

DC Healthy Homes Digest



July 2019 • *Healthy Homes Tips, Sustainability Plan 2.0, Lead Disclosure, Green Jobs*

WELCOME TO THE DC HEALTHY HOMES DIGEST!

This publication connects you to organizations and community members dedicated to creating and maintaining safe, healthy, and energy-efficient housing in the District of Columbia. [Subscribe to the DC Healthy Homes Digest](#) and forward it to your colleagues!

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EVENTS

DOEE'S DO-IT-YOURSELF STEPS TO A HEALTHIER HOME

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT (DOEE) HOSTS HOW-TO WORKSHOP AT DC HOUSING EXPO

•As a tenant or homeowner, you can take charge of creating a healthier and more energy-efficient living space for you and your family. That's the message that greeted residents who attended DOEE's Saturday morning workshop at the DC Housing Expo and Home Show on June 15, 2019. Celebrating the theme of June's National Healthy Homes Month, "Growing Up Safe and Healthy: 5 Minutes to a Healthier Home," experts from DOEE's Lead-Safe and Healthy Housing Division (LSHHD) and Affordability and Efficiency Division (AED) demonstrated simple, low-cost steps anyone could apply at home to improve energy efficiency and indoor air quality.

Gift Oboite-Ukpolo launched the workshop by introducing participants to the [eight principles of a healthy home](#): keep it dry, clean, safe, well-ventilated, pest-free, contaminant-free, maintained, and thermally controlled. Using photos of common health and safety hazards, such as cockroaches, cracked paint, missing smoke detectors, and water leaks, participants took turns identifying which healthy homes principles applied to each hazard.

Next, Terrence Henry, Jr. stressed the importance of protecting household members from lead hazards,



Let's Talk Housing – Public Hearing for FY 2020 Annual Action Plan

Hearing: Thursday, July 18, 2019

6:30 pm–8:00 pm

The District's Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) invites District residents to a public hearing on the agency's proposed [FY 2020 Draft Annual Action Plan](#). By providing input at the hearing, you can help shape the development of District policies and programs as they relate to: (1) affordable housing, (2) special needs housing, (3) homelessness, (4) homeownership, and (5) community development and public service activities. DHCD plans to submit the Action Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development by August 16, 2019. DHCD will conduct the public hearing on Thursday, July 18, 2019 at 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm at 441 4th Street NW in the Old Council Chamber Room. District residents who would like to present oral testimony are encouraged to register in advance. Written statements may be provided until August 2, 2019. Visit the [Let's Talk Housing--Assessing Needs for FY20 Action Plan invitation](#) for more information.

particularly young children who are most vulnerable to the effects of lead exposure. Even a small amount of lead-contaminated dust can poison a child. He noted that by law, [all District children must be tested at least twice for lead](#), at 6–14 months of age and at 22–26 months of age. Mr. Henry then shared tips to reduce the risk of lead exposure, including washing children's hands and toys often, and cleaning floors, windowsills, and other surfaces with a damp cloth or wet mop. Noting that the [District's lead law](#) presumes any non-intact paint in a pre-1978 dwelling to be a lead-based paint hazard, he also reminded participants to use [DOEE-certified professionals](#) trained in [lead-safe work practices](#) when painting, repairing, or remodeling in the interior or exterior of the home.



DOEE workshop presenters from left: LaWanda R. Jones, Chief, AED's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Branch; Gift Oboite-Ukpolo, Public Health Technician, LSHHD's Lead-Safe and Healthy Housing Branch; and Terrence Henry, Jr., Environmental Protection Specialist, LSHHD's Lead Compliance and Enforcement Branch.



LaWanda R. Jones concluded the workshop by showing participants how they can improve their home's energy efficiency and reduce their heating and cooling bills using easily available materials. She demonstrated how caulking, foam sealant, and outlet covers can be used to seal air leaks around windows and other areas of the home. Similarly, these items can be used to close up holes that allow entry by mice and other pests. Ms. Jones also shared the following important tips and resources:

Intern with Children's Environmental Health Network

Fall application deadline extended to July 19, 2019

The [Children's Environmental Health Network](#) offers student internships from each of the following three areas each fall and spring semester and over the summer, the 1) CEHN General Internship, 2) Carol Stroebel Policy and Health Education Internship, and 3) Eco-Healthy Child Care® Internship. All interns must work in CEHN's Washington, DC office. Visit [CEHN's Internship and Volunteer Opportunities webpage](#) for application instructions and deadlines.

