



Green & Healthy Homes Initiative®



# Connecticut Green & Healthy Homes Initiative

**Working Together to Advance Connecticut's  
Health, Energy and Housing Goals**

ACEEE 2018 Conference on Health, Environment & Energy  
December, 2018

## Connecticut's Housing-related Health and Energy Needs

- Residents spend **\$5.2 billion/year** to heat, cool, light and provide hot water – more than state's budget for health care or education.
- The **average energy burden for low-income Connecticut households is 60% higher than the national average.**
- **Over 430,000 households meet the income eligibility criteria** for Connecticut's residential energy efficiency programs, **30% of these homes are deferred for energy efficiency upgrades due to health and safety hazards.**
- Connecticut had **over 21,700 annual asthma-related hospitalizations**, and over **\$102 million in Medicaid claims related to asthma.**
- **Falls** were involved in over **42,000 hospitalizations** in Connecticut over 5 years.
- Over **2,100 children under the age of six are diagnosed with elevated blood lead levels** in Connecticut.

## Vision of Holistic Health, Housing and Energy Services in Connecticut

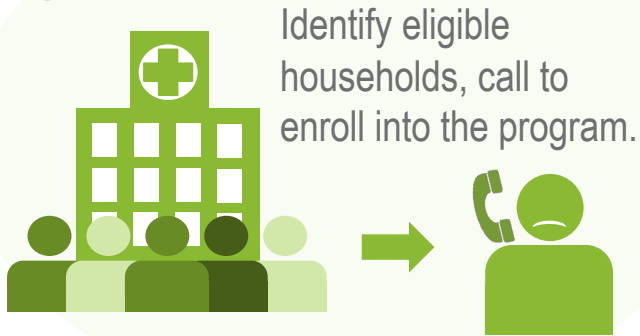
“Any family in Connecticut – whether they seek treatment for asthma from their healthcare provider, contact their utility for energy efficiency services, or seek housing repairs from a local social service nonprofit – would get the package of interventions to holistically meet their needs, improve health outcomes, reduce energy burdens and make their home green, safe and healthy.”

-Connecticut Green & Healthy Homes Initiative Needs Justification Statement, February 2018



# Evidence-based Interventions Produce Measurable Results

## 1 Intake and enrollment



Identify eligible households, call to enroll into the program.

## 2 Initial Home Visit



Healthy Homes Educator: Provides education, supplies

Assessor: Comprehensive environmental assessment and energy audit, Coordinated scope of work

## 3 Healthy Homes education and home repairs



Fix asthma triggers, and injury & lead hazards.



Evidence-based best practices:

- Home visits
- Follow-up and referral to meet needs
- Coordination with medical providers

## 4 Evaluation of outcomes



# Strong Partnerships in Housing, Health and Energy Sectors



Ongoing engagement with over 100 stakeholders – state lawmakers, community-based providers, energy efficiency contractors, healthcare advocates, researchers, health systems and others.

## Pre-Feasibility Key Findings

- Connecticut is a **national leader in residential energy-efficiency services and clean energy financing.**
  - ~20,000 households annually receive efficiency services.
  - \$185 million of residential financing catalyzed in last 5 years.
- The unique **organization of the state's public insurance delivery system** may enable support for healthy housing services with proven health outcomes.
- Robust **public-private leverage models** in place in housing and energy sectors (DOH, CHFA, and CGB).
- State **agencies share a vision** for improving housing quality to advance goals across the housing, health and energy sectors.
  - Significant coordination exists among **health and housing sectors**, to identify and remediate health & safety issues.
  - **Energy and housing** agencies have been coordinating for several years.

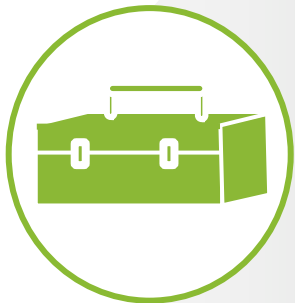
## Connecticut Green & Healthy Homes: Opportunity

**Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund Home Energy Solutions Program is a strong framework for housing health and safety interventions in low income households, sustainably supported through a mix of public, philanthropic and private capital investment:**

- **Health Insurance Outcomes-based payments**
- **Funding medically-necessary housing interventions through CHIP & Medicaid**
- **Hospital Community Benefits Investment**
- **Public/Philanthropic Investment (leveraged to attract private capital)**
- **Federal Funds: Fannie Mae, USDA Rural Development Housing Preservation, Maternal/Child Health Block Grant Funds**

# Opportunity for Sustainable, Long-term Support for Healthy Homes

*Developing an innovative healthy homes investment toolbox...*



**Medicaid, Chip Waivers & State Plan Amendments**

**Hospital Community Benefits**

**Pay for Success financing with value-based purchasing**

**Connecticut's Patient-Centered Medical Home + Shared Savings Program**

**Connecticut's State Improvement Plan (SIM) funds**

**Medicare Advantage Plans**



## Economic Feasibility Research Steps

**Analyze health care utilization rates and associated costs**



**Project potential cost savings**



**Examine the potential models for (leveraged) healthcare investment**



**Grow the support of partners for investment in healthy housing**

## Project Goals: Over Three Phases

- To provide a **comprehensive analysis** of the economic, technical and operational **feasibility** of a statewide model for housing, health and energy services in Connecticut.
- To identify **sustainable support** via innovative strategies for public, private and philanthropic investment in housing, health and energy services, including outcomes-based Medicaid investment, philanthropic support and leveraged public investment.
- To design models that **leverage and expand Connecticut's existing framework for Utility Rate Payer-Funded Energy Efficiency Services** to implement a comprehensive statewide housing, health and energy services model.

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