



## **Title X Amendments Act of 2013 Questions and Answers**

### **Q: What does this Bill do?**

#### **A. The technical amendments to Title X of the Housing and Community Development Act will accomplish five major policy goals described below:**

- 1. Align the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control Program activities with statutory authority.** "Title X" is the law that authorizes HUD to make grants to state and local governments for addressing lead hazards in high-risk housing. This amendment to Section 1011 of Title X would enable grantees receiving lead hazard control funds to address other health and safety threats during the course of their work.
- 2. Make it easier for families to apply for the HUD grant programs.** Low-income families have to qualify separately for each service program they access. This is administratively burdensome and inefficient for state and local program staff and for families. The bill would permit a healthy homes and lead hazard control grantee to use another program's income and eligibility information (e.g., WIC, Weatherization, Reduced Price Lunch, and Temporary Assistance for the Needy) to qualify for HUD lead hazard control and healthy homes funds.
- 3. Help families who reside in efficiency apartments to be eligible for HUD lead hazard control services.** Across the country, 123,000 children under the age of six live in efficiency apartments, hotel rooms, and rooming houses. Current statute prohibits HUD grantees from repairing lead hazards in these types of zero-bedroom units. The bill would add a provision to include zero-bedroom units in HUD's lead hazard control program.
- 4. Broaden the categories of eligible grant recipients.** Current statute only allows state and local governments to apply for lead hazard control grants. The bill would authorize tribal governments eligible to apply for funding (consistent with EPA standards). Nonprofit organizations would also be able to apply for funding with the support of state or local governments.

### **Q. Will the bill change the amount of funds available for lead hazard control?**

**A.** There is no cost associated with the bill. It reauthorizes funding, which would then need to be appropriated. The authorization would continue at \$250 million annually.

**Q: Why is this bill necessary?**

**A.** The amendments are needed to align legislative authority with current needs and practices. Permitting lead hazard control grantees to help families residing in efficiency apartments, to address multiple housing-related health hazards, and to accept a family's income eligibility information from other federally funded will enable more families and children to live in safer and healthier homes.

**Q. How does this bill support the federal Strategy for Action on Advancing Healthy Housing?**

**A.** The bill directly responds to the strategy's call for reducing barriers to service delivery by making it easier for eligible families to qualify for assistance. It also promotes the adoption of common consensus-based criteria for healthy homes, and will accelerate the replication of successful local healthy homes programs.

**Q: Who is introducing this bill?**

**A.** The original co-sponsors of the bill are Senators Jack Reed (D-RI), Mike Johanns (R-NE), Barbara Boxer (D-CA), and Al Franken (D-MN).