ELEVATE: The 2019 Regional Outreach Worker's Conference

August 1–2, 2019

Registration closes Friday, July 19, 2019 at 5 pm

The Institute for Public Health Innovation invites you to join fellow Community Health Workers and other Health Outreach Workers from across the Washington, DC, Maryland, and Virginia region at The Catholic University of America on August 1–2, 2019 to network, receive continuing education, and promote a cooperative approach to the Community Health Outreach Worker industry. The two-day meeting is packed with workshops, panels, and discussions that address the challenges Community Health and Outreach Workers encounter every day in their work. The meeting will also present information on workforce and industry developments, such as association work and certification. More information, including the cost to attend and scholarship opportunities, can be found on the [ELEVATE event registration page](#). You

- Follow the [District's regulations for smoke and carbon monoxide alarms](#). District law requires the installation and maintenance of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in buildings with residential occupancies. The smoke and carbon monoxide alarms must be installed in the immediate vicinity outside of each sleeping area or grouping of bedrooms in the dwelling unit with very limited exceptions. District homeowners can request [free smoke alarms and installation](#) from the DC Fire and EMS Department. Once the alarm is installed, periodically test the batteries and replace them if necessary.
- Switch to [energy-efficient LEDs for under \\$1 per bulb](#) at participating District retailers.
- [Apply for help with utility bills](#). Several programs are available to assist income-eligible District households with heating and cooling bills, including the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Utility Discount Program.

The [Clean Rivers Impervious Area Charge \(CRIAC\) Residential Relief Program](#) provides relief for income-eligible DC Water customers. The program consists of three levels of relief:

- The Customer Assistance Program (CAP) provides eligible DC Water customers a discount on the first 400 cubic feet (3,000 gallons) of water and sewer services used each month. Eligible households will receive an additional 50% reduction in the monthly CRIAC and a Water Service Replacement Fee waiver. The annual discount is approximately \$760.
- The Customer Assistance Program II (CAP2) provides eligible DC Water customers a discount on the first 300 cubic feet (2,250 gallons) of water and sewer services used each month (with the exception of PILOT and ROW fees) and a 50% reduction in the monthly CRIAC. The annual discount is approximately \$520.
- The Customer Assistance Program III (CAP3) provides eligible DC Water customers with a discount of 75% off of the monthly CRIAC. The average annual discount is

can also contact Kady Pecorella at kpecorella@institutephi.org or (202) 350-4120.



Free Paint Drop-off Events for Households and Businesses

Saturday, July 20, 2019, 9:00 am–1:00 pm (Howard University School of Law)

Saturday, October 5, 2019, 9:00 am–1:00 pm (Ballou High School)

PaintCare plans [one-day paint drop-off events in the District of Columbia](#). There is no charge for dropping off paint at a PaintCare drop-off site. These events are open to District households and businesses, including painting contractors and property managers. To learn more or find a year-round PaintCare drop-off site near you, visit www.paintcare.org or call (855) PAINT09.

Webinar: Type 2 Inflammation: Severe Asthma and Co-Morbidities

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

3:00 pm–4:00 pm

Up to 50%–70% of individuals with asthma have a form of asthma characterized by Type 2 inflammation – a type of systemic allergic response that can result in increased asthma exacerbations and decreased lung function. The Allergy & Asthma Network and American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (ACAAI) invite you to [register for the Type 2 Inflammation: Severe Asthma & Co-Morbidities webinar](#) with Bradley Chipps, MD, pediatric pulmonologist, board-certified allergist and past

approximately \$210.



Keith Keemer, an Environmental Protection Specialist with the LSHHD's Licensing and Certification Branch, talks with a resident at the DC Housing Expo and Home Show.

The [DC Housing Expo and Home Show](#) is presented annually by the Department of Housing and Community Development in partnership with the Greater Washington Urban League. The all-day event, held at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, offers resources and information for current and potential renters and homeowners in Washington, DC, including guidance for residents facing foreclosure, small business owners, and community leaders. If you missed this year's Expo, more photos and video from the event are available on Twitter at #DCHousingExpo2019.

DOEE also hosted an exhibit booth at the Expo. In addition to answering questions from residents on a range of topics, including [lead](#), [mold](#), and [radon](#), DOEE staff provided information on [how to apply for DOEE's Solar for All program](#). Sola for All aims to bring the benefits of solar energy to 100,000 low- and moderate-income families in the District. DOEE staff also encouraged residents to check their home for radon by [requesting a free radon test kit](#), or by calling the radon hotline at (202) 535-2302.

