

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Secretary's Award for Healthy Homes 2017



Using Housing as a Platform to Improve Health Outcomes



2017 Secretary's Awards Announcement

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Secretary's Award for Healthy Homes 2017!

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), through its Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH), and in partnership with the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA), is proud to announce our third annual HUD Secretary's Award for Healthy Homes. Once again, HUD is recognizing excellence in making indoor environments healthier through healthy homes research, education, and through program delivery, especially in diverse, low to moderate income communities. Since 2015, seven outstanding awardees have helped spread our message about healthy homes and improved the quality of life for residents.

Jon Gant, the Director of HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes stated, "This year's HUD Secretary's Award for Healthy Homes highlights the many intersections between housing and health. These awards provide real life examples of the outstanding work taking place in housing throughout the nation and demonstrate innovative approaches to make all homes healthier."

## ABOUT THE AWARD

The purpose of the Award is to provide a national platform to showcase results achieved under a wide range of housing and indoor environmental health programs. The Award highlights some of the nation's most significant work on the relationship between living environments and resident health, and helps to lay the foundation for future healthy homes work.

HUD partners with NEHA as both organizations share a common vision to create healthier home environments in the US by working across the health, environment, and housing sectors. NEHA is a premier national organization, with a long tradition of ensuring safe homes through programs and credentials for environmental health professionals. The goal of the partnership is to develop, implement and promote the Secretary's Award for Healthy Homes as a platform for encouraging adoption of healthy homes policies and programs among HUD-supported programs and housing stakeholders. This important partnership helps address residential determinants of health in low income children.

The three categories for awards, Public and Multifamily Housing; Policy, Education and Research Innovation; and Cross Program Coordination, reflect the scope and the value of the Award. We look forward to recognizing outstanding awardees at NEHA's 2017 Annual Educational Conference and Exhibition, July 10-13.

New to the application package this year is a list of prior award winners.

### **DATES AND DEADLINES—SEE PAGE 5 FOR SUBMISSION INFORMATION.**

- Online applications will open February 2.
- Submission deadline is 11:59 pm, PST March 15.
- Applicants will be notified of status in May.



## Detailed Description of Award Categories

Award submissions will be considered in one of three categories described on this page. An organization may submit only a single application as the lead agency. Organizations may participate as partnering organizations in more than one application.

### **Public Housing/Multifamily Housing**

Eligible Applicants: Public Housing Authorities; Tribal Designated Housing Entities; multifamily housing owners and managers; and resident organizations (for example, tenant task forces) in public or private assisted housing.

Nomination Examples: A Public Housing Authority's universal adoption of smoke-free housing; adoption of integrated pest management policies; or tenant task force creating and implementing a resident health and energy program.

Outcome Data Examples: Number of residents impacted by policy; number or rate of residents with improved health outcomes due to implementation of healthy homes activity; number or rate of reduction in asthmatic episodes among residents; or measurable reduction of indoor air pollutants related to policy.

### **Policy, Education and Research Innovation**

Eligible Applicants: State, County, City, Tribes, regional units of government (including legislative bodies); healthcare providers (including hospitals); universities and schools of higher education; nonprofit organizations; health insurance providers; advocacy organizations; university extension offices; schools at K-12 levels; faith-based organizations; labor unions; tribal associations; childcare providers; and disaster recovery organizations.

Nomination Examples: Creating adopted local/state code enhancements with significant health outcomes or impacts; innovative programs in lead, asthma, radon, injury prevention, smoke-free housing/smoking cessation, maternal child health programs, and home visiting programs; developing a system for enhancing housing and/or code inspection efficiency and effectiveness; research related to environmental conditions, such as allergens, and resident health.

Outcome Data Examples: Numbers of localities adopting public policy change(s); or number of residents directly and indirectly affected by the public policy change(s). Research Innovation applicants should have recent (or in process) peer-reviewed published articles. (See more information on Page 4.)



### **Cross Program Coordination**

Eligible Applicants: State, County, City, regional units of government; healthcare providers (including hospitals); housing providers; nonprofit organizations; health insurance providers; advocacy organizations; weatherization and inspectional services; entities associated with federal agencies such as National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSPP); and organizations representing affordable housing developers and builders.

Nomination Examples: Comprehensive cross program coordination (for example, a county health department coordinating asthma interventions with Community Development Block Grant program and/or HOME program rehabilitation resources; a national or regional foundation creates and funds a healthy housing program based on cross sector coordination).

Outcome Data Examples: Number or rate of residents with improved health outcomes due to implementation of healthy homes activity (for example, reduction in asthmatic episodes among residents or falls in the home among elderly people).

