



Healthy Homes Initiatives Program

HUD's HEALTHY HOMES INITIATIVE protects children and their caregivers from housing conditions that are responsible for multiple diseases and injuries.

Background

In October 1998, in response to Executive Order 13045 on "Protection of Children from Environmental Risks and Safety Risks," the Department of Housing and Urban Development launched the Healthy Homes Initiative (HHI).

Addressing Multiple Hazards

The Initiative builds upon the Department's existing activities on housing-related health and safety issues, including lead hazard control, building structural safety, electrical safety, and fire protection, to address multiple childhood diseases and injuries related to housing in a more coordinated fashion. HUD has identified several housing-associated health and injury hazards considered key targets for intervention. A major goal of the Healthy Homes Initiative is to identify and implement single interventions that address multiple hazards.

For example, dealing with uncontrolled moisture would alleviate conditions associated with lead paint hazards (reduced paint deterioration), allergens (particularly dust mites), asthma, mold, structural safety, and others.

Residents' health will be improved by the introduction of low cost, cost-effective measures for excess moisture reduction, dust control, ventilation, and control of toxins.

Healthy Homes Activities

Healthy Homes activities focus on researching and demonstrating effective assessment and intervention methods and on public education and outreach. HUD works with other Federal agencies, State and local governments, community-based organizations, and standards bodies, to develop and disseminate technical assistance, guidelines and model housing codes and standards. HUD developed a plan of baseline research and demonstration projects for the Initiative with the assistance of a panel of nationally-recognized experts from the private sector, and Federal, State and local governments. Much of this work is accomplished through competitive grants.

Healthy Homes Funding

For FY 1999, \$10 million was appropriated for the Initiative; \$10 million was requested and received for FY2000. To date, grants totaling \$8.5 million have been awarded: \$4 million to the Cuyahoga County Department of Development and the Illinois Department of Public Health to establish mold and moisture control programs in the Cleveland and Chicago areas, and \$4.5 million to five grantees, Boston Medical Center, Medical and Health Research Association of New York City, Environmental Health Watch, and the cities of Providence and Long Beach for Healthy Homes demonstration projects.

Another \$6.5 million is available for competitive grants this year; applications must be received by HUD no later than May 17, 2000.

Federal agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control, the National Institute for Standards and Technology's Building and Fire Research Laboratory, and the Department of Agriculture's Cooperative Research, Education and Extension Service shared \$1.5 million for Healthy Homes research and outreach projects.

For More Information

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The Office of Lead Hazard Control website has additional information on Healthy Homes activities as well as information on research, regulatory developments, enforcement, and outreach. The website address is <http://www.hud.gov/lea>