Two DOEE grantees previously profiled in the [April 2019 DC Healthy Homes Digest](#) also exhibited at the Expo – the Central American Resource Center (CARECEN) and the Latino Economic Development Center (LEDC). Staff from each organization shared information and materials on lead poisoning prevention, tenants' rights, and homeownership. In addition, LEDC presented three Spanish-language

ACAAI president scheduled for Tuesday, July 23 at 3:00 pm.

CARECEN Housing and Health Fair

Saturday, July 27, 2019

10:00 am–2:00 pm

The [Central American Resource Center \(CARECEN\)](#) encourages you to attend its annual Housing and Health Fair on Saturday, July 27, 2019 at 10:00 am–2:00 pm at St. Stephen's Church, 1525 Newton Street NW. Come learn about financial planning, avoiding foreclosure, understanding tenant rights, protecting their family from lead, and protecting their home from fires. There will also be dental exams for children, blood pressure and glucose screenings, and fun activities. Homemade pupusas will be available for sale and gift cards will be raffled to lucky winners.

EPA Webinar: Demonstrating Positive Asthma Outcomes

Tuesday, July 30, 2019

3:00 pm–4:00 pm

During the [EPA's webinar on Demonstrating Positive Asthma Outcomes: Collecting and Analyzing Data to Make Your Case](#), hear from experts with Children's Mercy Kansas City and the University of Missouri School of Medicine about what it takes to collect and analyze data effectively. Find out how programs around the country are using data to support and demonstrate real results in children with uncontrolled asthma and the difference data makes in sustaining your program for long-term success. [Join EPA's AsthmaCommunityNetwork.org](#) for additional tools and resources. For questions, [send them an email](#).

workshops on home buying and financial fitness.

Unsure how to protect your family? DOEE's Healthy Homes Program is a great resource to learn more about how to maintain a lead-safe and healthy home. If you have a child that suffers from poorly controlled asthma, a child aged six years or younger with a blood lead level of concern, or are pregnant, you may be eligible for a home environmental assessment and case management. Download the [Healthy Homes Referral form](#), or call (202) 535-2600.



Anabell Martinez, Housing Director, CARECEN, and her son stand ready at the Expo to inform residents on lead and other housing issues.

DOEE'S SOLAR FOR ALL MOVING THE DISTRICT TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY



MAYOR BOWSER RELEASES UPDATED SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

• On April 23, 2019, Mayor Muriel Bowser released the District's [Sustainable DC 2.0 plan](#). The updated plan includes actions and strategies for making the District the healthiest, greenest, and

most livable city in the nation by 2032. Led by the Urban Sustainability Administration at DOEE, in conjunction with the DC Office of Planning, Sustainable DC is a collaborative effort involving the

LEDC: Inclusionary Zoning Orientation

Typically the 2nd Thursday of each month at 3:45 p.m.

Interested in buying a home but don't know if you can? This orientation by the [Latino Economic Development Center \(LEDC\)](#) will introduce you to the [District's Inclusionary Zoning \(IZ\) program](#). The District designed the IZ program to enable income-eligible households to purchase or rent at below-market prices. IZ is a law that requires developers to set aside a certain number of units for low-to-moderate-income households. Participants will receive their IZ certificate after successful completion of this two-hour orientation and once attendance is confirmed. The IZ certificate will be valid for two years and will give participants an opportunity to enter the Inclusionary Zoning Lottery. IZ Orientations are held regularly by LEDC. Visit www.ledcmetro.org to register and to find more classes and workshops.



Lead Prevention Ambassador Leadership Program

Rolling application deadline through August 21, 2019

[Black Millennials 4 Flint](#) is launching the second cohort of its [Lead Prevention Ambassador Leadership Program](#) for 2019–2020. This leadership program is designed for African American and Latinx millennials and Generation Z college students, young professionals, and parents ages 18–38 to build their capacity to advocate for the eradication of lead through political advocacy, activism, and organizing. Black Millennials 4 Flint will accept [applications for the Lead Prevention](#)

input and participation of thousands of members of the District community.

