

# The Role of Health Centers in Reducing the Burden of Radon-Induced Lung Cancer: Part 1



**NATIONAL  
NURSE-LED CARE  
CONSORTIUM**  
a PHMC affiliate

*January 21st, 2025 | 3 pm EST*

# Part 1: The Health Risks of Radon Exposure & How Health Centers Can Implement Impactful Prevention & Mitigation Strategies

January 21st, 2025 - 3 pm EST

# Zoom Orientation

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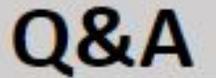
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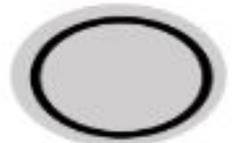
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Questions



Raise Hand



Recording

Please say **Hi** in  
the chat and enter  
your name,  
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location, role  
and.....



## ICE BREAKER QUESTION





**The National Nurse-Led Care Consortium (NNCC) is a nonprofit public health organization working to strengthen community health through quality, compassionate, and collaborative nurse-led care.**

**NNCC's mission is to advance nurse-led healthcare through policy, consultation, and programs to reduce health disparities and meet people's primary care and wellness needs.**

**We do this through:**

- **training and technical assistance**
- **public health programing**
- **consultation**
- **direct care**

**The NNCC NTTAP is funded by HRSA's Bureau of Primary Health Care to provide subject matter expertise through the development, delivery, coordination, and evaluation of FREE training and technical assistance offerings to health center grantees and look-alikes.**

*This program is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$550,000 with 0 percent financed with non-governmental sources. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government.*

# Accreditation Statement

**Accreditation Statement:** The National Nurse-Led Care Consortium is accredited as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. Each session has been approved for 1.0 NCPD contact hours.

**Success Completion Requirements:** To obtain 1.0 contact hours of nursing continuing professional development, you must participate in the entire activity, complete the evaluation, and achieve an 80% pass rate on the knowledge gain assessment following the session.

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# NNCC NTTAP



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Director of Training and Technical Assistance



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**Fatima Smith, MPH**  
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Project Coordinator



**Junie Mertus,**  
Program Intern

# National Center for Health in Public

- The National Center for Health in Public Housing (NCHPH) is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number U30CS09734, a National Training and Technical Assistance Partner (NTTAP) for \$668,800 and is 100% financed by this grant. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.
- The mission of the National Center for Health in Public Housing (NCHPH) is to strengthen the capacity of federally funded Public Housing Primary Care (PHPC) health centers and other health center grantees by providing training and a range of technical assistance.



