

BPI LAUNCHES THE HEALTHY HOME EVALUATOR CERTIFICATION NATIONALLY

(MALTA, NY) October 3, 2016 – Today, the Building Performance Institute (BPI) announces the nationwide launch of the Healthy Home Evaluator (HHE) certification. This certification will help the nation's home performance, weatherization, and healthy housing workforce conduct assessments in homes to determine conditions that may adversely affect occupant health and safety.

“BPI has always focused on health and safety issues such as carbon monoxide and natural gas leaks,” said BPI CEO Larry Zarker, “but, now with the HHE, we are including a deeper look at home issues that could negatively impact the health and safety of America’s families.”

BPI developed the HHE certification in partnership with the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI), a national nonprofit working with partners in over 30 cities and counties to break the link between unhealthy housing and unhealthy children. Representatives from Children’s Mercy Hospital (CMH) of Kansas City, Missouri helped develop questions for the HHE exam, assisted with curriculum development, and developed a train-the-trainer initiative. An experienced team of subject matter experts in public health, building science, and healthy housing created the certification blueprint, job task analysis, and the bank of HHE test questions.

Through a contract from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes, Healthy Housing Solutions, Inc., (Solutions), a subsidiary of National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH), developed the curriculum for an HHE certification study course. Through this contract, Solutions also provided BPI with funding to promote the HHE.

Peter Ashley, Director of the Policy and Standards Division in the Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control at HUD said, “We know that there are millions of homes in the U.S. with lead and other key health and safety hazards that need to be addressed. Development of the HHE certification is a tremendous opportunity for BPI-certified professionals to obtain the additional skills needed to expand our stock of healthy housing. In doing this, we will work together to create homes that are not only energy efficient, but safe and healthy as well.”

In April 2016, BPI initiated a pilot phase of the HHE certification. During the pilot, which concluded on September 9th 2016, 335 BPI Certified Professionals took the HHE exam. The HHE builds on a prerequisite of one of three other BPI certifications: Building Analyst (BA), Energy Auditor (EA) or Quality Control Inspector (QCI). The HHE assesses the risk of key home-based health hazards including asthma triggers from dust, moisture and mold, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), lead-based paint, asbestos, radon, carbon monoxide leaks, as well as potential fire hazards, trip and fall hazards and pest management issues.

“The need for a nationally recognized Healthy Home Evaluator certification has never been greater. Throughout the country, GHHI sites work with local contractors to rehabilitate homes using a comprehensive model that combines health, safety and energy efficiency improvements. Funding sources from states, philanthropies and others are increasing for healthy home interventions, and with them, the demand for a high quality certification that verifies contractor expertise,” said Ruth Ann Norton, President and CEO of GHHI.

A 2014 NCHH nationwide survey showed increasing demand for healthy home assessments in the marketplace, particularly in the area of asthma prevention. Thirteen states have reported that some Medicaid reimbursement is in place for home-based asthma education. As of September 2016, the state of Missouri has determined that the HHE meets the requirements for healthy home assessment reimbursement under Medicaid.

The Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) provided critical technical and financial support for the development of the HHE certification.

Information about the HHE exam can be found at bpi.org/hhe.



About the Building Performance Institute (BPI)

BPI is the nation's premier building performance certification, quality assurance and standards setting organization. BPI develops technical standards using an open, transparent, consensus-based process built on sound building science. From these standards, we develop professional certifications for individuals, companywide certifications for BPI GoldStar Contractors, home energy rating systems and quality assurance services that help raise the bar in home performance contracting. BPI is approved by the American National Standards Institute, Inc. (ANSI) as an accredited developer of American National Standards and as a certifying body for personnel certifications.

For more information on BPI, visit www.bpi.org/pros.

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About the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI)

GHHI is a national nonprofit dedicated to breaking the link between unhealthy housing and unhealthy families. Formerly known as the Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning, GHHI replaces stand-alone intervention programs with an integrated, whole-house approach that produces healthy, safe and energy efficient homes. GHHI serves as the national model for green and healthy homes interventions. GHHI works in Austin, Atlanta, Baltimore, Buffalo, Chicago, Cleveland, Denver, Detroit, Dubuque, Flint, Jackson, Lansing, Lewiston Auburn, Marin County, New Haven, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Providence, the State of Rhode Island, Salt Lake, San Antonio, Staten Island and Greater Syracuse.



About HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH): OLHCHH provides funds to state and local governments to develop cost-effective ways to reduce lead-based paint and other key residential hazards. In addition, the office enforces HUD's lead-based paint regulations, provides public outreach and technical assistance, supports training and conducts technical studies to help protect children and their families from health and safety hazards in the home.

Healthy Housing Solutions^{Inc.}

About Healthy Housing Solutions, Inc. (Solutions) is the for-profit subsidiary of the National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH), which has almost 24 years of experience as the leader in investigating, validating, and promoting healthy and safe homes for all. Solutions is a certified small business, incorporated in November 2003, which provides professional consulting services to public agencies and private sector organizations. Solutions focuses on the residential and community environmental health and safety.



With not-for-profit hospitals in Missouri and Kansas, and numerous specialty clinics in both states, **Children's Mercy** provides the highest level of care for children from birth through the age of 21. U.S. News & World Report has repeatedly ranked Children's Mercy as one of "America's Best Children's Hospitals." Children's Mercy's faculty of more than 700 pediatric subspecialists and researchers across more than 40 subspecialties are actively involved in clinical care, pediatric research, and educating the next generation of pediatric subspecialists.

The **Department of Environmental Health at Children's Mercy** is a nationally recognized program providing environmental health consulting, patient case management, research, education, training, and analytical services. Our team aims to help improve and advocate for the health of individuals with environmentally triggered illnesses. Winners of a 2015 HUD Secretary's Award for Healthy Home and a HUD 2014 National Healthy Home Training Center award, Children's Mercy is dedicated to working to create best practices and trained professional to provide effective environmental health assessment services.