The Sustainable DC 2.0 plan is the culmination of a 20-month community engagement process conducted by DOEE and involving feedback from more than 4,000 District residents about their priorities for the future of the city. The comprehensive plan promotes strategies to make housing healthier and more energy- and water-efficient. The plan also includes dedicated sections on climate, energy, economy, education, and more. To learn how you can get involved in this initiative, email sustainable.future@dc.gov or call (202) 535-2600. You can also [subscribe to Sustainable DC's mailing list](#).



Also on April 23, 2019, DOEE and the District's Department of Employment Services joined the Mayor in an event celebrating the 100th Solar Works DC installation under [DOEE's Solar for All program](#). The program aims to bring clean, renewable, and affordable solar energy to all District residents, regardless of their income. DOEE partners with organizations across the city to install solar panels on single-family homes and to develop community solar projects to benefit renters and residents in multi-unit buildings. Solar for All participants can see up to a 50% savings on their electricity bill over 15 years.

Solar for All also aims to help achieve the mandates of the District's [Clean Energy DC Omnibus Amendment Act of 2018 \(D.C. Law 22-257\)](#), which went into effect on March 22, 2019 following the Mayor's signature in January. The law doubles the required amount of solar energy deployed in the District, sets a mandate of 100% renewable electricity by 2032, and commits the District to becoming carbon neutral by 2050.

Visit [Solar for All to learn more and apply](#) or call the

[Ambassador Leadership Program](#) on a rolling basis until the final deadline of August 21, 2019 at 11:59 pm Eastern Time. For questions, please email info@blackmillennials4flint.org.



DC's Second Annual Maternal & Infant Health Summit

Mark your calendars: Mayor Bowser will host the District's Second Annual Maternal and Infant Health Summit at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center on Tuesday, September 10, 2019. The summit will be an opportunity for District residents, elected officials, and health care professionals to explore strategies to improve perinatal health and address racial disparities in birth outcomes. For more information, go to dcmaternalhealth.com or call (202) 442-8150

Save the Date: 2019 GHHI Executive Leadership Institute

September 15–17, 2019

The [Green & Healthy Homes Initiative \(GHHI\)](#) invites you to save the date for its 10th Annual GHHI Executive Leadership Institute. The event will take place on September 15–17, 2019 at the Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel in Baltimore, MD. To learn more, visit the [GHHI website](#) or [join GHHI's mailing list](#).

Connect with the DC Healthy Housing Collaborative

The [DC Healthy Housing Collaborative](#) is a multi-sector coalition seeking to

Solar Hotline at (202) 299-5271.

WHAT'S BUZZING AT DOEE?

INTERESTED IN A GREEN CAREER?

• [DOEE's Green Pathways](#) offers a variety of green employment programs to help District residents explore and prepare for careers in energy and the environment. Through these programs, students, youth, and adults can:

- Gain real-world work experience in a professional environment,
- Explore how their interests relate to possible careers at DOEE,
- Participate as a team member on key agency projects,
- Network and build relationships with agency leaders, and
- Develop confidence and learn to interact professionally in the workplace.



Whether you want to further your education or career or see whether a green job is the right fit for you, check out the following Green Pathways opportunities:

The [Green Zone Environmental Program \(GZEP\)](#), administered and implemented by DOEE in partnership with the Mayor Marion S. Barry Summer Youth Employment Program (MBSYEP), teaches young adults about energy and environmental issues. The program also provides related work experience, such as installing solar systems, building rain gardens, and installing storm drain markers. This year, 37 GZEP staff members and 250 local youth are taking part in the program, which will run from June 24 through August 2, 2019. GZEP and MBSYEP participants 18 years or older are also eligible to apply for DOEE's GREEN Ready program, an eight-week paid career exploration program.

The [Solar Works DC program](#), operated by DOEE in partnership with the Department of Employment Services, is a clean energy and job training program

address substandard housing conditions that contribute to significant health issues affecting District of Columbia residents. For more information on the regular meetings of the DC Healthy Housing Collaborative, please contact Abby Charles at the Institute for Public Health Innovation by email at acharles@institutephi.org.



Stay up to date on all things Healthy Housing in the District. [Subscribe](#) and forward to your colleagues!

For questions, comments or additions, [contact our Editor](#).

Want to get more involved? Contact the [Lead-Safe and Healthy Housing Division](#), (202) 535-2600

Media Inquiries: Contact the [DOEE Public Information Officer](#)

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that installs solar systems on the homes of low- to moderate-income residents. Implemented by GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic through a Solar for All grant, Solar Works DC operates three training cohorts throughout the year (summer, fall, and spring). To date, Solar Works DC has 96 graduates, many of whom entered the local solar industry after graduation.