# NCHPH Team



**Bob Burns, MPA**  
Director



**Jose Leon, MD**  
Chief Medical Officer



**Kevin Lombardi MD, MPH**  
Director of Research



**Fide Pineda Sandoval, CHES**  
Training and Technical  
Assistance Manager

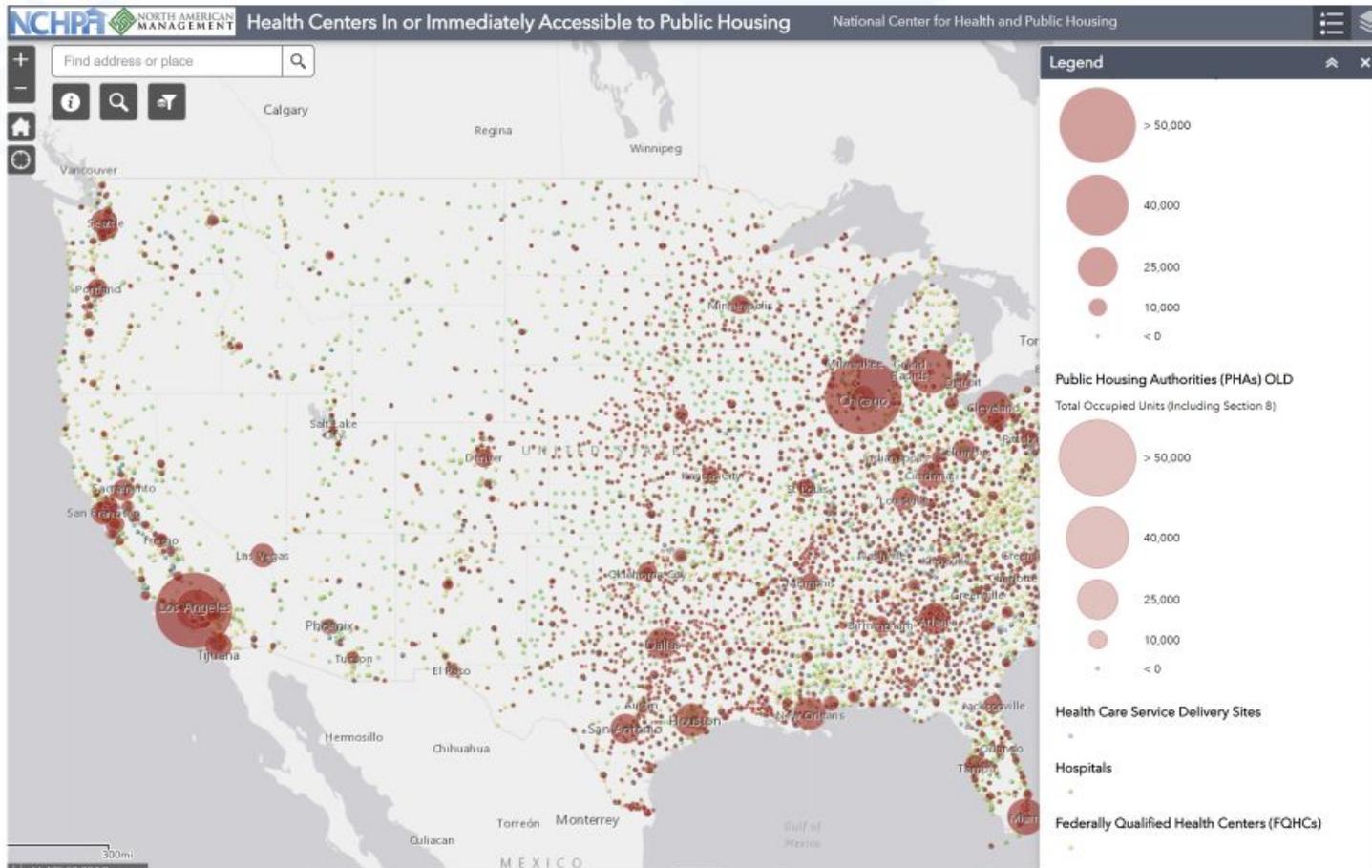


**Chantel Murray, MA**  
Communications Manager



**Olajumoke Oladipo, MPH**  
Health Communications and  
Research Analyst

# Location of PHPC Health Centers and Public Housing Developments



**1,363 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)=31 million patients**

**475 FQHCs near Public Housing= 6.5 million patients**

**107 Public Housing Primary Care (PHPC) = 992,815 patients**

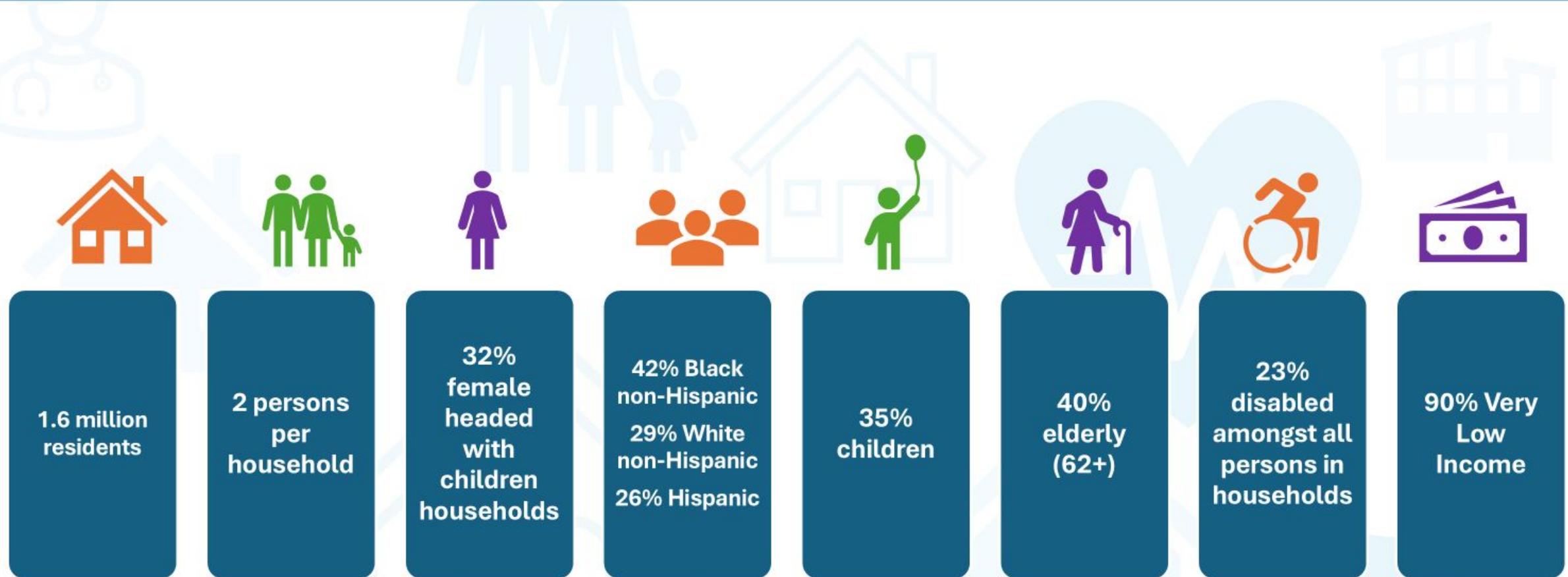
Source: [UDS 2023](#)

