



National Center for
Healthy Housing

Fact Sheet

September 2008



The National Healthy Homes Training Center and Network

The National Healthy Homes Training Center and Network (Training Center) is operated by the National Center for Healthy Housing and brings together public health and housing practitioners to promote practical and cost-effective methods for making homes healthier. It also serves as a forum for exchanging information on new research and best practices. Among the Training Center's activities are:

TRAINING The Training Center offers six healthy homes courses, including **Essentials for Healthy Homes Practitioners**, its flagship course (see reverse side for course descriptions). The Training Center has trained more than 3,000 people since its inception in 2004. Nearly 95% of Training Center participants say that they would recommend the course to a colleague (see www.healthyhomestraining.org/Evaluation/).

CREDENTIALING In partnership with the National Environmental Health Association, the Training Center offers the **Healthy Homes Specialist Credential**, which recognizes health and housing professionals who demonstrated knowledge and abilities in the area of healthy homes. Over 200 individuals have applied for the credential since June 2007 (see www.healthyhomestraining.org/Credential/).

TOOLS AND RESOURCES The Training Center website offers extensive resources for policymakers and practitioners including profiles of housing conditions in many jurisdictions and information about how to use your housing code to improve the quality of housing in your community.

The National Healthy Homes Clearinghouse includes over 600 publications on healthy housing, including the latest scientific research on practical measures to reduce environmental health and safety hazards in the home environment (see www.healthyhomestraining.org/Key_References.htm).

What is a Healthy Home?

A **healthy home** is designed, constructed, maintained, or rehabilitated in a manner that supports the health of residents. A growing body of evidence links housing conditions to health outcomes such as asthma, lead poisoning, lung cancer, and unintentional injuries.

Any home may have health hazards. Creating healthier housing promotes the growth and development of our children and can save billions of dollars in health care costs.

STUDENTS SAY TRAINING CHANGES THEIR WORK

During regular inspections for lead hazards, I have used the time to educate tenants on the dangers of smoking inside the home and around children as well as discussing safety inside the home. I have discussed new ways with owners to approach pest management and how working together with the tenants we can improve results.

—William Messick, Health and Hospital Corporation (IN)

My staff LOVED this training. They liked it so much they've pressed for others to be able to attend. It has been beneficial, and they've all commented to me that they are able to assess a client's home more fully since they learned the Healthy Homes Approach. They—and I—enjoyed the time spent with people working in the housing side of our agency.

—Kelley Murphy, Marion County Health Dept. (IN)

We are including your healthy homes survey on our laptops for our field work.

—Jane Prestigomo, City of Houston Dept. of Health and Human Services/Children's Environmental Health Bureau (TX)

With this additional training and information, I consider myself as knowledgeable as there is in my jurisdiction regarding indoor air/housing and other related issues. I am more confident responding to issues and giving my thoughts for resolutions.

—Marco Palmeri, Plainville Health Dept. (CT)

