a common combination is a whole-home rehab program funded primarily by HOME and an emergency repair program funded primarily by CDBG). Examples of similar home repair setups are described on page six of *Establishing and Running a Local Home Repair Program*.

- When targeting specific audiences to provide funding, collaboration between programs can be very helpful. One program that uses collaboration to conduct outreach is **Connecticut's Radon Program**. In Connecticut, the Department of Public Health provides radon education, testing, and mitigation using State Indoor Radon Grant (SIRG) funding. When the state housing department hosts an information session, the Department of Public Health's Radon Program presents their radon information on measurement and mitigation basics. Then, consultants who work with communities that are receiving assistance through CDBG funding request and distribute free radon test kits from the Radon Program.
- Federal funding sources, including CDBG, have specific requirements for dealing with lead and asbestos) during rehabilitation. These requirements may be tied to the costs of rehabilitation work done in each unit (for example, any project receiving more than \$25,000 in federal rehabilitation funding must include abatement of any lead hazards).
- When your program activities include remediation of radon, lead-based paint hazards, or asbestos, you will need to (1) ensure your work is compliant with applicable mitigation standards, and (2) use trained professionals who are appropriately credentialed. The standards and credentials may differ by state.
- Whether you're setting up a new program or starting from an existing program, if your community wants a program focused on or limited to "emergency repairs," it can be helpful to know that there are existing programs that have successfully defined health and safety hazards as emergencies. With the flexibility CDBG funding provides, plans can include work to address significant health and safety issues as urgent priority activities.
- It can be difficult to determine how to impact the local CDBG allocation process. Local allocation processes can become routinized.

Do you want to know more about how communities have successfully influenced the CDBG allocation process? So do we! Is it most commonly done by changing criteria within an existing home repair program or redistributing funds to create a new or revised program? Were there triggering events such as a change in administration (politically or bureaucratically), a crisis, a funding disruption? Who tends to initiate the change – inside forces or outside forces, housing forces or non-housing forces? How important was the public input process to the change in program design?

We're considering developing a companion piece to explore this in more detail.

Contact us if you are working on these issues now, have a local success story to share, or can connect us with someone who is/does:

askanexpert@nchh.org

Existing programs are all priorities and frequently underfunded. As CDBG funding levels to individual communities remain relatively unchanged from year to year, bringing in a new concept for funding can prompt pushback from existing beneficiaries associated with existing projects as well as constituents receiving their services. It can be helpful to understand the local landscape, listen to concerns that others have about the potential tradeoffs of investing in a new program, identify key players, build relationships, and learn more about potential alignments and challenges.

- The citizen review process, which is a required part of the ongoing CDBG allocation process, is an accountability system for ensuring a focus on community priorities and facilitating change when change is needed. The process that vetted existing programs is built to ensure consideration of emerging needs.
- Growing support for health measures can be accompanied by strategic advocacy to grow the available pool of federal funds.



Twenty states require **credentials and compliance with standards** for the performance of radon measurement and mitigation: CA, CO, CT, FL, IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, ME, MN, NE, NH, NJ, OH, PA, RI, UT, VA, WV.

Getting Started

If you ARE NOT responsible for operating your local CDBG program... identify the managing agency and specific program manager and determine whether the agency currently offers a housing repair program.

- If your local CDBG program *does not* offer a housing repair program... review the current goals, activities, and timelines presented in the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans and begin to identify how a housing repair program that intentionally includes IAQ repairs could (or does) fit in with the community's established plan.⁶ Then reach out to the program manager to begin building a relationship and discussing opportunities.
- If your local CDBG program *does* offer a housing repair program... identify who is managing that specific program and talk to them to learn more about what is (or is not) considered an eligible activity and discuss potential pathways to expanding activities to cover IAQ repairs if applicable.
- In any of these conversations, whether you are another local government agency, a community nonprofit, an advocacy group, or another interested stakeholder, draw connections for the CDBG and/or home repair program staff about how they can also benefit from exploring these topics and how you can be an active partner to the work.

If you ARE responsible for operating your local CDBG program... many of the above suggestions apply to you as well (e.g., review the current landscape and look for opportunities to begin or expand home repairs that intentionally include activities to improve indoor air quality). In addition, you can reach out to other community members to learn more about what needs they see and build relationships to engage them in support of IAQ work.

Tools You Can Use

In addition to the resources hyperlinked throughout this brief, explore the following for more information to help support your efforts.

- The following dashboards and data tools can help you explore local data and identify IAQ and other housing quality issues in your community:
 - NCHH's State of Healthy Housing was created to alert policymakers and advocates in the U.S.'s

⁶ If you aren't seeing housing quality/housing rehab included directly in your community's current plan, we encourage you to think creatively about how your community is defining goals and how addressing IAQ could help meet them. Some broader keywords you might see include "community resiliency," "housing stability," and "suitable living environment."

READING YOUR LOCAL PLANS

Consolidated Plans and Annual Action Plans are long documents. Fortunately, they follow a standard format. If you're looking to identify if your local program includes home repair, rehabilitation, or addresses housing quality, you might find the most relevant information in the following sections:

- Consolidated Plan: SP-25 Priority Needs.
- Consolidated Plan: SP-45 Goals Summary.
- Consolidated Plan: SP-65 Lead Based Paint Hazards.
- Annual Plan: AP-20 Annual Goals.
- Annual Plan: AP-38 Project Summary.

top 51 metropolitan statistical areas about the housing conditions in their communities: <https://nchh.org/tools-and-data/data/state-of-healthy-housing/>.

- The Environmental Public Health Tracking Network's site includes data on outdoor air quality, asthma, lead poisoning, carbon monoxide, radon, heat-related illness, and many other topics: <https://ephracking.cdc.gov/DataExplorer/>.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention funds tracking programs in 32 states, the links to which are available on their "About Funded Tracking Programs" webpage: <https://www.cdc.gov/environmental-health-tracking/php/our-work/>.
- EPA's Map of Radon Zones webpage helps governments and other organizations target radon risk reduction activities and resources: <https://www.epa.gov/radon/epa-map-radon-zones>.
- EPA's EJScreen includes data on outdoor air quality, lead paint, and asthma: <https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/>.
- The Council on Environmental Quality's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool highlights overburdened and underserved census tracts as well as disadvantaged tribal communities: <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5>.

If you're looking for flexible coaching and support on setting up a home repair program, exploring CDBG funding to improve indoor environments, or advancing any efforts to improve IAQ, NCHH can help!

Contact us at for additional detail:
askanexpert@nchh.org

- HUD's *Promising Practices in Consolidated Planning Guide* will help make your consolidated planning process more inclusive, cooperative, and effective: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5149/promising-practices-in-consolidated-planning-guide/>.
- A collaboration between the American Public Health Association and NCHH, the *National Healthy Housing Standard* provides model codes for healthy housing: <https://nchh.org/tools-and-data/housing-code-tools/national-healthy-housing-standard/>.
- HUD's Health@Home rehabilitation guidelines were developed to enable affordable housing developers or owners to include healthy housing principles in their moderate rehabilitation or home repair program and can serve as a guide for any home repair program: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/health-at-home/introduction/>.
- HUD Exchange's Environmental Review Site Contamination webpage can provide more detail on the environmental review process overall and specific HUD policy: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/> and <https://www.hudexchange.info/environmental-review/site-contamination/>.
- Kansas State University's National Radon Program Services website contains a wealth of information about radon, testing, mitigation, workforce credentialing, and more: www.sosradon.org

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