## Criteria for Judging

Applications will be judged on meeting eligibility criteria, completeness, timeliness, and employing the required format. Note: Previous year's award winners are ineligible to apply for the award this year.

Applications will be subject to a thorough screening and review of eligibility, program/technical, and impact/effectiveness. Applications will be evaluated by an independent panel of judges selected by NEHA.

The evaluation process includes, but is not limited to, an assessment of the criteria in the following list. Due to the wide variety of projects that can be considered, a project does not need to address each criterion. In the text of the application description section (the five-page maximum policy/program narrative), the application should describe:

- **Policy/Program Innovation:** Specific emphasis on the policy/program's impact on a health/housing condition(s) previously un-addressed or specific improvements made to existing programs. Policies/programs do not necessarily need to address a new subject of concern, but all policies/programs discussed should demonstrate innovative aspects of addressing the concerns.
- **Health Impact on Population:** Data on the policy/program's health outcomes including, where available, data on healthcare utilization (for example, emergency/urgent care visits, inpatient hospital stays, healthcare costs); absenteeism from school or work; data on self-reported or objectively reported symptom impact; and data on reduction of unhealthy resident activities (for example, use of tobacco products, proximity to those who smoke).
- **Impact on Physical Environment:** Data on the policy/program's effect on reducing environmental hazards (for example, lead paint hazards, asbestos, combustion gases, toxic chemicals, asthma triggers/allergens); home safety hazards; and other impacts.
- **Partnership/Collaboration:** How the policy/program was developed and implemented and the role(s) that partnering organizations played. These partnering organizations do not necessarily need to be formal partners and may have played an important role in just one or a few phases of the development or implementation of the policy/program. The text should identify whether formal partnerships do exist and describe ongoing efforts to coordinate activities. Applicants should identify whether the policy/program was or is supported by philanthropy, governmental, and/or other sources and what kind(s) of support was (were) provided.
- **Economic Sustainability:** How the policy/program will continue to have impact into the future. In cases of policy advances based on statutory or regulatory actions, a description of anticipated permanence; for example, lack of sunset provision in the legislation or demonstration of ongoing industry acceptance of policy, will suffice. For program sustainability, applicants should describe permanent and temporary sources of support.

## Criteria for Research Innovation Applications

Under the research innovation category, the applications identified as research innovation will be judged utilizing the criteria in the following list. Policy and Education Innovation applications, whether from public or private organizations, will be reviewed in accordance with the standards established on page 4 of this application under the criteria for judging section. The following criteria apply only to Research Innovation applications, and applications in this category will be judged solely on these criteria.

- The research innovation must have been published within the last two years or accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. Ongoing research is not eligible. Applications should include an electronic copy of the publication or evidence of the research being accepted for publication.
- The research innovation should address a key data gap on an important healthy homes focus area (for example, a description of the importance of the research based on the health impact of the hazard/condition or the contribution of the hazard/condition to health disparities). The importance of the hazard/condition targeted by the research and any disparate impact on vulnerable populations should be supported by referencing objective data sources (for example, published literature).
- The application should describe how the research findings can be used for informing healthy homes programs or policies and the potential impact of the research in reducing indoor environmental hazards and ultimately improving health outcomes. (That is, address the extent to which the research findings can be translated into improved policy or practice and the resulting impact.)
- For research conducted in the field, the application should describe to what extent community members were involved in the project. Examples of community involvement include meetings with the community members to obtain community feedback, participation of community members on a research advisory board, formal partnerships with one or more community-based organizations, and training and hiring of community members to work on the study (for example, participating as community health workers).

## Submission Information and Requirements

All entries must be completed by utilizing the online application format at [www.neha.org/about-neha/awards](http://www.neha.org/about-neha/awards). The fillable form will be available beginning February 2, 2017, at [www.neha.org/about-neha/awards](http://www.neha.org/about-neha/awards). The deadline for completing submission is 11:59:59 p.m. Pacific Time, March 15, 2017.

The electronic submission should include the following information:

### 1. The Application Form

A 2017 Secretary's Award for Healthy Homes application form that includes the title of the entry, name and contact information of the person from the policy/program submitting the application and who serves as the point of contact for the award application, and information about the policy/program and project. Include in the application form a brief summary of the initiative (limit to 300 words) that can be used for publication and includes profile data on the policy/program application, including the initiative's goals, objectives, partners, public funding sources, and results, as applicable.

### 2. Project Narrative

A narrative of no more than five pages describing the history of the initiative and addressing the five criteria for award consideration. The narrative must be in 12-point, non-narrow type font, on 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-by-11-inch pages with margins no smaller than 1 inch.

