

# National Healthy Homes Training Center & Network



## Training Center Reaches 1000!

The National Healthy Homes Training Center and Network trained more than 1000 people from March 1, 2005 to December 31, 2006. Most of the trainees completed the Training Center's flagship course, the two-day *Essentials for Healthy Homes Practitioner* course. Since June 2005, the Training Center has offered its courses a total of 30 times.

The training has changed students' policies and practices. They have expanded the scope of their work to look at healthy homes in a more holistic manner. These changes have made a tangible difference in the lives of their clients. In one case involving a water heater, the gas company said that the training saved the life of a family.

In its most recent evaluation report, NCHH found that almost two-thirds of all students rated the course excellent and 98% rated it good or excellent. Almost 95% of students said they would recommend the course to a colleague. More than 50% of students failing a pre-training test passed the test after the class. To review the report, go to [www.healthyhomestraining.org/Evaluation/Essentials\\_Eval.htm](http://www.healthyhomestraining.org/Evaluation/Essentials_Eval.htm).

## What's New in 2007?

The Training Center is not resting on its laurels. With a renewed, three-year commitment from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through its partnership with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) with additional support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), NCHH is:

- Adding **training partners** to go from seven to 15 and, if grants are approved, to 18 partners. We will have a presence in nine of the ten EPA/HUD regions.
- Expanding **healthy homes curriculum** from two courses to nine or more courses to more effectively meet the specific needs of health and housing professionals
- Helping consumers and agencies who serve them better identify the individuals who demonstrated a sound understanding of healthy homes issues. The Training Center is offering a **Healthy Homes Specialist Credential** in partnership with the National Environmental Health Association. NCHH and NEHA will begin offering the credential in June 2007 to recognize health and housing professionals in the public and private sector who have demonstrated specific knowledge and ability.
- Publishing its analysis of local housing codes and American Housing Survey statistics on healthy homes issues to help communities target their efforts and leverage opportunities for action.

For more information go to [www.healthyhomestraining.org](http://www.healthyhomestraining.org).

### Students Say Training Saved Lives – Literally!

*As the result of your training, I learned to be more thorough in my inspections. There was a gas water heater in the basement of a family childcare provider, and I used the gas detector around the water heater pipes. The gas detector began beeping repeatedly, and I called the gas company immediately. The gas company came out within minutes and corrected the problem. They said if I hadn't checked it, the family would not have lived. The provider was not aware of the leak, and was very grateful.*

*Two clients since then have had rat problems; I've given them the IPM handbook and we've done clean up and patched holes. We also performed carpet removal and replacement with hard surface in two instances. Clients reported fewer breathing problems afterwards.*

*Moisture control is now routinely addressed with weatherization clients and auditor will install continuous run exhaust fans depending on the make up of the family and the environment of the home.*

*An asthmatic family removed moldy carpet from the basement and found asthma symptoms to be greatly reduced.*

## 2007 Curriculum

### Students Say Training Moved Them to Holistic Approaches

- ***Essentials for Healthy Homes Practitioners*** – Flagship, two-day course for health and housing professionals to help them more effectively assess hazards in the home. Offered since June 2005. Spanish version to be offered in 2007.
- ***Launching a Healthy Homes Program*** – One-day course for health and housing leaders seeking to establish holistic approaches to improve housing in their community. Offered since January 2007.
- ***Building Healthy Homes*** – Two-day course for architects and housing development designers and managers. Offered through NeighborWorks since August 2005.
- ***On-Line Pediatric Environmental Home Assessment for Nurses*** – Two-hour, on-line training course for public health and visiting nurses. Offered since November 2006. Funded by a grant from U.S. EPA’s Office of Children’s Health.
- ***Integrated Pest Management in the Indoor Environment: Principles and Practice*** – One-day course for public health officials and community leaders. Offered since December 2006.
- ***IPM in Multi-Family Housing*** – One-day course for public housing authority staff and residents, and pest management professionals. First offered in April 2007. Funded by U.S. EPA’s Office of Pesticide Programs.
- ***Healthy Homes for Community-Based Organizations*** – Half-day course for community-based organizations and housing advocates. First offered in May 2007.
- ***Healthy Homes for Health Promoters*** – One-day course for Spanish-speaking *promotoras* who provide peer-to-peer support for communities they serve. First offered in Spanish in September 2007.
- ***Lead-Safe and Healthy Homes Work Practices*** – Two-day course for tradespeople and small contractors. First offered in May 2006.
- ***Coastal Healthy Homes Improvements*** – Half-day course for rehabilitation contractors in coastal regions of the U.S. First offered in May 2007. Funded by Home Depot Foundation.
- ***Flood Cleanup: Do-It-Yourselfers and Contractors*** – Two half-day courses for individuals and contractors who need or may need to take immediate action to cleanup after a flood. First offered in Fall 2007.

