



National Healthy Housing Policy Summit

May 7, 2009
Washington, DC

Organizational Commitments to Promote Healthy Housing: The First Building Blocks for a *National Healthy Housing Action Plan*

The National Healthy Housing Policy Summit is bringing together leaders of organizations in housing (construction, rehab, management, inspection and financing), public and environmental health, energy efficiency, tenant rights, homeownership and community organizing to create and implement the first *National Healthy Housing Action Plan*.

Healthy Housing takes a comprehensive approach to controlling and preventing disease and injury from such hazards as:

- Molds, allergens and other asthma triggers
- Rodents, pests and other disease carriers
- Radon, carbon monoxide, lead, volatile organic compounds and other dangerous contaminants, and
- Falls, burns, poisonings and other causes of serious injuries

Numerous government and private sector programs address these hazards individually, but the “whole-house” approach of addressing them together has proven to be more efficient, effective and less costly. Yet despite these advantages, housing and public health stakeholders have not made Healthy Housing a major priority for several reasons:

- Lack of understanding of its key elements
- Lack of wide dissemination of information, assessment tools and best practices

- Limited training, education and public outreach opportunities, and
- Limited funding, jurisdictional conflicts and other obstacles

A truly viable *National Healthy Housing Action Plan* must contain practical, concrete steps tackling these challenges that each organization can take to produce broad, meaningful changes in housing design, construction, operation, maintenance, and rehab.

To begin constructing the plan, we asked participating national organizations—prior to the summit—to identify actions they plan to undertake within their own organizations. These pre-meeting organizational commitments are summarized in the attached chart.

The leaders of these organizations—joined by experts from many fields—will then be tasked at the summit with “building out” the *National Healthy Housing Action Plan*. Specifically, they will evaluate a challenging set of national policy options and select those that hold the most promise for short- to mid-term action.

Their decisions on the best national policy options to pursue will then be merged with the attached list of organizational commitments to create a *National Healthy Housing Action Plan* that will bring meaningful change nationwide.

Organizational Commitments to Promote Healthy Housing

Actions Underway or Committed to:	Alliance for Healthy Homes	American Public Health Association	American Society of Home Inspectors	Association of State/Territorial Health Officials	Corporation for Enterprise Development	Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning	Enterprise Community Partners	Home Safety Council	National Affordable Housing Management Association	National Center for Healthy Housing	National Environmental Health Association	National Low Income Housing Coalition	NeighborWorks America	Rebuilding Together	US Green Building Council
Endorse Sen. Reed's bill and advocate for it by:	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	● ¹	●		●	●
• Sign joint support letter to all Senators/Reps.	●	●	●		●	●	●	●		●	●	●		●	●
• Add bill to legislative priorities	●		●			●	●			●	●	●		●	●
• Educate members/stakeholders on bill	●	●	●			●	●			●	●	●		●	●
• Issue member/stakeholder alert urging them to ask their Senators to cosponsor bill	●		●			●	●			●	●	●		●	
• Participate in joint Hill briefing	●		●			●	●	●		●		●		●	●
Add HH to strategic plan and devote staff & funds	●		●	●		●	●			●				●	
Create HH model curriculum for members to adopt/adapt and deliver	●		●			●	●			●	● ²		● ³	●	
Provide HH training to members and staff	●		● ⁴	●		●	●		● ⁵	●	●	● ⁶	● ⁷	●	●
Adopt 1 or more HH policies and promote across membership (e.g., smoke-free units or IPM)	●					●	●	●	● ⁸	●	●			●	●
Incentivize members/stakeholders to adopt HH best practices (e.g., via awards or small grants)	●					●	●		● ⁹	●			● ¹⁰	●	●
Launch a HH demo/pilot program	●					●	●			●				●	
Research members' key HH concerns	●		●	●		●	●			●	●		● ¹¹	●	
Support changes in state/local HH policies	●		● ¹²	●		●	●			●	●				●
Other			● ¹³			●					●		● ¹⁴		

¹ Looking at Reed bill with the intent to support it.

² Continue promoting and training members on Healthy Homes Specialist Credential Program.

³ Continue working with NCHH on Healthy Housing components of the NeighborWorks curriculum in construction, asset management, and homebuyer education.

⁴ Provide Healthy Housing training to ASHI's 5,600 members and staff.

⁵ Publish occasional articles in the NAHP Update newsletter on Healthy Housing issues for on-site management staff, providing ideas for implementing voluntary Healthy Housing activities that are effective and cost-efficient.

⁶ Include Healthy Housing information/research in our newsletter.

⁷ Promote Healthy Housing within our employee education program to keep people informed on this subject.

⁸ Continue to advocate for green property management through voluntary initiatives, including the OAHM M2M Green Initiative and our green property management credential that supports it.

⁹ Id.

¹⁰ Will seek opportunities to incentivize members to include Healthy Housing in homebuyer education, construction, and property management practices.

¹¹ Will work to investigate and analyze the impediments and opportunities to incorporating healthy housing within our members' practices.

¹² ASHI endorses the launching of a Healthy Housing inspection program that would reimburse buyers for home inspections or include the inspection cost in their mortgage.

¹³ Id.

¹⁴ Support the creation of the Council on Healthy Housing, proposed in the *Healthy Housing Council Act of 2008*, a companion bill by Sen. Jack Reed.