### 3. Support Letters and Statements

Letters or statements that show support of the initiative should offer substantive support for the value of the effort (that is, say more than "this is a good idea") and may not be written by the organization applying or its parent or subsidiary organizations. Letters from partners (including government partners, residents, donors, and other local stakeholders) familiar with or knowledgeable about the nominated effort are encouraged. The letter(s) must accompany the application and should be addressed to the applicant.

### 4. Images

Applicants are requested to submit a high-resolution image of their organization's logo or brand. The applicant may also submit up to five digital images (.jpg format) with 15- to 25-word photo captions provided separately (on a page in addition to the project narrative) that provide context and show the initiative's results. Images enhance applications and should supplement what exists in the application. Photo collages and slide presentations (for example, PowerPoint) are NOT acceptable. Please submit only digital images that are not copyrighted and that may be reproduced by NEHA or HUD without a fee, charge, or copyright infringement.

### 5. Supporting Documentation and Attachments

One additional item (not to exceed five 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-by-11-inch pages) may be included in the application. The supporting item could take the form of a review of the implementation effort; analysis of the results; newspaper clippings; editorials; legislative, regulatory, or policy provisions.

### 6. Research Innovation Applicants

Applicants in the Research Innovation category should submit an electronic version of their published project or documentation of intent to publish in a peer-reviewed publication.

## **IMPORTANT Additional Information**

- No confidential, trade-secret, or otherwise non-disclosable information may be submitted. Neither NEHA nor HUD will review an application that indicates that it contains such information.
- Applications from individuals or for profit organizations will not be reviewed.
- All applications become the property of NEHA, with HUD obtaining a license-free right to copy and distribute information in them. No fee is required to submit an entry or receive an award.

## TIPS FOR COMPLETING THE APPLICATION

Here are some helpful suggestions and reminders:

- Applications must be submitted no later than 11:59:59 p.m. Pacific Time, March 15, 2017. Applicants will be notified of their application's status in May. Brevity is encouraged in all documents. Winners will be announced at, and receive their awards at NEHA's 2017 Annual Educational Conference and Exhibition, July 10–13, 2017, in Grand Rapids, Michigan.
- The activities or policies nominated must show measurable benefits in the health of residents and be available to low-and/or moderate-income families.
- Organizations can submit only one application as the Applicant Organization, however they may be listed as partnering organizations in more than one application.
- Use relevant data to help communicate the value of your program, project or research.
- The following resources are available to help you complete your application:
  - Past award-winner descriptions in the Hall of Fame (below)
  - Program profiles on HUD OLHCHH and Policy Development and Research/Secretary's Awards websites
- Letters from partners (including government partners, residents, donors, and other local stakeholders) familiar with the nominated effort are encouraged. The letter(s) must accompany the Application and should be addressed to the applicant.
- Images enhance all applications, and should supplement what exists in the application. Applicants are requested to submit a high-resolution image of their organization's logo or brand. Please provide only digital images that are not copyrighted and that may be reproduced by NEHA or HUD without a fee, charge, or copyright infringement.



# HEALTHY HOMES AWARDEE HALL OF FAME

We are honored to celebrate these past winners

## 2015

### Healthy Homes Innovation and Achievement in Public Policy:

**Smoke-Free Housing Coalition of Maine** – The Smoke-Free Housing Coalition of Maine has been a leader in the smoke-free housing movement for 13 years, working to reduce involuntary exposure to secondhand smoke for tenants across Maine. With the Coalition leading the charge, Maine became the first state in the nation to implement a 100% smoke-free policy as a threshold requirement for its state Tax Credit Qualified Allocation Plan application. In addition, all 20 of Maine’s Public Housing Authorities have adopted a smoke-free housing policy to make their buildings, including individual units and common areas, smoke-free. Maine was the first state in the nation to protect all of its public housing tenants from secondhand smoke. These public policies have also fostered changes in private sector housing. A recent state-wide survey found that 65% of Maine landlords report having a smoke-free policy and 62% of tenants report living in a 100% smoke-free building.