# PHPC Health Center Patient Demographics 2023



Source: [UDS 2023](#)

# Public Housing Resident Demographics 2023



Source: [HUD Picture of Subsidized Adults](#)

# Today's Agenda

5 min - Introduction/Welcome

15 min - Katherine Pruitt, **American Lung Association**

30 min - Brenda M. Reyes, MD, MPH  
**Director, Policy & Standards Division**  
**US Department of Housing & Urban**  
**Development Office of Lead Hazard Control &**  
**Healthy Homes**

5 min - Questions & Wrap-Up



# Subject Matter Experts



**Katherine Pruitt**  
National Senior Director, American  
Lung Association



**Brenda Reyes, MD, MPH**  
Director, Policy and Standards Division, Office of Lead  
Hazard Control and Healthy Homes, U.S. Department of  
Housing and Urban Development



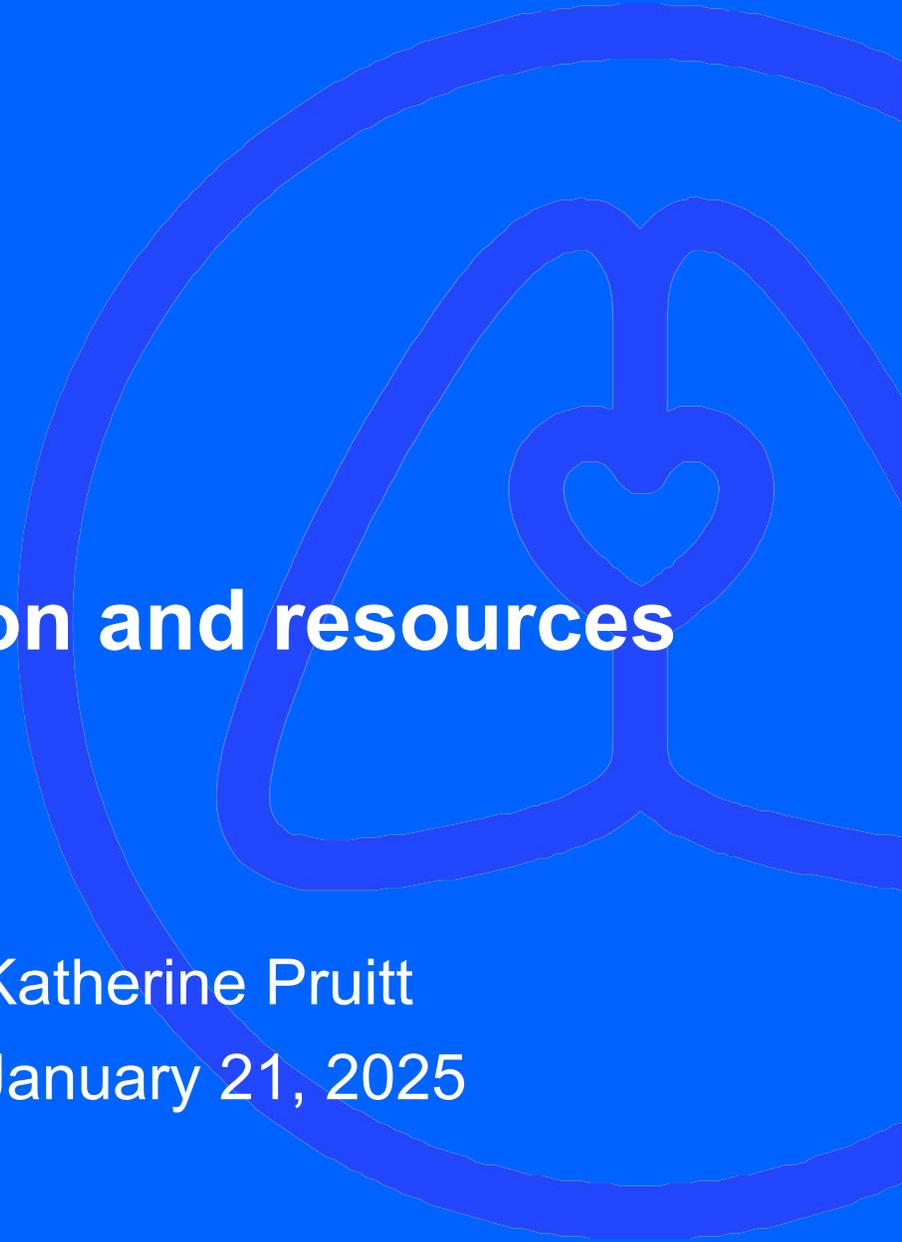


