

CT Department of Public Health Healthy Homes Strategic Plan Summary

Vision: *Every Connecticut resident lives in a healthy and safe home environment.*

Mission: *The mission of the Healthy Homes Team is to develop statewide partnerships and implement comprehensive policies and coordinated program activities that foster a healthy and safe home environment, reduce housing related health disparities, and improve the public's health.*

Goals, Objectives and Strategies:

<p>Goal 1: Increase awareness of home-based hazards, health-related impacts, remedial strategies, and a preventative approach to healthy homes among targeted audiences.</p>
<p>Objective 1 - Promote the connection between health and housing for stakeholders.</p>
<p><i>Strategy a - Develop a health and housing data book or factsheet and presentation that conveys Connecticut's housing statistics and related health disparities.</i></p>
<p><i>Strategy b - Present on Connecticut's housing statistics and related health disparities at events and organizational meetings.</i></p>
<p><i>Strategy c - Integrate Healthy Homes messages into existing DPH program outreach activities.</i></p>
<p>Objective 2 - Develop and disseminate educational messages and materials on home-based hazards, prevention approaches, and remedial strategies.</p>
<p><i>Strategy a - Identify priority target audiences and develop necessary educational materials.</i></p>
<p><i>Strategy b - Develop and conduct educational programs for target audiences.</i></p>
<p><i>Strategy c - Identify internal and external partners that provide public education on home-based hazards and work to incorporate healthy homes concepts into existing outreach materials.</i></p>
<p><i>Strategy d- Develop outreach, dissemination and evaluation plan for materials and trainings.</i></p>

Goal 2: Develop and improve policies, guidelines and practices to achieve a healthy and safe home environment.

Objective 1: Define the components of a healthy home.

Strategy a - Explore and refine the Housing and Urban Development's and Center for Disease Control's definitions of a Healthy Home to suit the State of Connecticut.

Strategy b - Review healthy homes pilot program components to determine applicability for statewide scale.

Strategy c - Gain consensus among partners who work in health and housing.

Objective 2: Develop guidelines and practices.

Strategy a - Develop guidelines and practices for conducting healthy homes assessments for residential dwellings.

Strategy b - Develop guidelines and practices for preventing home-based hazards.

Strategy c - Develop guidelines and practices for conducting remedial activities.

Objective 3: Develop and enhance policies.

Strategy a - Identify and evaluate existing pertinent public health, safety, and housing policies.

Strategy b - Conduct a gap analysis in order to determine what policies and codes are needed to meet the standards and practices of a healthy home.

Strategy c - Develop new policies as needed.

Objective 4: Enhance enforcement of existing codes.

Strategy a - Train enforcement officials and inspectors on specific healthy homes approaches and corrective actions that fit under their regulatory authority.

Goal 3: Establish and increase adoption of coordinated and effective healthy homes programs and efforts across the state.

Objective 1 - Increase internal coordination across the Department of Public Health's programs to promote the healthy homes approach.

Strategy a - Maintain the Healthy Homes Team and Healthy Homes Initiative.

Strategy b - Identify additional programs within the Department of Public Health to enhance coordination and integration of healthy homes activities.

Objective 2 - Increase coordination with external agency partners to promote healthy homes.

Strategy a - Develop and disseminate a DPH Strategic Plan Summary briefing document.

Strategy b - Identify local, state, and regional partners to collaborate and promote a statewide approach to healthy home.

Strategy c - Form an inter-agency working group and engage partners in developing an "Inter-Agency Action Plan for Healthy and Safe Home Environments." (proposed title change)

Objective 3 - Support local agencies in implementing healthy home programs and services.

Strategy a - Train local health and housing officials in a healthy homes approach.

Strategy b - Utilize existing funding sources for implementation of healthy homes programs and services.

Strategy c - Seek and establish sustainable funding sources for healthy homes implementation.

Strategy d - Continually build technical capacity of local officials to carry out healthy homes activities.

Goal 4: Develop a healthy homes workforce who has comprehensive knowledge of home hazards and interventions.

Objective 1 - Develop and conduct education and training programs for target professional audiences.

Strategy a - Develop and deliver an interdisciplinary home hazard training program that will assist existing home-based hazard professionals in expanding their knowledge and capabilities.

Strategy b - Where appropriate, utilize existing healthy homes trainings for specific audiences or workers.

Strategy c - Develop a curriculum for vocational/technical schools.

Strategy d - Train medical students to conduct home assessments.

Strategy e - Expand content of existing professional training programs to include healthy home concepts.

Objective 2 – Promote uniform adoption of best practices and professionalism.

Strategy a - Promote policies, guidelines, and best practices for home assessments, prevention activities, and remedial strategies.

Strategy b - Identify current healthy homes trainings that promote best practices.

Strategy c - Promote the national credential for Health Homes Specialist.

Goal 5 - Evaluate outcomes of the strategic plan goals.

Objective 1 - Develop mechanisms for tracking housing conditions, resident behaviors, and program impacts that will assist us in targeting program populations and resources.

Strategy a - Review available tracking systems, or develop a database system to capture healthy homes assessment findings and interventions.

Strategy b - Identify existing the Department of Public Health data sets that can be included and used to quantify existing hazards, risks, and geographic locations where services are most needed.

Strategy c - Generate reports that will quantify the hazards identified during the assessments and measure the impact of the interventions.

Goal 6 - Identify resources to sustain healthy homes programs.

Objective 1: Identify sources and acquire funding for sustainable healthy homes programs.

Strategy a - The Healthy Homes Team will identify funding sources to sustain healthy homes programs.

Strategy b - The Healthy Homes Team members will seek to increase flexibility of existing grant requirements to allow other home hazards to be addressed.

Strategy c - Identify and work with key partnerships to leverage funding opportunities.

Strategy d - Build healthy homes program requirements into existing grant applications.

Strategy e - Work toward insurance reimbursement for home assessments.

Objective 2: Dedicate staff at state level for healthy homes initiative.

Strategy a - Once funding is allocated or obtained, the Department of Public Health will dedicate one full -time equivalent to the Healthy Homes Initiative to coordinate inter- and intra-agency activities.

Strategy b - Maintain staff participation from each single-hazard program on the Healthy Homes Team.

Strategy c - Provide on-going, cross-training among staff of different hazard programs to ensure sustainability of the healthy homes initiative.