

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control



**HEALTHY HOMES PROGRAM
GUIDANCE MANUAL**

Target Audience



- Government health, housing or community development agency
- Community based organizations
- Weatherization or energy efficiency programs
- Academic institutions
- Hospitals or medical clinics
- Health care of housing finance agencies
- Advocacy agencies

Purpose



- To offer guidance and tools to help users establish, improve or expand healthy homes programs
- Best practices document that assembles tools, techniques and systems identified as effective
- Focus on the home environment

Development Process



- Healthy Housing Solutions, Inc.
- Development began in 2008
- Expert Panel
- Literature & document review
- Stakeholder interviews
- Case studies



Chapters



- **Chapter 1:** Introduction
- **Chapter 2:** Community Involvement in Program Planning
- **Chapter 3:** Program Design
- **Chapter 4:** Assessment of Housing-Related Health and Safety Hazards
- **Chapter 5:** Tailoring Intervention Strategies
- **Chapter 6:** Evaluation
- **Chapter 7:** Sustainability

Chapter 1 - Introduction



- No “one size fits all”
- Reflective of health priorities, goals, partnerships and community assets.
- Integration of health and housing services
- Multiple partnerships
- Variety of models
 - See Case Studies

Program Models



- Transitioning from Lead to Healthy Homes
- Medical-Clinic Partnerships
- Energy Efficiency & Weatherization
- Code Enforcement
- Medical-Legal Partnerships
- Education
- Housing-agency based
- Elderly Programs
- Rural Program
- State Programs
- Injury Prevention
- Child Care

Characteristics of Successful Programs



- Planning
- Community Involvement
- Medical-Clinic Connections
- Program Champion
- Partnerships and Coalitions
- Policy Development
- Evaluation

Chapter 2

Community Involvement in Program Planning



- Identify & Engage Community Stakeholders
 - Asset Mapping
- Coalition Building
- Identifying, Analyzing & Sharing Data
- Building Consensus on Program Priorities
- Environmental Justice
- Assuring a Long Term Role for the Community

Partnerships



- HH programs encompass activities that cross traditional organization boundaries
- Coordination of resources, service systems and policies
- Partnership development & maintenance is a long-term activity
- Engaging the community most affected by health and housing problems is key to success and sustainability

Community Asset Mapping



Resources:

- Human
- Physical
- Informational
- Political
- Existing interventions, services programs

Analyze and Share Relevant Data



- Target Population Demographic & Socioeconomic
- Health Status
- Health Care Costs
- Quality of Life
- Housing Stock Characteristics
- Neighborhood Characteristics

Community's Long Term Role



- Participation in program planning
- Environmental justice
- Hire from the target community
- Monitoring & evaluation
- Disseminate findings
- Community-based participatory research

Chapter 3 – Program Design



Considerations:

- Target population & geographic boundaries
- Goals & objectives
- Eligibility
- Recruitment & retention
- Organizational structure & staffing
- Assessment methods
- Intervention priorities
- Resources & leveraging
- Partner roles & responsibilities
- Policies & procedures
- Laws & regulations
- Data collection
- Evaluation Plan