*The training changed my focus from what previously was a single purpose program (lead poisoning) to looking for opportunities to expand the program into a complete healthy homes focus.*

*We are testing smoke and CO detectors; identifying moisture issues; identifying the possible presence of lead, asbestos, mold, non-optimal water supply, etc; and we are identifying trip and/or fall hazards.*

*If we visit a home for an EBL investigation and notice that the house has no fire detectors, unsure of radon test results, mold issues are identified, pest control issues, then we can refer to our known resources to assist the homeowner in addressing those issues as well.*

*When working with local housing and health officials, I remind them to look for all aspects of what could be causing the problem. I have them remove their blinders and look around.*

# 2007 Training Partners

## Existing Partners:

- Boston University;
- East Central University;
- Johns Hopkins University;
- National Center for Healthy Housing;
- University of Cincinnati;
- University of Illinois at Chicago; and
- University of Washington.

## New Partners:

- Alameda County Lead Poisoning Prevention Program/University of California at Berkeley;
- Alliance for Healthy Homes;
- Children's Mercy Hospital and Clinic;
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health;
- Louisiana State University;
- Mississippi State University; and
- University of Georgia.

## Pending Partners:

- City of Houston Health Department;
- Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials; and
- Montana State University.

## Students Say They are More Effective!

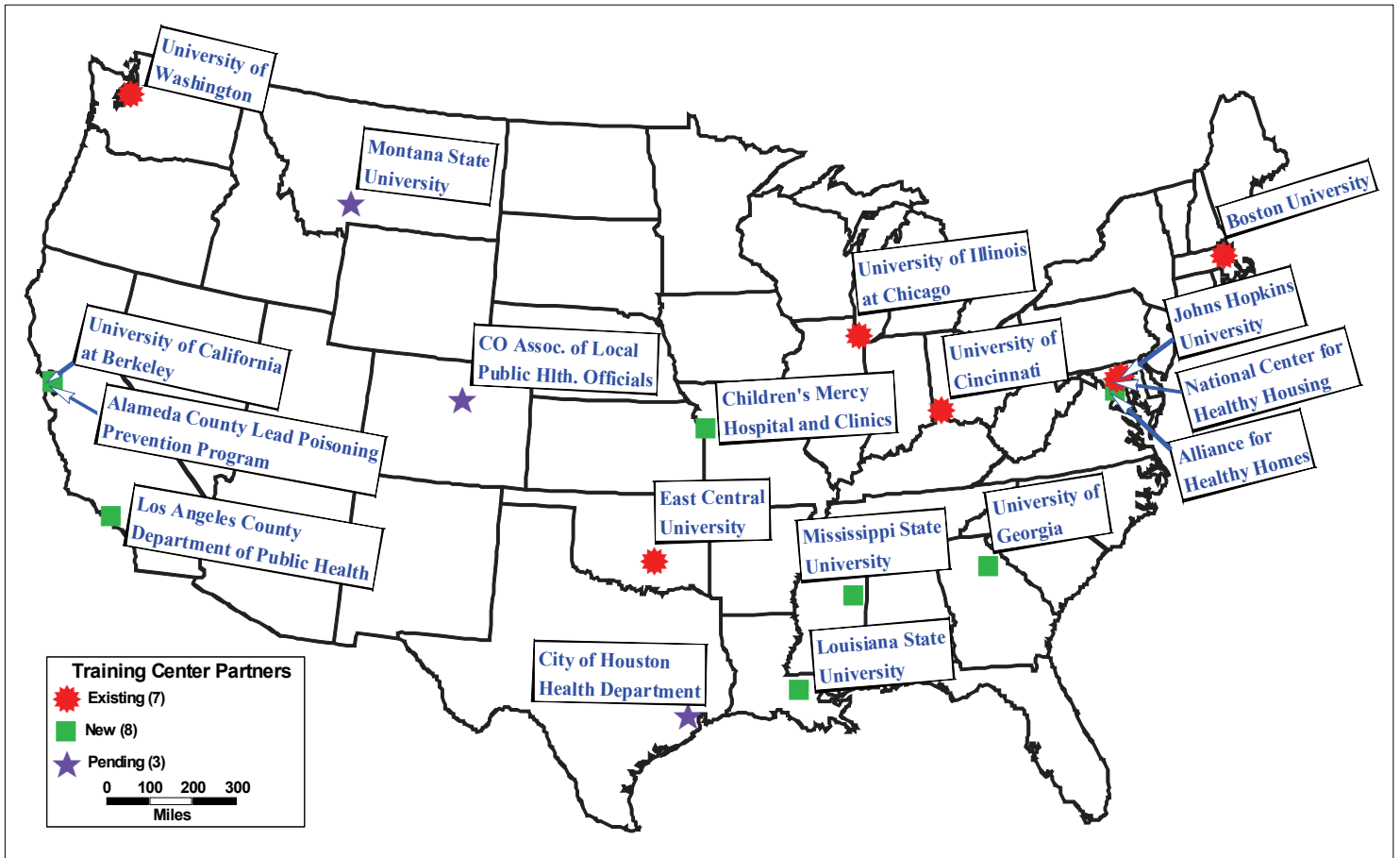
*We are including your healthy homes survey on our laptops for our field work but currently we are doing a "mental survey" of the home while we are focusing on lead poisoning and will bring issues to the family's attention and give referrals.*

