



Policy Agenda – FY 2011

To mainstream healthy homes, we need to enact and enforce health-based housing standards; expand and target resources for housing maintenance, repair, rehab and retrofit; increase community capacity through training and advocacy; and leverage opportunities presented by energy efficiency programs and health care reform. Advancing this complex agenda, while supporting related objectives, requires a national movement and strategy.

Healthy Housing Standards

1. Create standards for building materials and indoor exposure.
2. Amend the International Code Council (ICC) model housing and building codes to prevent radon exposure in new homes, unsafe renovation work, and moldy building materials.
3. Deliver funding for code administration (enactment and enforcement) to fortify local agencies' capacity.
4. Begin the development of minimum federal healthy housing standards.
5. Explore requirements at turnover and sale for property owners to meet healthy housing standards and disclose known hazards.
6. Support improvements to and industry compliance with EPA's and states' renovation program (RRP).

Financing Healthy Homes

1. Pass Senator Jack Reed's and Congressman Robert Brady's Safe and Healthy Housing Act and Healthy Housing Council Act.
2. Fully fund the National Housing Trust Fund and support other mechanisms for financing affordable healthy housing.
3. Incorporate housing quality into legislation supporting livable communities and sustainability.
4. Encourage Medicaid, private insurer, and other health sector support for healthy homes activities, including assessments and interventions.
5. Sustain and expand funding for the HUD's Healthy Homes Program to expand the number of healthy homes created nationwide, and for CDC's Healthy Homes appropriation to transition local programs from lead poisoning prevention alone to healthy homes.

Integrating Energy Efficiency and Health

1. Incentivize flexible use of categorical funding programs to advance energy, home repair, and health and safety goals. For example, with 15% flexibility, the Weatherization Assistance Program and the Lead Hazard Control Program could address basic safety and health hazards.
2. Incorporate healthy homes recommendations into bills and regulations to advance residential energy efficiency, such as minimum standards for health and safety for home energy retrofits in Home Star and similar programs.