### Healthy Homes Innovation and Achievement in Public Housing/Multifamily Supported Housing:

**Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA)** provided construction and permanent loans, and Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) to finance Highland Commons, a 50-unit development in West Allis, Wisconsin. Highland Commons was designed to meet the special needs of tenants with persistent mental illness. All of the units are set-aside for households at or below 60% of County Median Income. Services are provided at no charge to residents through a Wellness Recovery Action Plan designed for each resident based on their individual needs. Two years after its opening, Highland Commons has helped improve the quality of life for its residents with: 1) an increase in daily living skills, 2) a decrease in psychiatric

### Healthy Homes Innovation and Achievement in Cross Sector Coordination among Health, Environment and Housing:

**Children’s Mercy Hospitals and Clinics (CMH)** is a non-profit academic hospital in Kansas City, Missouri. CHM developed a comprehensive Center for Environmental Health that provides patient based services, provider education, professional training and community outreach and advocacy, while supporting environmental research on children's health. Through a series of successful HUD healthy homes demonstration grants, EPA grants, and foundation grants, combined with help and collaboration from dedicated community partners, the CMH assessed environmental conditions and performed repairs or provided healthy home supplies in over 700 homes. These efforts resulted in the development of an effective case management service model that has been effective at improving the health of pediatric patients with asthma and allergies, or who are lead poisoned.

**Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium – The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC)** provides comprehensive medical and preventive health services for Alaska Natives and American Indians residing in Alaska. In 2011, the ANTHC’s Environmental Health Program assembled a diverse group of partners to develop and test an intervention to reduce the need for respiratory medical care among high risk Native children through healthier housing and improved air quality. Interventions included addressing mold and moisture problems, improving ventilation, changing out old leaky woodstove with more efficient models and providing education to reinforce healthy behaviors. After 3 years, involving 63 homes and 8 communities, the program has documented effectiveness. Pre- and post-intervention air monitoring found a 26% decrease in carbon dioxide, a 68% decrease in volatile organic compounds, and a 21% decrease in particulates. Data from the lung health questionnaires shows a 50% reduction in clinic visits and 27% reduction in missed days of school due to respiratory symptoms.

## **2016**

### **Healthy Homes Innovation and Achievement in Cross Sector Coordination among Health, Environment and Housing:**

**Yesler Terrace Breathe Easy Program in Seattle, Washington.** The Seattle Housing Authority (SHA), a federally funded housing authority with over 7,000 units of public housing, has partnered with multiple sectors to redevelop Yesler Terrace, a 75 year old former public housing development, into a healthy community. SHA's partnerships focus on a wide range of measures including education, economic opportunities, health, and safe stable housing. In 2015, SHA launched the Yesler Breathe Easy Program to bring healthy homes to low-income families and one-on-one visits from a trained community health worker. The Breathe Easy Program uses evidence based practices to make real gains in improving the health of low-income individuals and families, particularly those suffering from asthma or other respiratory illnesses. SHA uses a wide range of measures to improve health, from making significant changes in housing construction and using selective building materials to integrating innovative programming and support systems.

### **Healthy Homes Innovation and Achievement in Public Policy:**

**Regional Asthma Managements Program in Oakland, California.** The California Healthy Housing Coalition (CHHC)/ Regional Asthma Management and Prevention (RAMP) is a coalition of California organizations concerned with respiratory health that applied for HUD's Secretary's Awards for Healthy Homes for Policy Innovation and was selected by NEHA as the nominee.

The formation of CHHC created a voice for healthy housing in state policy and established a new front for efforts to improve housing conditions. RAMP serves as the co-chair of CHHC's Steering Committee and has led its state policy efforts. This new statewide voice for healthy housing has been effective in its innovative, strategic approach to using state policy advocacy to improve housing conditions and health. First, the coalition developed and passed a series of legislation over three years to transform the approach code enforcement officers and landlords take to pest infestations. Second, the coalition found a solution to what may have been the most challenging healthy housing issue in the state – mold – and helped make California the first state in the country to explicitly make mold an enforceable substandard housing condition. RAMP's and the coalition's success is based on the strong partnerships created and effective collaboration among a wide range of healthy housing stakeholders in California.

### **Healthy Homes Innovation and Achievement in Public Housing/Multifamily Supported Housing:**

**Boston Residential Investigation on Green and Healthy Transitions (BRIGHT), in Boston Massachusetts.** The Boston Housing Authority (BHA), has a longstanding commitment to healthy housing which has been institutionalized over the past 15 years through a number of policy and program initiatives including adoption of Integrated Pest Management in 2008, a Smoke Free policy in 2012, and their Strategic Sustainability Plan in 2014. Through all of these efforts, the BHA has institutionalized healthy housing principles into their housing, business policies and practices to foster health and wellness among its residents and employees. Recently, BHA implemented a Boston Residential Investigations on Green and Healthy Transitions (BRIGHT) study to quantify the changes that redevelopment has produced in occupant health and wellbeing across a variety of metrics. These include ambient air quality, incidence and prevalence of asthma and other respiratory ailments, occupant comfort and satisfaction, energy/water consumption, and operations and maintenance work order requests.