



# HUD's Healthy Homes Quarterly Newsletter



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## Welcome to the Inaugural Issue of the Healthy Homes Quarterly Newsletter

**By Jon L. Gant, Director**

The Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control (OHHLHC) is pleased to present the first issue of our electronic quarterly newsletter. The purpose of this publication is to promote healthy homes principles, including best practices, research findings and education/outreach initiatives. Every quarter the newsletter will bring you articles on health and housing with a special focus on the activities and projects supported by HUD. This publication will be circulated to a diverse audience including HUD Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control grantees, federal partners, interested stakeholders, community and faith-based organizations, non-profits and building science researchers.

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## 2008 National Healthy Homes Conference

HUD's Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control (OHHLHC), in conjunction with the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), is spearheading the 2008 National Healthy Homes Conference, called Building a Framework for Healthy Housing, to provide a forum for the exchange of information on federal, state, and local childhood healthy homes activities, scientific research, and current state-of-the-art techniques to prevent childhood illnesses associated with housing. The Conference is scheduled for September 15-17, 2008, at the Baltimore Hilton in Baltimore, Maryland. The conference will support OHHLHC's mission of eliminating housing-related health and safety hazards.

The OHHLHC invites you to attend the Conference, and also to consider applying to give a presentation or display a poster. For details, please go to the link to the Call for Abstracts, on page 2.

The 2008 National Healthy Homes Conference demonstrates the Federal government's ongoing commitment to improving public health through interagency cooperation. An estimated 1800 people from Federal, state, and local government agencies and public and private organizations will attend.

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The newsletter will be produced in a short, easy-to-read format and provide links to complete research/technical papers, reports, conferences, workshops and publications related to healthy homes issues. Each issue of the newsletter will highlight relevant housing and research activities and will include stakeholder activities, including Green building practices, energy efficiency and the latest news from OHHLHC staff.

OHHLHC is proud to support the organizations that conduct groundbreaking work addressing the relationships between housing conditions and resident health. Achieving the Office's goals depends upon your programs and activities. We recognize that you, our partners, share our mission of strengthening America's communities by addressing residential hazards that threaten health. We rely on you and welcome your input to this newsletter. We hope that it will facilitate a sharing of ideas, research findings and other resources that are critical to your projects and that will supplement your healthy homes activities.

## **CALL FOR ARTICLES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

OHHLHC encourages our colleagues and partners to contribute articles, announcements and other materials to this newsletter. If you want to showcase your program, report recent interesting research results, describe outreach materials you have produced, or want to let the Healthy Homes community know about an event you are sponsoring, please let us know. The Newsletter will be published quarterly, with the following FY 2008 issues' submission deadlines:

- April Issue - published
- June Issue: May 19, 2008
- September Issue: August 18, 2008.

Materials can be submitted electronically to either Marty Nee (at [Martin.J.Nee@hud.gov](mailto:Martin.J.Nee@hud.gov)) or Gary Dewalt (at [healthyhomesnews-owner@quantech.com](mailto:healthyhomesnews-owner@quantech.com)). The OHHLHC reserves the right to edit all submissions.

## **HEALTHY HOMES FOR HEALTHY KIDS CAMPAIGN**

This national education/outreach campaign, launched on April 19, 2006, in Los Angeles, is an outgrowth of HUD's partnership with the CDC, EPA and the USDA. This 3-year, 30-city campaign utilizes multi-media strategies to provide education/outreach materials and training on lead, asthma awareness and additional health and safety issues. The Campaign is targeted to residents and community / faith-based organizations, grassroots and parent groups, and multi-cultural associations. The presentation utilizes a full size model home that illustrates preventing potential home health hazards in kitchens, bedrooms, bathrooms and other areas.

The campaign has already conducted successful events in Los Angeles, Chicago, Atlanta, Detroit, Houston, New York City, Jacksonville and Washington, DC.

For additional information contact Sue Horowitz at 212-542-7411 or [Susan.I.Horowitz@HUD.gov](mailto:Susan.I.Horowitz@HUD.gov).

## **NATIONAL HEALTHY HOMES CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

The 2008 National Healthy Homes Conference's registration form and its call for abstracts can be reached from [www.hud.gov/offices/lead](http://www.hud.gov/offices/lead). Sessions and posters on healthy homes themes, research, and policies will be given highest consideration. Also welcome are descriptions of successful primary prevention initiatives that provide insights into developing a national healthy housing framework.



## HUD NEWS

### STUDY ON THE USE OF GREEN BUILDING PRACTICES

**AND RESIDENT HEALTH.** The OHHLHC is partnering with the CDC to study the relationship between Green Building (GB) practices and resident health. Specifically, a pilot project will examine the differences in allergen levels and indoor air quality indicators in housing constructed and maintained under GB principles and in recently constructed HUD-supported housing in metropolitan Atlanta.

