

Establish a Healthy Homes Initiative

You can significantly improve the health of your residents, especially children, by starting a Healthy Homes Initiative. Get started by taking a course offered by the National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH) through the HUD-funded National Healthy Homes Training Center and Network. The course brings together health and housing professionals to identify policies and practices that will assist you in establishing a healthy housing program.

☞ www.healthyhomestraining.org

Do you currently have a healthy homes initiative? Do you want to identify professionals with experience in assessing healthy housing problems in your community? The NCHH and the National Environmental Health Association also of-

fer a Healthy Homes Specialist Credential. Healthy Homes Specialists must pass an exam and exercises insuring they understand the connection between health and housing and how to resolve housing hazards.



\$131 Million in Grants for Healthy Homes from HUD

HUD's Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control (OHHLHC) recently announced \$131 Million in grants aimed at programs that help to protect children from home hazards, including lead.

Many grant recipients will work closely with PHAs to perform lead hazard control for lower income homes including relocation of families during the remediation process. Some grants also included education components for residents and the community. A complete project-by-project summary of the programs awarded grants is available online. Further information on upcoming Healthy Homes grants can be found by visiting the OHHLHC website:

☞ www.hud.gov/offices/lead

REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT

Alameda County Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (ACLPPP) Awarded HUD Grant

The ACLPPP has become a model for lead prevention programs in the state of California with its education based approach. Education for parents, property owners and health care workers is the key to decreasing lead levels in children.

Through the recent grant funding ACLPPP will be awarded \$3,000,000 in Lead Hazard Control funds to complete lead hazard control in 200 housing units of low-income residents. The Lead Program will work closely with local housing authorities to maintain and expand

AT A GLANCE ON PAGE 2

Promotora model used to increase lead awareness

Are you at risk of carbon monoxide poisoning?

Maintenance Corner: Detecting Possible Carbon Monoxide Leaks

UPCOMING EVENTS

New England Regional Conference on eliminating childhood lead poisoning, implementing healthy homes programs, and combating indoor environmental hazards

▶ Nov 13-14, 2008 | West Springfield, MA

☞ www.leadmoldconferences.com/events2

Greenbuild International Conference & Expo

▶ Nov 19-21, 2008 | Boston, MA

☞ www.greenbuildexpo.org

EcoBuild Fall

▶ Dec 8-11, 2008 | Washington, DC

☞ www.aecocobuildfall.com

lead-safe Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program rental units.

The ACLPPP and its partners will provide matching funding of over \$1.4 million, which include in-kind contributions, the hard costs associated with housing rehabilitation, and other work which will complement the lead hazard control activity.

CONTACT **Mark Allen** Program Director
510.567.8287

CO SAFETY TRAINING

A CO safety training course for building managers and maintenance personnel is offered by the Carbon Monoxide Safety Association (COSA).
☞ cosafety.org

LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENT

Visit your local fire departments' website for valuable information on carbon monoxide dangers as well as free services such as home inspections and installation of detectors. In some cases these local fire departments receive grants for free carbon monoxide detectors which they distribute to residents in need.

DONATE AND SAVE

Donate \$100 to the Northeast States Emergency Consortium and you will receive 6 First Alert® Carbon Monoxide Detectors FREE. Donate \$25 and receive 1 First Alert® Carbon Monoxide Detector FREE.
☞ serve.com/NESEC/news/co_alarm.cfm

REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT

Promotora Model Used to Increase Lead and Overall Health Awareness

Sonora Environmental Research Institute (SERI) was awarded \$264,356 in Lead Outreach funds to conduct a community outreach program using the promotora model, a research-proven successful method of educating large Hispanic populations. The promotora model uses Latinos that are members of the target community to serve as community health workers, and further the message of lead prevention.

CONTACT **Ann Marie Alia Wolf**
520.321.9488 ☞ www.seriaz.org

The Boston Housing Authority utilizes a similar program called the **Resident Health Advocate Program**. Public housing residents throughout the city are part of this program. Participants in the program train on many topics, including: health assessment models, leadership skills, cultural competence, outreach education, navigating the health care system, asthma, first aid, nutrition for life, mental health, depression, stress, and sexually transmitted diseases.

CONTACT **Rachel Goodman** 617.988.4021

Are You at Risk of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning this Winter?

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas that can cause sudden illness and death if inhaled at sufficiently high levels. CO is found in combustion fumes, such as those produced by small gasoline engines, stoves, generators, lanterns, and gas ranges, or by burning charcoal and wood.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), CO poisoning is a leading cause of unintentional poisoning deaths in the United States. It was responsible for approximately 450 deaths each year during 1999-2004 and an estimated average of 20,636 emergency department visits for nonfatal, unintentional, non-fire related carbon monoxide exposures each year during 2004-2006. Approximately 73% of these exposures occurred in homes, and 41% occurred during winter months (December-February). Additional information on carbon monoxide risks and techniques for reducing exposure can be found at the following website:

☞ <http://www.hud.gov/offices/lead/healthyhomes/carbonmonoxide.cfm>



MAINTENANCE CORNER

Use garden hoses marked "Drinking Water Safe". Older, unmarked garden hoses made of polyvinyl chloride, which uses lead as a stabilizer, can contaminate water that may sit in the hose. Lead dust is created by the deterioration of the plastic by sunlight. This combination makes the water inside the hose contaminated for drinking.

Look for these clues of possible carbon monoxide leaks.

1. Rusting or water streaking on vent/chimney
2. Loose or missing furnace panel
3. Sooting
4. Loose or disconnected vent/chimney connections

5. Debris or soot falling from chimney, fireplace or appliance
6. Loose masonry on chimney
7. Moisture inside of windows

IF LEAKS ARE SUSPECTED, THESE AREAS SHOULD BE INSPECTED BY A LICENSED CO INSPECTOR.

TIPS TO REDUCE CO DANGERS

1. Have heating systems, water heaters and any other gas, oil, or coal burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year.
2. Install battery operated CO detectors in all homes and check or replace the batteries when the time changes each spring and fall. If the detector sounds, direct residents to leave the building immediately and call 911.
3. Educate residents on the signs and symptoms of CO poisoning. Low levels of CO inhalation can cause flu like symptoms which can be difficult to identify as CO poisoning. Residents should seek prompt medical attention if CO poisoning is suspected.
4. Residents should be advised on the dangers of using generators, charcoal grills, camp stoves, or other gasoline or charcoal burning devices inside their home, basement, garage, or near a window.

To unsubscribe from this mailing list, email pheccinfo@deval.us with "unsubscribe phecc" in the body of the message. **Comments? Questions? Mail the newsletter editor or call 1.800.955.2232**

This monthly e-mail update is brought to you by HUD's Public Housing Environmental Conservation Clearinghouse (PHECC) featuring news and resources to help agencies manage energy and water costs, while reducing environmental impacts.

Any training, conferences, products, study results or services contained in EcoWise are provided for informational purposes only and are not representative of an endorsement or sponsorship by HUD.