

FOCUS ON PUERTO RICO AND THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

Homes with risks like radon, lead, or other unsafe conditions can have a physical toll on their inhabitants, while also imposing a considerable economic burden in a larger societal context¹.

Exactly that was the message conveyed to stakeholders in Puerto Rico and the Territory of the Virgin Islands during the webinar series: ***Housing and Health in Your Community: Federal Grant Writing 101 Webinar***

In collaboration with the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA), Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs Region 2, the HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes organized multilingual events. The first one was delivered in Spanish focusing on the communities in Puerto Rico while the other, delivered in English, centered in the U.S. Virgin Islands, both jurisdictions with underserved communities and recently affected either by natural or manmade disasters.

The objective of the webinars was to address key grant application components and inform the audience how OLHCHH's programs can help children and other vulnerable populations by focusing on housing and health.

Our featured speakers were Brenda M. Reyes, MD, OLHCHH's Acting Director for Policy and Standards Division, and from HRSA Region 2: Madeline Rossy, MD, Public Health Analyst, Puerto Rico Sub-Regional Office, and Cheryl Donald, MA, MBA, LMFT, Regional Administrator, Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs

There was significant interest about the authority to accept unsolicited proposals for research. Attendees asked:

- What happens after the application review process?
- Are there any non-lead related grants for home rehabilitation and repair?
- Given EPA's emerging new Lead and Copper Services Rule, do you anticipate that available funding will increase, or that there will be additional programs offered?

We are thrilled to inform that we had registrants from Hawaii and attendance from the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Island. The webinars weren't recorded. For additional information, contact Magaly Mendez, OLHCHH Management Analyst, at MAGALY.MENDEZ@hud.gov