Finally, the [Green Fellows Program](#) at DOEE offers a paid leadership development opportunity for local-area graduate students interested in careers in the energy and environmental sector. The program connects Green Fellows to a program area that matches their unique skill-set, background, expertise, and interests. The agency will begin recruitment for the 2020 fellowship period in August 2019. Each year, DOEE hosts at least one Green Fellow for up to ten months in each of the agency's five administrations:

- Energy Administration
- Environmental Services Administration
- Natural Resources Administration
- Operations Support Administration
- Urban Sustainability Administration

For more information about the above programs and other training, job, internship, and volunteer opportunities at DOEE, [visit Green Pathways](#). For additional questions about the application process, email doee.hr@dc.gov.

UPDATED LEAD DISCLOSURE FORM • In response to the [Lead Water Service Line Replacement and Disclosure Amendment Act of 2018](#), DOEE added a new section to the [DC Lead Disclosure Form](#) requiring disclosure to potential renters and homebuyers of lead water service lines and lead-bearing plumbing. Per the District's Lead-Hazard Prevention and Elimination Act, owners of residential properties built before 1978 are also required to disclose any information reasonably known to the property owner about the presence of lead-based paint, lead-based paint hazards, and any pending actions related to lead ordered by a District government agency. All of these disclosures must be provided to prospective buyers or tenants, and

must occur before they are obligated under any contract to purchase or lease the property. Moreover, the disclosures must be made on the [DC Lead Disclosure form](#) issued by DOEE. For more information, contact DOEE at (202) 535-2600 or visit us online at doee.dc.gov/lead.



**MAYOR MURIEL BOWSER
PROCLAIMS APRIL 29-MAY 3, 2019
AIR QUALITY AWARENESS WEEK •**

Following the Mayor's proclamation, DOEE Director

Tommy Wells kicked off the week by urging District residents to check the [Air Quality Index \(AQI\)](#) ([Versión en Español](#)) every day so they can take steps to protect their health on days with poor air quality. Children; older adults; people with respiratory, pulmonary, or cardiovascular conditions; and people who work or exercise outdoors can be especially susceptible to the effects of outdoor air pollution.

Director Wells also encouraged each District resident to get involved in improving the city's outdoor air quality. "We encourage individuals and organizations to join the movement to reduce the concentration of pollutants in our outdoor air," he stated. "By checking the air quality index, choosing to ride in an electric vehicle, testing your home for radon, or helping DOEE pilot citizen's anti-idling enforcement, all Washingtonians can play a role in reducing the pollution of our outdoor air."

Tying in with the week's theme, "Check the AQI & Get Outside," DOEE's Air Quality Division and its partners highlighted a different outdoor air quality topic each day. Activities included promoting discounts on electric taxi rides, thanks to the Department of For-Hire Vehicles; offering [free radon test kits](#); and reminding residents of the [District's anti-idling regulations](#), including how to report violators using the [District's 311 Mobile App \(DC311 App\)](#). The week culminated in a block party, featuring DOEE's air quality experts, an electric vehicle display, music, and useful resources.



Experts from DOEE's Air Quality Division greet visitors at the Air Quality Awareness Week Block Party, held from 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm on Friday, May 3, 2019 at DOEE's headquarters at 1200 First Street NE.

What else can you do to improve outdoor air quality? Here are some easy steps to take:

- Drive less. Instead, share a ride, walk, bike, use public transit, or telework when possible.
- Combine errands when driving to reduce the number of trips.
- Keep your car well maintained and avoid extended idling.
- Fill up at the gas station after 7:00 pm during the summer months.
- Postpone activities on smoggy days that can release fumes, including the use of paints, cleaning products, and lawn mowers powered by gas or diesel fuel.
- Conserve energy in the home by turning off lights, turning the thermostat down when not home, and choosing ENERGY STAR®-certified products.

For more tips on improving outdoor air quality, visit doee.dc.gov/air.