HUD and CDC have a strong interest in evaluating the health effects of GB practices. Green Building is the generic term associated with construction techniques that emphasize energy efficiency, environmentally sustainable construction methods and healthy indoor environments. GB practices are intended to benefit occupant health by minimizing moisture, providing appropriate ventilation, and minimizing exposure to airborne contaminants. A better understanding of the extent to which GB housing could actually promote occupant health is needed. This activity supports HUD's goals of promoting energy efficient healthy housing and addressing housing conditions that threaten health. It supports the CDC's new Healthy Homes goal, and fits into the CDC's Health Protection Research Agenda, that calls for research to identify the major environmental causes of disease and disability and related risk factors.

### INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM) TRAINING.

OHHLHC has initiated a cooperative training effort with the USDA to deliver IPM training to Public Housing Agencies. This 3-year project includes: developing classroom and on-site training materials for a 1-day course; piloting onsite maintenance staff training; developing a Train-the-Trainer Training (T4) program; delivering T4; and training maintenance staff and residents. The course will be modularized, so that training can be conducted at one or more than one session. For additional information, contact Rachel Riley at [Rachel.M.Riley@hud.gov](mailto:Rachel.M.Riley@hud.gov).

The conference will also highlight progress on the 2010 goal, developed by the President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children, to end childhood lead poisoning. To accomplish this goal, public agencies and private organizations must identify and implement creative and innovative ways that help grantees, states, and communities work together. The overarching goal of the conference will be to help the sponsors and participants improve resource allocation, strengthen partnerships, build new strategic alliances and define collaborative strategies to eliminate childhood lead poisoning.

The Conference reflects HUD's commitment to creating healthy homes and will support the Surgeon General's Call to Action for Healthy Housing (currently being developed). The Conference will help chart the future course for HUD's role in improving our Nation's health through healthy housing.



### QUALITY CONTROL SAMPLES FOR ALLERGENS TESTING ARE BEING MADE AVAILABLE

OHHLHC has initiated a new project to improve the quality of laboratory analysis of allergens in household dust by providing a set of quality control (QC) samples, containing known levels of six allergens. These investigations will be used for developing standardized methods for allergens testing. HUD Grantees that have included testing for in-house allergen levels as part of their Healthy Homes program are required to insert these QC samples into their sample streams for laboratory analysis. For additional information, contact Peter Ashley at [Peter.J.Ashley@hud.gov](mailto:Peter.J.Ashley@hud.gov).



## UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

HUD's Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control will be exhibiting at the following 2008 conferences

### AFFORDABLE COMFORT

PITTSBURGH, PA (HILTON)

4/7/08 TO 4/11/08

A national conference on high performance buildings (green, energy efficient, comfortable, healthy and durable)

### AMERICAN INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

MINNEAPOLIS (CONVENTION CENTER)

5/31/08 TO 6/5/08

The national conference on occupational and environmental safety and health.

### NATIONAL HEALTHY HOMES CONFERENCE: BUILDING A FRAMEWORK FOR HEALTHY HOUSING

BALTIMORE (HILTON)

9/15/08 TO 9/17/08

National conference on Healthy Homes activities, policies, scientific research, and state-of-the-art techniques.

## RESOURCES

- ❖ CDC's Lead Poisoning Prevention home page [[www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/](http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/)]
- ❖ CDC's Healthy Homes Initiative [[www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/healthyhomes.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/healthyhomes.htm)]
- ❖ CDC's Healthy Housing Reference Manual [[www.cdc.gov/nceh/publications/books/housing/housing.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/publications/books/housing/housing.htm)]
- ❖ EPA's Children's Health Protection [[yosemite.epa.gov/ochp/ochpweb.nsf/content/homepage.htm](http://yosemite.epa.gov/ochp/ochpweb.nsf/content/homepage.htm)]
- ❖ EPA's Indoor Air Quality Resources [[www.epa.gov/iaq/](http://www.epa.gov/iaq/)]
- ❖ EPA's Lead in Paint, Dust, and Soil [[www.epa.gov/lead/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/lead/index.html)]
- ❖ EPA's Mold Resources [[www.epa.gov/mold/moldresources.html](http://www.epa.gov/mold/moldresources.html)]
- ❖ HUD's Healthy Homes home page [[www.hud.gov/offices/lead/healthyhomes/](http://www.hud.gov/offices/lead/healthyhomes/)]
- ❖ USDA Healthy Homes Partnership [[www.healthyhomespartnership.net](http://www.healthyhomespartnership.net)]
- ❖ USDA's Integrated Pest Management Resources [[www.ipmcenters.org/](http://www.ipmcenters.org/)]

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