



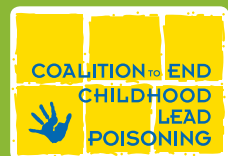
Every child has the  
right to live in a Green,  
Healthy and Safe Home.



**GREEN &  
HEALTHY HOMES  
INITIATIVE**



[www.lead-safe.org](http://www.lead-safe.org)



## What is a Green and Healthy Home?

Healthy Homes are those that are designed and maintained to foster personal health and safety. Green homes are those that have been designed or retrofitted to reduce energy usage. It is important to remember, however, that not all green homes are healthy and not all healthy homes are green. Weather sealing improvements may help keep inhabitants' energy costs down, but if the quality of the air that is sealed inside is poor, or if inhabitants are exposed to lead hazards during the weatherization process, health will suffer. There are many low-cost green interventions that can be performed to enhance comfort and reduce utility costs for residents. Some interventions, such as filling in holes that harbor rodents as part of an integrated pest management strategy, not only make the unit healthier for residents but also enhance the structural integrity of the property, making it more energy efficient to heat and cool.

### **Economic benefits of Green and Healthy Homes:**

- Green and Healthy Homes workers have increased earnings
- Fewer days are missed from school or work because of illness
- Less money is spent on doctor and emergency room visits
- Less money is spent on heating and cooling if the house is well-insulated against the outside weather
- Less money is spent on water if no water is being wasted through leaks or dripping taps
- Increased property values for homeowners, and increased marketability for landlords



**When it comes to improving children's environmental health, the Coalition sees opportunities rather than barriers.**

# The Green and Healthy Homes Challenge

## The Opportunity

Generations of chronic disinvestment in low income communities have left over 6 million families trapped in unhealthy and inefficient housing. The evidence is clear and compelling that unsafe and unhealthy housing leads to wealth depletion, abandoned properties, housing instability, potential homelessness, and increased risk of housing based illnesses. Unhealthy housing is the source of 250,000 new cases of childhood lead poisoning, 720,000 asthma related emergency room visits, 10,000 carbon monoxide poisonings and 13 million preventable home related injuries every year. The related economic losses from unhealthy housing spill well into the billions annually. This problem is solvable with targeted, cost-effective and time-efficient interventions.

With the historic federal and state investments in residential weatherization and energy efficiency projects in low-income households, a unique opportunity exists to leverage a new generation of affordable Green and Healthy Homes for all families. By addressing the nexus of home-based environmental health hazards and energy efficiency issues, we can increase the stock of affordable green, healthy, and safe housing in our most distressed and impacted communities. Through a cost effective integrated intervention strategy, we can create homes that will yield better health, social and economic outcomes for occupants and their children. Equally, investment in the development of Green and Healthy Homes will create a pathway to higher quality employment and wealth building through sustainable “green collar” jobs and small business ownership opportunities for residents of targeted communities.

**Our goal is to eliminate childhood lead poisoning and create healthy, green, and more energy efficient housing.**

## Green and Healthy Homes National Initiative

The Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning, in partnership with The Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Council on Foundations, nine (9) local project sites and philanthropic communities is helping to lead the national Green and Healthy Homes Initiative. The work of GHHI is to promote federal support for inter-agency adoption of Healthy and Safe Housing standards for all housing intervention programs and to efficiently leverage health into investments in areas such as weatherization and energy efficiency. As part of the Initiative, GHHI pilot projects will take place in nine cities: Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Flint, New Haven, Philadelphia, and Providence. These pilot projects will serve to inform the national agenda by generating best practices and lessons learned in the area of integrated green and healthy housing assessment and interventions.



**The Green and Healthy Homes Initiative breaks the link between unhealthy housing and unhealthy children.**

## Baltimore Green and Healthy Homes Pilot

The Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning's Green and Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) is designed as a comprehensive program to offer integrated health, safety, lead hazard reduction, energy efficiency, and weatherization interventions in low to moderate income homes. These comprehensive interventions will not only stabilize individual homes, but will strengthen communities by allowing residents to remain in properties that they would otherwise have to vacate due to hazards in the home and escalating energy consumption costs.

The Coalition's Green and Healthy Homes Initiative offers weatherization and energy efficiency retrofits, in addition to comprehensive Healthy Homes interventions, so that: outside elements (including weather and pests) are kept out of the homes; the air that is inside the homes 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.

The 450 unit pilot includes 60 units to be used as a national and local Learning Network. These units will undergo a comprehensive assessment (which includes an energy audit, a healthy homes assessment, and where indicated, a lead hazard risk assessment and indoor allergen testing), and integrated interventions to address residential risks to inhabitants' health, safety, and energy efficiency. The goals of the pilot will be: to demonstrate the use of a holistic housing approach that implements a comprehensive health and housing assessment form; to utilize a single scope of work to address the four intervention areas; and to cross-train workers to perform single stream interventions. Our local partners include the City of Baltimore and the Baltimore Community Foundation's Baltimore Neighborhood Energy Challenge among others.

**Children  
poisoned by lead  
are 7 times more  
likely to drop out  
of school.**

40% of asthma episodes are caused by **asthma triggers in the home** – representing \$5 billion lost annually in preventable medical costs



Low income households typically spend 14% of their total income on energy costs versus 3.5% for other households.



## Green & Healthy Assessments and Interventions

The Coalition has developed a Comprehensive Environmental Health and Housing Assessment Form to be used for initial intake and housing assessment purposes. The form allows inspectors to assess multiple home-based environmental hazards simultaneously, including moisture/mold, indoor air quality, pest management, lead, and safety. While assessing the residence, inspectors install safety and maintenance kit items that include smoke alarms, a carbon monoxide alarm and, if young children are present, cabinet locks and electrical outlet covers.

**The Coalition is committed to broad partnerships that build capacity, engage families, and achieve results.**

### **Diagnostic Tests Included in Assessment:**

- Visual inspection of property
- Infrared camera and blower door to identify air leaks
- Combustion analysis to check for carbon monoxide and gas leaks
- Indoor allergen sampling
- Lead-based paint/lead dust testing

### **Each GHHI Home will receive, as needed:**

- Comprehensive resident health, safety, and energy conservation education, and referrals to community agencies for services
- Weather stripping around doors and caulking to seal holes
- Venting in kitchen and for dryer
- Replacement of windows with Energy Star windows
- Gutter/downspout replacement
- Installation of CFL bulbs
- Insulation of water heaters and hot water feed pipes
- Lead-based paint stabilization
- Integrated Pest Management services
- Furnace filter replacement
- Allergen-reduction and lead-specific cleaning
- HEPA vacuum and indoor air filtration systems

### **Additional GHHI Interventions Offered Case-by-Case**

- Installation of Cool Roof
- Furnace repair/replacement
- Attic insulation



# The Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning

is a national non-profit organization that creates, implements, and promotes programs and policies to create Green and Healthy Homes and to eradicate childhood lead poisoning. The Coalition was founded in 1986 as Parents Against Lead, a grassroots volunteer effort. Today, the Coalition is a nationally recognized policy, advocacy and direct service organization headquartered in Baltimore, Maryland. Since 2000, the Coalition has built on its success in reducing the prevalence of residential lead hazards by offering comprehensive and sustainable Green and Healthy Homes programs. In addition, the Coalition provides national training and technical assistance to non-profit organizations, Foundations, as well as Federal, State and Local government agencies.

To contact a **Green and Healthy Homes** professional at the Coalition please call or e-mail to:

**Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning**

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