RESOURCES YOU CAN USE



**NLC TASKFORCE
CHAIRIED BY
MAYOR BOWSER
RELEASES NEW
AFFORDABLE**

HOUSING REPORT • At a Washington, DC event on July 9, 2019, the National League of Cities (NLC) Housing Task Force (“Taskforce”), chaired by DC Mayor Muriel Bowser, released its analysis and recommendations in a report entitled “[Homeward Bound: The Road to Affordable Housing](#).” “All levels of government – local, state, and federal – need to face the nation’s growing affordable housing crisis,” said Mayor Bowser. “The time is now for local leaders and the federal government to make bold investments that will ensure our residents have access to a safe and stable home. Our Taskforce’s report is a roadmap for how we can work together to confront this crisis with innovative strategies before it is too late.”

More than 20 bipartisan local leaders from across the country collaborated on the Taskforce’s report. In addition to issuing national policy recommendations, the Taskforce delivered five recommendations for addressing the affordable housing challenge at the local level:

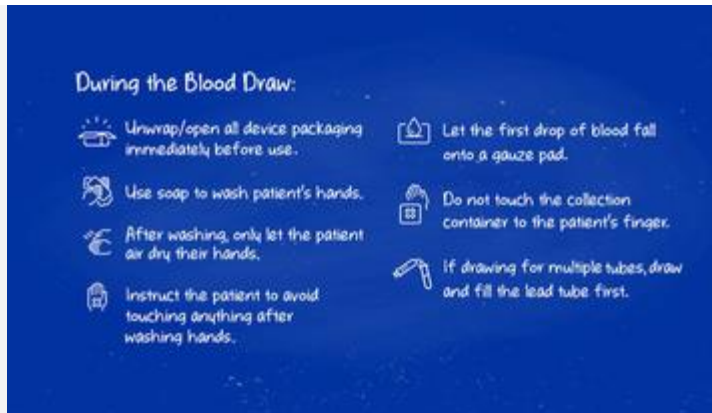
1. Establish local programs by combining funding and financing streams to support housing goals.
2. Modernize local land use policies, including zoning and permitting, to rebalance housing supply and demand.
3. Identify and engage broadly with local stakeholders; and coordinate across municipal boundaries, to develop a plan to provide housing opportunities for all.
4. Support the needs of distinct sub-populations including the homeless, seniors and persons with conviction histories.
5. Prioritize equitable outcomes in housing decision as it is an essential component for success.

In recent weeks, the District has also released several new studies and resources on affordable

housing. On June 25, 2019, Mayor Bowser and the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED) issued [An Assessment of the Need for Large Units in the District of Columbia](#), a study of the inventory and demand for family rental housing units in the District, along with a supplemental [DC Housing Survey Report](#). The study found that while family-sized units with three or more bedrooms comprise one-third of the District's housing stock, there is a shortage of affordable family-sized units available to families at very low-income levels. In addition, DMPED launched the [DC Housing Data Blog](#) to provide analysis of housing in the District and the many factors that influence housing, such as employment, the economy, and business development. More information about local housing programs for District residents is also available on the [Roots to Roofs website](#).

NCHH UNVEILS NEW ONLINE HOUSING CODE COMPARISON TOOL • With the aim of helping communities build better health through the development and enforcement of improved housing codes, the National Center for Healthy Homes (NCHH) recently released its [Code Comparison Tool \(CCT\)](#). The tool allows communities to compare their current housing and property maintenance codes to both the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC) and the [National Healthy Housing Standard \(NHHS\)](#) previously developed by the NCHH in partnership with the American Public Health Association. The tool then generates a report that includes customized recommendations for how to strengthen your local community's codes. Visit the [District's Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs](#) for more information about building codes, including an [overview of housing code standards in the District](#) that are common issues for tenants.

CDC VIDEO OFFERS BEST PRACTICES FOR LEAD TESTS • Do you provide lead testing for children? If so, do you know why you should avoid using paper towels when drawing blood to test for lead? Or why you should always take the blood lead sample first before taking other blood samples?



For answers to these questions and more, view CDC's informative and engaging 18-minute video, [Mission Unleaded: How to test children for lead with maximum accuracy](#). After a brief introduction, a nurse and a phlebotomist present important tips on how to test children for lead, whether conducting point-of-care capillary testing or venous testing.

As CDC states in its caption to the video, “No amount of lead in people is safe, and children are especially vulnerable to the effects of lead in their bodies. Because lead is present in many places, it's easy to contaminate blood samples during the collection process, which can cause inaccurate lab results. Learn how to reduce the risk of contamination and support achievement of accurate blood lead results for patients and their healthcare providers.”

