



Green & Healthy Homes Initiative™

Breaking the link between unhealthy housing & unhealthy children



Setting a new standard for policies and practices to create more sustainable, affordable and healthier homes.





What is the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative?

Generations of chronic disinvestment in low-income communities have left over 6 million families trapped in unhealthy and inefficient housing. Far too many American homes don't meet basic health and safety standards, costing taxpayers billions of dollars annually in housing-related healthcare costs for asthma, lead-based paint poisoning and injury, as well as lost productivity in the labor force.

The Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) is a sustainable solution to this challenge. GHHI aligns, braids and coordinates federal and philanthropic investments in weatherization, energy efficiency, health and safety at the local level to provide integrated delivery of services to families in need. Implementing GHHI standards, practices and principles increases the stock of affordable green, healthy, and safe housing in our most distressed and impacted communities.

GHHI offers weatherization and energy efficiency retrofits, in addition to comprehensive whole-house interventions, so that: outside elements (including weather and pests) are kept out of the home; the air that is inside the home is healthy and free of contaminants; utility costs for low-income residents are reduced; the risk of lead poisoning is reduced, and there is a reduced likelihood of injuries from scalding, fires and other hazards for resident children.

Current GHHI sites include: Atlanta; Baltimore; Buffalo; Chicago; Cleveland; Denver; Detroit, Dubuque; Flint; Jackson; New Haven; Oakland; Philadelphia; Providence; Salt Lake; and San Antonio.

GHHI Technical Assistance Services:

The Green & Healthy Homes Initiative has a well-earned reputation for delivering quality services to at-risk communities, developing innovative policies and programs, and providing effective technical assistance to state, county, and city governments throughout the country. The GHHI team is adept at bridging the gaps that often prevent the necessary coordination and cooperation between city and state health, housing, and environmental agencies as well the integration of private stakeholders.

GHHI technical assistance services include:

- Development of Green & Healthy Home Initiative sites
- Grant writing services
- Innovative financing plans
- Strategic plans
- Program design
- Client service implementation
- Program boot camps and hands-on-training (intake, assessment, intervention)
- Development of educational materials and outreach programs
- Customized training
- Legislative policy development

GHHI: One Family's Story

GHHI's comprehensive interventions not only stabilize individual homes, but strengthen communities by enabling residents to remain in properties that they would otherwise have to vacate due to hazards in the home and increased utility costs. The O'Bannon family of Baltimore, Maryland is one such example.

Ms. O'Bannon is raising her two daughters, both of whom suffer from asthma, in her childhood home; a home that was rife with hazards that worsened her youngest daughter's asthma. In the year prior to the GHHI intervention, the youngest daughter had been to the emergency room or been hospitalized 13 times due to severe asthma attacks. Total medical costs for treatment of her asthma episodes exceeded \$53,000. In addition, prior generations of children had been lead poisoned in the property, which has been owned by the family for 40 years.

The O'Bannon home received the following GHHI interventions:

- Comprehensive environmental assessment
- Energy efficiency and weatherization
- Lead hazard reduction
- Reduction of asthma triggers

Initial Intervention Outcomes for the O'Bannon Family:

- 27% reduction in natural gas usage in 12 months following the intervention due to sealing significant air leakage, installing insulation, and conducting moisture control, roof replacement, and gutters and downspout repair.
- Asthma conditions have improved for her children. Neither have been to the emergency room or hospitalized due to an asthma episode since the GHHI intervention.
- \$53,000 in avoided medical costs achieved by the intervention since asthma related medical costs for her youngest daughter prior to the intervention exceeded \$53,000.

The projected cost savings from the GHHI approach for the O'Bannon family home is \$5,866, or 28%.

GHHI Public Policy Work

GHHI is recognized as a leader at the local, state and federal levels for its work to create green and healthy homes by working with government leaders to enact real, substantive policy changes.

The US Conference of Mayors has twice adopted a resolution supporting GHHI and the goal of expanding the nation's stock of affordable, green, healthy and sustainable housing.

A primary goal of the national policy and program work of GHHI is to inform and support the development of a new national housing standard that will comprehensively overhaul the nation's housing stock in a manner that properly protects the health and safety of all families while also improving energy efficiency. To do this, GHHI uses both quantitative and qualitative information that is generated from individual sites, aggregated to express scale and translated to inform housing standards and national policy change. GHHI also looks at how the model impacts neighborhood stabilization, wealth creation and family economic stability.





About the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative™

The Green & Healthy Homes Initiative is directed by the Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning (Coalition). With support from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Energy and national and local foundations, GHHI replaces stand-alone programs with a comprehensive strategy to improve health, economic and social outcomes through an integrated housing intervention framework.

Founded in 1986 as a response to the twin tragedies of unhealthy housing and unhealthy children, the Coalition is a national 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that creates, implements, and promotes programs and policies to eradicate childhood lead poisoning, reduce asthma episodes and further the creation of green, healthy and lead-safe homes.

The Coalition manages local direct services programs that include green and healthy housing interventions, training programs, and relocation, legal, and education services. Nationally, the organization is a leading provider of public policy and technical assistance services to government agencies, nonprofits, and philanthropy to support effective and efficient implementation of programs and policies that create energy efficient, healthy and safe homes.

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For more information about the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative, including how to bring the Initiative to a community near you, please call **410-534-6447** or **800-370-5323**. Or send an e-mail to info@ghhi.org.

www.greenandhealthyhomes.org

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