

Home Star for Energy Retrofit Bill
National Healthy and Safe Housing Coalition
Recommendations

Home Star for Energy Retrofit is an important initiative that will improve the quality for life for millions of families through energy savings, environmental responsibility, and improved comfort. However, as buildings become more airtight in the effort to conserve energy, indoor air quality can suffer and moisture and mold problems can arise. This happens because the reduction in air leakage that saves energy also creates excess moisture buildup. The resultant mold, moisture, and other air quality problems trigger asthma, allergies, and other negative effects on occupant health. Asthma alone costs \$18 billion and 14 billion missed school days each year. Home Star can assure indoor air quality by permitting the supplementation of retrofit measures with mitigation of the negative effects of increased tightening of the building envelope. The suggestions below demonstrate how to factor occupant safety and health into Home Star.

1. Scope of the Energy Retrofit Rebates

- a. Add to the categories of retrofit measures in section 5 (b) a new sub-section “(12) Health and safety improvements.”
- b. Add “bathroom and kitchen fans, and carbon monoxide alarms” to the measures for which silver star rebates will be provided in section 5(d)(3).
- c. Verification should include ensuring that ASHRAE 62.2 ventilation standard is met after air-tightness is improved if rebate is provided under Gold Star.
- d. The window replacement threshold in Section 5(b)(6) - the lesser of 75% of all or 8 windows – is too large for health benefits. In addition, the threshold should credit where energy efficient windows were replaced previously.

2. Silver Star and Gold Star Verification Can Ensure Renovation Rule Compliance

Verification should include review of the EPA required post renovation form and a visual check for dust/debris on the floor of the work area, and during visits to verify correction in 5(e)(3) and 5(d)(3).

3. Capacity Building for Home Star Can Include RRP

EPA and the states should encourage systems delivering training for energy retrofit certification to integrate training required by EPA’s renovation rule to build RRP capacity within the energy retrofit industry and include this in plans under Section 7(a)(3)(E).

4. Program Evaluation

Section 12(h)(4) should include measures of air changes, indoor air quality, and occupant health.