Gather your colleagues for a brown bag lunch or in-service program to [review the CDC video](#), your blood lead testing procedures, and the guidance issued jointly by DOEE and the Department of Health Care Finance on the [District's legal requirements for childhood blood lead screening](#).

HEALTHY HOUSING HAPPENINGS

RAISING ASTHMA AWARENESS • For May's Asthma Awareness Month, DOEE conducted outreach to educate District residents about asthma and what steps they can take at home and with their health care provider to improve asthma control. On May

10, 2019, DOEE joined Health Services for Children with Special Needs, Inc. and other partners in exhibiting at a World Asthma Day Health Fair hosted by the IMPACT DC Asthma Clinic in the atrium of Children's National Health System's Sheikh Zayed Campus. At the event, DOEE's Lead-Safe and Healthy Housing staff shared information about resources available to help create a healthy home. Most children and adults can control their asthma by reducing their exposure to environmental triggers, such as dust mites, cockroaches, mice, mold, and tobacco smoke, and by taking asthma medications as prescribed by their health care provider. To successfully manage asthma, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that you:



- Know the warning signs of an attack,
- Avoid things that may trigger an attack,
- Follow the advice of your health care provider,
- Create a personal Asthma Action Plan, and
- Use your asthma medicine as prescribed.

Additional information about managing asthma is available from CDC in eight languages at www.cdc.gov/asthma/faqs.htm. Free help to quit smoking is easy to find too. Call the District's Quit Line at 1-800-QUIT-NOW (800-784-8669).

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

COMMUNITY RESOURCE SURVEY NEEDS YOU! • The [DC PACT \(Positive Accountable Community Transformation\)](#), a coalition of community, health, housing, social service, and faith-based providers led by the DC Primary Care Association (DCPCA), invites you to participate in its [survey of health-related social needs strategies in use across the city](#).



DCPCA will use input from the survey to create an inventory of community resources and recommendations for the design of a

community resource information exchange system. DCPCA is asking organizations to complete the 15-minute survey by Friday, July 26, 2019. DCPCA is implementing this project with a grant from the Department of Health Care Finance.

BACK TO SCHOOL WITH TWO LEAD SCREENS • The [newly revised District of Columbia Universal Health Certificate \(DC UHC\)](#) includes prompts to report both of the childhood lead screening tests required by law. In contrast, the original form requested only one blood lead test result.

The DC UHC is required annually for all children enrolled in child development facilities, Head Start, and public, charter, private, and parochial schools in the District. For the first time, the lead exposure risk screening section of the form also includes reminders for developmental screening and hematocrit or hemoglobin testing. CDC recommends children at high risk of lead exposure be tested for iron deficiency and iron-deficiency anemia and treated according to current American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines.

The Executive Office of the Mayor, in partnership with the Lab @ DC in the Office of the City Administrator, revised the DC UHC and several other school health forms. Parents and medical providers may use either the [new updated school health forms](#) or the old forms through the end of the 2019–2020 School Year. For the following school year, only new forms signed after July 31, 2020 will be accepted. To encourage and facilitate the use of the updated forms during this transition period, the DC Department of Health will provide technical

assistance and outreach to parents and medical providers. Technical assistance requests can be sent to DC Health's School Health Services Program at shs.program@dc.gov.

DC HEALTHY HOUSING COLLABORATIVE NEARS FIRST ANNIVERSARY • Launched on August 20, 2018, the [DC Healthy Housing Collaborative](#) ("Collaborative") emerged from a series of in-depth conversations among community stakeholders about the need to improve housing conditions that impact the health of District residents. Poor housing conditions, such as water leaks, pests, damaged paint (in pre-1978 housing), radon gas, and structural deficiencies, are associated with a wide range of health conditions, including asthma, lead poisoning, cancer, and unintentional injuries. The health and economic burdens arising from such preventable hazards in the home can be considerable for individuals and communities.

In its first year, the Collaborative expanded to include a broad range of public, private, non-profit, academic, and philanthropic organizations and individual community members. Each month, Collaborative members meet to exchange information about housing concerns in the District and available resources to address them. At the group's last meeting on June 28, 2019, the Collaborative announced the start of a strategic planning process to identify and pursue policy and systems changes for healthier housing in the District.

To learn more about the Collaborative, contact Ms. Abby Charles at the Institute for Public Health Information by email at acharles@institutephi.org or by telephone at (202) 400-3555.



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