



**Making Homes Healthier for Residents with Limited Finances Webinar
Questions, Answers, and Comments from Attendees
September 25, 2018**

Question: How would you recommend networking with other service providers aside from researching contact information associated with a funding stream and cold-calling them?

Answer: Calling or emailing the contact person for each fund is really best. It is their job to provide the information related to program parameters and eligibility. Local networking, affordable housing associations, etc. are good ways to meet in person.

Question: How does a person start with public housing issues - local or federal? Housing Authority or HUD? Also, are there mold specific resources since there are no federal mold regulations (EPA, NIOSH, OSHA)?

Answer: Always start local. Try NCHH for mold resources.

Question: Do you have a general list of home repair priorities that can help guide what to best prioritize? The non-profit hospital programs is what I was referencing.

Answer: Many of the healthy homes training courses can provide these. Check Healthy Housing Solutions' website for training (www.healthyhousingsolutions.com). HUD also has this information.

Question: Do you have any recommendations for low cost resources for helping cleanup hoarding situations?

Answer: See Healthy Housing Solutions' Hoarding webinar (link is on the webinar page). Contact hoarding taskforce (google your area). Try Providence & Philadelphia.

Question: Who was funding the "basic services" work in Philadelphia?

Answer: Philadelphia Division of Housing and Community Development. (Susan Aceti resource.)

Question: Do you have suggestions for bed bug eradication?

Answer: See stoppests.org for free resources & training for integrated pest management.

Question: Are there specific funds for tribal housing?

Answer: A google search of "tribal housing assistance" turns up multiple resources.

Question: In Georgia, the Rural Development Block will only work with county and city government, not "State health Department". How would we get them to start working with us, the local health department?

Answer: Can your local health department work through the city or county government?

Question: What type of services has Medicaid paid for in healthy homes?

Answer: Try searching NCHH's website. They have this information (link is on webinar page).

Question: What is the website to access the Lead and Healthy Homes Grantees Program?

Answer: https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/healthy_homes

Question: I am a lead risk assessor and our state does not have a healthy homes program and we have no regulatory authority on mold or bedbugs or other programs. Is there anything we can tell our homeowners who are worried about the cost of lead abatement and how they can get it funded if they do not have the money for it? p.s. we do not have any state funds for lead abatement.

Answer: See if local CDBG or HOME will allow the expense. Check loan sources.

Question: Do you know of any programs specifically for lead hazard remediation?

Answer: Federal, HUD. Some states also have their own sources. For instance, Massachusetts has "Get the Lead Out."

Question: Can you just name the hospitals again?

Answer: Yale-New Haven, CT; St Johns Health System, Indiana; Mercy Medical Center, Cedar Rapids Iowa; Boston Children's Hospital, MA. Susan Aceti Resource.

Question: Many times the tenant must move, due to many factors. Lack of moving funds, security deposits and first month rent is not available. No agency in our area provides this. Any thoughts?

Answer: Sometimes faith-based or other non-profits have unmet needs committees that may help.

Comments from attendees:

Sometimes doctors will write a "prescription" for helping people with a specific condition that a home must meet to keep them healthy.

Idea for local: fire departments in rural areas often help with CO and smoke detectors.

This database was helpful, if you want to share - www.communitybenefitinsight.org.

Contact their local Community Action Agency!

They just have to talk with their lenders to see if they do them.

Some low priority fixes can actually be accomplished in a day or so. Sometimes the electric utility companies can provide receptacle covers for free.

Also, University of Maryland College Park moved students out of residence halls TODAY because of mold. Really need mold solutions because this has been a wet year and where there is hoarding there is often mold....

Whom to contact for help with your public housing unit: you can actually contact your local congressperson. Believe it or not, offices often help with things like this.