

hazards, and to improve or develop new hazard assessment and control methods, with a focus on the key hazards described in Appendix A of this program section of the NOFA.

Through the Lead Technical Studies Program, HUD is helping “develop the capacity of eligible applicants * * * to carry out activities under” lead hazard control grant programs, by advancing the technology and increasing the effectiveness of workers on LHC projects, in fulfillment of the requirements of Section 1011(g)(1) of Title X, and is “conduct[ing] research to develop improved methods for evaluating (and) reducing lead-based paint hazards in housing,” and related topics, in fulfillment of the requirements of sections 1051 and 1052 of Title X.

HUD encourages applicants to consider using the “community based participatory research” approach, where applicable, in the design and implementation of both healthy homes and lead technical studies (see *e.g.*, <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/translat/cbpr/cbpr.htm>).

A table of examples of current Healthy Homes and Lead Technical Studies projects being funded by HUD can be found in Appendix C.

(2) *Healthy Homes Initiative*. The Healthy Homes Initiative (HHI), which includes the Healthy Homes Technical Studies Program, departs from the more traditional approach of attempting to correct one hazard at a time. In April 1999, HUD submitted to Congress a preliminary plan containing a full description of the HHI. The preliminary plan (Summary and Full Report) and a description of the HHI are available on the HUD Web site at www.hud.gov/offices/lead/hhi/index.cfm.

In addition to deficiencies in basic housing facilities that may impact health, changes in the U.S. housing stock and more sophisticated epidemiological methods and biomedical research have led to the identification of new and often more subtle health hazards in the residential environment (*e.g.*, asthma and mold-induced illness). While such hazards will tend to be found disproportionately in housing that is substandard (*e.g.*, structural problems, lack of adequate heat, etc.), such housing-related environmental hazards may also exist in housing that is otherwise of good quality. Appendix A of this program section of the NOFA briefly describes the housing-associated health and injury hazards HUD considers key targets for intervention. Appendix B of this program section of the NOFA lists the references that serve as the basis for the

information provided in this program section.

HUD is interested in promoting approaches that are cost-effective and efficient and that result in the reduction of health threats for the maximum number of residents for the long run, and, in particular, low-income children. The overall goals and objectives of the HHI are to:

(a) Mobilize public and private resources, involving cooperation among all levels of government, the private sector, grassroots organizations, particularly including faith-based, and other community-based, non-profit organizations to develop the most promising, cost-effective methods for identifying and controlling housing-based hazards; and

(b) Build local capacity to operate sustainable programs that will continue to prevent and, where they occur, minimize and control housing-based hazards in low- and very low-income residences when HUD funding is exhausted.

With this NOFA, HUD hopes to advance the recognition and control of residential health and safety hazards and more closely examine the link between housing and health.

The overall objectives of Healthy Homes technical studies projects to be funded through this NOFA include, but are not limited to:

(i) Investigation of the epidemiology of housing-related hazards and illness and injury;

(ii) Development and assessment of low-cost test methods and protocols for identification and assessment of housing-related hazards;

(iii) Development and assessment of cost-effective methods for reducing or eliminating housing-related hazards;

(iv) Evaluation of the effectiveness of housing interventions and public education campaigns, and barriers and incentives affecting future use of the most cost-effective strategies; and

(v) Investigation of the health effects on children living in deteriorated housing and the impact on their development and productivity.

HUD has also developed resource papers on a number of topic areas of importance under the Healthy Homes Initiative, including mold, environmental aspects of asthma, carbon monoxide, and unintentional injuries. These papers can be downloaded from the HUD Web site at www.hud.gov/offices/lead/hhi.

(3) *Lead Technical Studies*.

(a) General. HUD has been actively engaged in a number of activities relating to lead-based paint as a result

of the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act of 1971, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 4801–4856. Sections 1051 and 1052 of the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (Title X) (42 U.S.C. 4854 and 4854a) state that the Secretary of HUD, in cooperation with other federal agencies, shall conduct technical studies on specific topics related to the evaluation and subsequent mitigation of residential lead hazards. Section 1053 of Title X authorized HUD to spend funds to conduct these studies, under the Lead Hazard Control Grant Program’s funding authorization in Section 1011(o). The HUD-sponsored technical studies program also responds to recommendations by the Task Force on Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction and Financing, which was established pursuant to section 1015 of Title X. The Task Force presented its final report to HUD and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in July 1995. The Task Force Report, entitled “Putting the Pieces Together: Controlling Lead Hazards in the Nation’s Housing” (see Appendix B of this program section of this NOFA), recommended that research be conducted on a number of key topics to address significant gaps in our knowledge of lead exposure and hazard control.

The findings of technical studies will be used in part to update HUD’s *Guidelines for the Evaluation and Control of Lead-Based Paint Hazards in Housing (Guidelines)*, which were published in June 1995 and partly amended in September 1997. The *Guidelines* include state-of-the-art procedures for all aspects of lead-based paint hazard evaluation and control. The *Guidelines* reflect the Title X framework for LHC, which distinguishes two types of control measures: interim controls and abatement of lead-based paint hazards. Interim controls are designed to address hazards quickly, inexpensively, and temporarily, while abatement is intended to produce a permanent solution. While the *Guidelines* recommend procedures that are effective in identifying and controlling lead hazards while protecting the health of abatement workers and occupants, HUD recognizes that targeted technical studies and field experience will result in future changes to the *Guidelines*. For availability of the *Guidelines*, see Appendix B.

HUD is especially interested in the following lead technical studies topics:

(i) Evaluation of interior and exterior LHC methodologies, especially novel approaches;

(ii) The effectiveness of ongoing maintenance activities in controlling lead-based paint hazards; and