*Several successful exterminations for families who had had traditional and inadequate services from pest management companies. I am able to do demonstrations of how they can exclude pests, clean, etc.*

*Most notably, staff that conduct lead risk assessments and inspections identify other home-related hazards while in the home. Through increased knowledge, staff feel more comfortable to address these issues where they might have ignored them before due to lack of understanding.*

*With this additional training and information, I consider myself as knowledgeable as there is, in my jurisdiction, regarding indoor air/housing and other related issues. I am more confident responding to issues and giving my thoughts for resolutions.*

*When I go on mold inspections, I am more aware of the potential for larger moisture problems being the cause of the mold. For example, whether foundation problems might be a cause, or if the roof has leaked.*



# Essentials for Healthy Homes Practitioners Course

If you visit homes to provide health or inspection services of any type, you will benefit from the *Essentials for Healthy Homes Practitioners Course*. The training will help you understand the connection between health and housing and how to take a holistic approach to identify and resolve problems, which threaten the health and well-being of residents.

Everyone from a public health nurse visiting a client to an environmental health professional doing a rodent inspection will gain insight into how housing and health are related and actions they can take to improve the health of their clients. This two-day course brings together professionals with a variety of perspectives and experiences in a series of exercises — keeping the training lively and engaging.

The training complements hazard-specific training in lead-based paint, radon, mold, pests, and asbestos. It identifies root causes of health problems in a home and links them to seven principles of healthy housing: keep it dry; keep it clean; keep it pest-free; keep it ventilated; keep it safe, avoid contaminants; and maintain the house. Course participants will have a better understanding how to collaborate to make healthy homes a reality in their community.

## What is a Healthy Home?

A *healthy home* is a home designed, constructed, maintained, or rehabilitated in a manner that supports the health of residents. The concept of healthier housing is receiving considerable attention from public health and housing communities. A growing body of evidence links housing conditions to health outcomes such as asthma, lead poisoning, lung cancer, and unintentional injuries.

Any home may have health hazards. Yet, there are more than six million substandard housing units nationwide. Addressing the health hazards in these substandard units presents a significant opportunity to improve public health. Creating healthier housing promotes the growth and development of our children and can save billions of dollars in health care costs.

The National Healthy Homes Training Center & Network brings together public health and housing practitioners to promote practical and cost-effective methods for making homes healthier. It also serves as a forum for exchanging information on new research and best practices.

The Training Center is funded by a grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, with support from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

## Practitioner's Course Outline

### Day 1

- Overview
- Start With People
- The House as a System
- Keep It Dry
- Keep It Clean
- Keep It Pest-Free

### Day 2

- Keep It Ventilated
- Keep It Safe
- Avoid Contaminants
- Maintain the House
- Making It Work

Course includes interactive exercises. Presentations available on-line at [www.healthyhomestraining.org](http://www.healthyhomestraining.org).

## Who Should Attend?

- *Environmental Health Professionals*
- *Housing Inspectors*
- *Public Health Nurses*
- *Energy Auditors*
- *Licensed Home Inspectors*
- *Lead Risk Assessors*
- *Health and Housing Advocates*
- *Property Managers*
- *Pest Control Operators*
- *Lead Poisoning Case Managers*
- *Community-Based Organization Staff*
- *Weatherization Specialists*

## For more information on the course, visit

[www.healthyhousing.org/training](http://www.healthyhousing.org/training)  
or contact Susan Aceti at  
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