



National Center for  
Healthy Housing

# Fact Sheet

June 2011



## The National Healthy Homes Training Center and Network

The National Healthy Homes Training Center and Network (Training Center) 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. The National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH) manages the Training Center for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Among the Training Center's activities are:

**TRAINING** The Training Center offers an array of healthy homes courses, including its flagship course: **Essentials for Healthy Homes Practitioners**. The Training Center has trained more than 10,000 people since its inception in 2004. Nearly 97% of Training Center participants say that they would recommend the course to a colleague. Eighty-five percent of respondents said they could immediately incorporate the concepts they learned in their daily work. Go to [www.healthyhomestraining.org](http://www.healthyhomestraining.org) for more information.

**CREDENTIALING** In partnership with NCHH, the National Environmental Health Association offers the **Healthy Homes Specialist Credential** to recognize health and housing professionals who demonstrated knowledge and abilities in the area of healthy homes. NEHA has credentialed more than 600 individuals since launching the program in 2007. See [www.neha.org/credential/HHS](http://www.neha.org/credential/HHS).

**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 state and local codes. It has the latest research and information on special topics such as lead-safe renovations, integrated pest management, assessment tools, and the seven principles of healthy housing. See [www.healthyhomestraining.org](http://www.healthyhomestraining.org) and [www.nchh.org/Resources/Healthy-Housing-Clearinghouse.aspx](http://www.nchh.org/Resources/Healthy-Housing-Clearinghouse.aspx).

### 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 and shows the effectiveness of various healthy homes interventions to fix the home to protect resident health. 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.

### Training Center Courses

NCHH and its 37 training partners operate in 38 states and the District of Columbia. They offer training opportunities through the Training Center network. NCHH regularly develops new courses for the network to respond to community needs and demands. Please check our website at [www.healthyhomestraining.org](http://www.healthyhomestraining.org) for new courses and a schedule of existing courses.

### 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)

## Course List

- **ESSENTIALS FOR HEALTHY HOMES PRACTITIONERS:** Two-day foundational training course that is ideal for health and housing professionals who want the basics of healthy housing in an interactive format that allows students to learn from their peers in small group exercises. Typically, the training partner host offers the Healthy Homes Specialist Credential exam at the end of the course. Course materials are also available in Spanish.
- **LAUNCHING A HEALTHY HOMES INITIATIVE:** One-day course targeted toward health and housing leaders seeking to establish healthy homes programs and activities in their communities. In essence, it is a facilitated discussion of a community's needs, priorities and objectives with an action plan as the final work product.
- **BUILDING HEALTHY HOMES:** Two-day course offered in partnership with the NeighborWorks Training Institute for architects, housing developers, and property managers to learn in a small group discussion format how to build healthier homes.
- **ON-LINE PEDIATRIC ENVIRONMENTAL HOME ASSESSMENT FOR NURSES:** Two-hour, online training course prepares public health and visiting nurses to conduct a comprehensive healthy home assessment with their clients and to prepare a corresponding nursing care plan geared for their clients.
- **INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT IN MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING:** One-day course brings together property managers, staff, residents and the pest management professional to have them jointly understand how to effectively control cockroaches, rodents, bed bugs and other pests in a hands-on format.
- **HEALTHY HOMES FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS:** One-day course to enable community health workers to effectively educate their clients on healthy homes in a peer-to-peer or small group setting.
- **CERTIFIED LEAD RENOVATOR AND RELATED COURSES:** Mix of courses including Certified Lead Renovator and Dust Sampling Courses to allow individuals to work on renovation projects covered by EPA's Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule. Complimentary on-line courses for do-it-yourselfers and paint retailers.
- **CODE INSPECTION FOR HEALTHY HOMES:** Five-hour course for housing and building code inspectors so they better understand the connection between health and housing and can conduct inspections and undertake enforcement action to more effectively protect resident health.
- **HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES DURING ENERGY AUDITS AND UPGRADES:** One-day course for weatherization and energy auditors and contractors to ensure their work does not undermine resident health and to identify opportunities and set priorities that can improve resident health.
- **HEALTHY HOMES SPECIALIST REVIEW:** One-day course designed to prepare a group of health or housing professionals with a common set of experiences to become Healthy Homes Specialists. The course is tailored to the particular experience of the group. The training partner host typically offers the Healthy Homes Specialist Credential exam at the end of the day.
- **GREEN AND HEALTHY PROPERTY MAINTENANCE:** This course provides property owners/managers tools to implement green and healthy practices that can reduce energy, water, and contaminants and improve resident health conditions. Successfully completing the course satisfies HUD's green training requirements under HUD's Mark to Market Green Initiative and Recovery Act/Green Retrofit Program as well as the National Affordable Housing Management Association's (NAHMA's) training requirements for their Credential for Green Property Management.

## Training Partners

The Training Center is operational across the country and provides training through high-caliber partners.