Mainstreaming



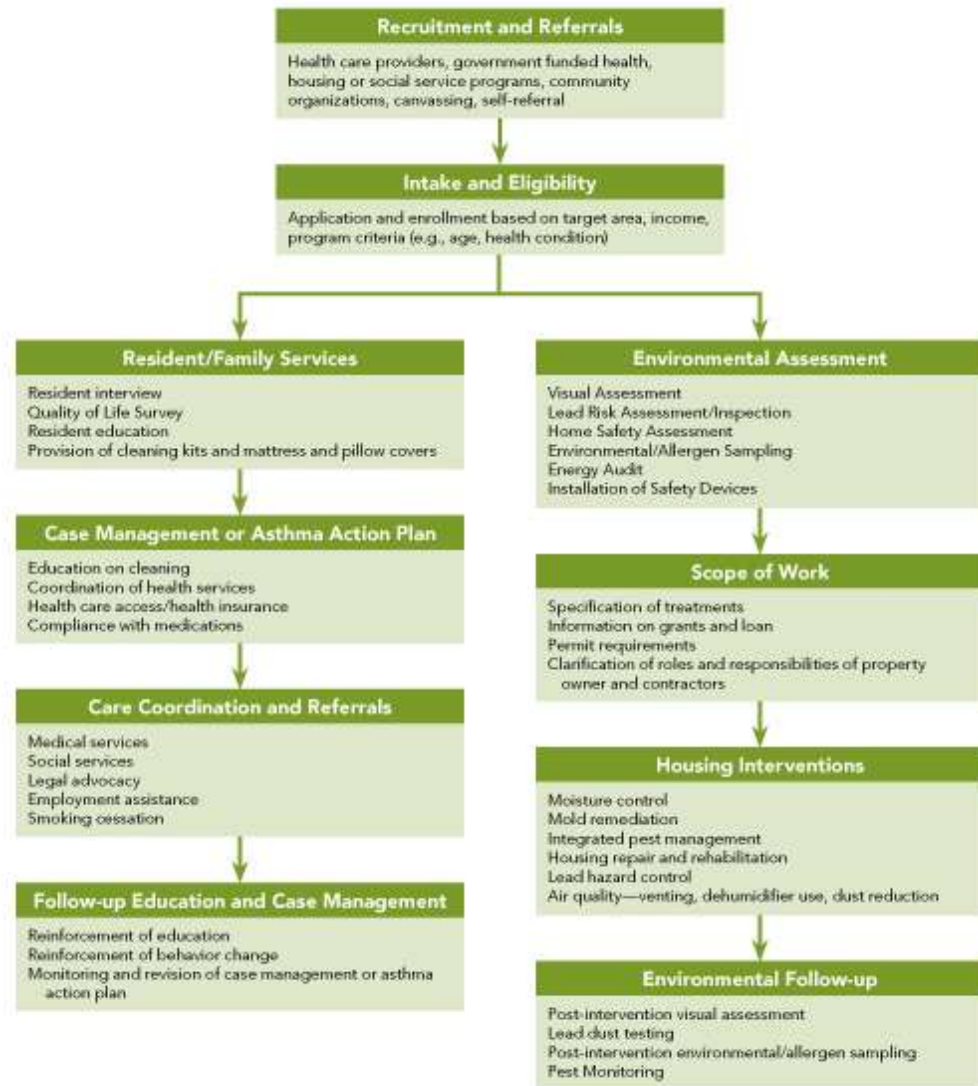
Defined

“What can our community do to advance the healthy homes movement without dedicated funding?”

Examples

- Fire Department
- Code Enforcement
- CLPPP
- Housing Rehabilitation
- Weatherization
- Public Housing
- Donations of supplies

Flow Chart



Chapter 4 - Assessment of Housing-Related Health and Safety Hazards



- Resident Interviews
- Visual Assessment
- Environmental Sampling & Building Performance Testing

Assessment Highlights



- Visual Assessment is the cornerstone of the assessment process
- Assessment tools exist – no need to reinvent the wheel
- Occupant interviews provide the opportunity for education and inform the visual assessment and intervention priorities
- Use environmental sampling sparingly

Visual Assessment



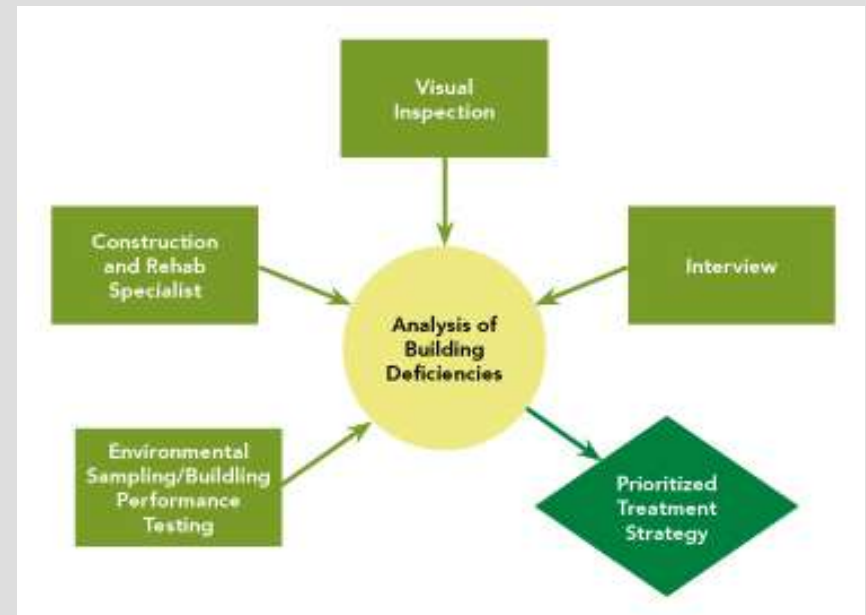
- Moisture
- Ventilation Systems
- Safety/Injury Hazards
- Pests
- Cleanliness



Prioritizing Visual Assessment Results

Considerations:

- Program focus
- Available resources
- Level of health risk
- Consultation with residents & property owners
- Expert advice of construction specialist
- Overall level of deterioration



Chapter 5

Tailoring Intervention Strategies



- Resident education & behavior change is an intrinsic component of housing interventions
- Combined structural & behavioral interventions are more effective than resident education alone
- Many healthy homes interventions reduce multiple sources of exposure and impact several health conditions
- Choose evidence-based interventions

Interventions



- Keep it Dry
- Keep it Ventilated
- Keep it Pest Free
- Keep it Safe
- Keep it Contaminant-Free
- Keep it Clean
- Keep it Maintained

Resident Knowledge & Education



- Shared responsibility
- Community health workers
- Multiple home visits
- Provide supplies



Chapter 6 – Program Evaluation



- Considered during program design phase
- Not a separate activity but should be integrated into program operations & management
- Continuous process
- Measures processes, outcomes & costs

Evaluation Best Practices



- Evaluation team
- Piloting
- Written policies & procedures
- Training of field and administrative staff
- Valid & reliable instruments
- Data QA/QC
- Field QA/QC
- Secure Data
- Commitment & leadership

Measuring Success

- Logic Models
- Process Measures
 - Outputs or activities
- Outcome Measures
 - Changes in health or housing condition
- Cost Measures



Chapter 7 - Sustainability



Program sustainability has traditionally been viewed narrowly as the act of decreasing dependence on one source of funding and shifting financial support for program implementation to a new funding stream.

Keys to Sustainability



- Planning
- Components
 - Diversified funding
 - Leadership/Program Champion
 - Sound program & financial management
 - Data on program effectiveness
 - Community coalitions, partnerships & support
 - Political will
- Mainstreaming
- Policy & Systems Change

Appendices



- Case Studies
- Potential Stakeholders & Assets
- Data Sources
- Available Educational Materials
- Assessment Tools
- Healthy Housing Criteria for Rehabilitation & New Construction
- Sample Logic Model
- Federal Government Resources
- Analysis of Regulations

Timeline & Distribution



- Target release date
- Format
- Distribution plan