

Connecticut Department of Public Health

Healthy Homes Initiative

Early Successes and Key Accomplishments

Internal Program Integration Activities

- √ Developed a “Healthy Homes” selection option under the CDC Public Health and Health Services Block Grant funding stream.
- √ Development of contract language, hazard-specific deliverables and a unified healthy homes checklist.
- √ The Private Wells Program utilized public water supply data to target risk communication messaging in certain geographic areas. This system will be used to send special alerts to local health agents who can in turn make recommendations for private well testing.
- √ Included Healthy Homes expense line items into Lead and Radon Program grant applications.

Technical Capacity Building

- √ Presented Healthy Homes Training to Bridgeport Health, Housing officials, and non-governmental organizations with assistance from ARC.
- √ Incorporated healthy homes principles into Lead Inspector annual refresher course.
- √ Offered the National Center for Healthy Homes 2-day Essentials Course for CT Health and Housing Officials. This was offered on June 28-29, 2010 and will be offered again in mid-November.
- √ Constructed a modified course outline for the development of a Connecticut-specific healthy homes course for housing and health officials.
- √ Presented healthy homes concepts and principles at the annual Environmental Health Training Program Course at Southern Connecticut State University.
- √ Presented DPH Healthy Homes Initiative accomplishments and plans at the annual meetings of the CT Environmental Health Association and CT Association of Housing Code Enforcement Officials, as well as to local health departments, upon request.

Outreach

- √ ARC and Team members presented on healthy homes concepts and the state strategic planning work at the Connecticut Association of Housing Code Enforcement Officials, the New England Lead Coordinating Committee, the Connecticut Environmental Health Officials Annual Meeting, and at Uncas Health District. These events generated quite a bit of interest, discussion and support. The event also helped identify partners for future collaboration. At the events, several Bridgeport officials expressed an interest in getting help with coordinating their health and housing efforts and that led to the meeting and assistance described below.

Materials Development

- √ Developed a Healthy Homes Website.
- √ Completed update of the Real Estate Guide for Healthy Homes.
- √ Currently developing a Healthy Homes Brochure.

Technical Assistance

- √ CTDPH applied for and was awarded ARC services for a second year of strategic planning through a competitive application process. This work will involve identifying outside agencies and partners to work with in developing an intra-agency action plan for healthy homes.

External Agency Coordination

- √ The Connecticut Healthy Homes Team submitted testimony and suggested language to the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) for modification of the State's Consolidated Plan. The Consolidated Plan traditionally describes how DECD will address lead hazards in housing. Now, the Plan has been modified to say that the work will include addressing additional environmental contaminants and home hazards as described by HUD's Healthy Homes Strategic Plan.
- √ Incorporated radon testing into lead-related home intervention visits conducted by local and regional staff.