# Radon

Health risks, reduction and resources

Katherine Pruitt

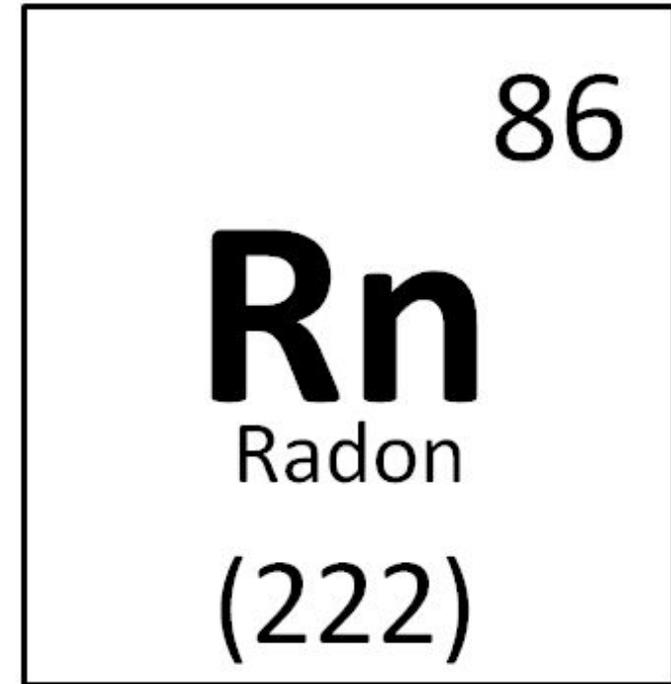
January 21, 2025



# Radon Basics

# What is Radon?

- Naturally occurring elemental gas
- Originates in rocks and soil
- Invisible and colorless
- Odorless and tasteless
- Product of uranium decay
- Radioactive, as are its decay products
- Found nearly everywhere on Earth



# How Radon Enters Buildings



Radon can enter your home or building through cracks in the walls, floors, foundation and other openings.

Once inside, radon can build up inside to dangerous levels.

When you breathe air containing radon, the particles get trapped inside your lungs.

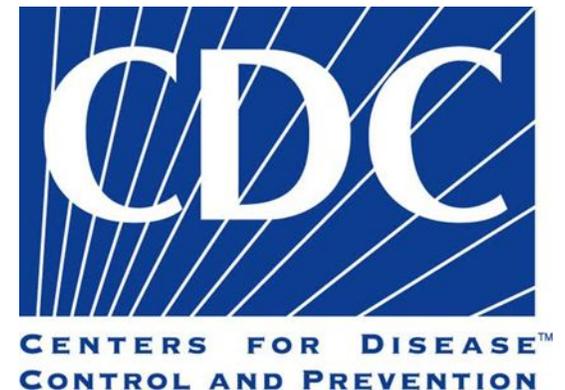
# Why do we care about radon?

***Radon is responsible for about 21,000 lung cancer deaths every year.***

- U. S. Environmental Protection Agency

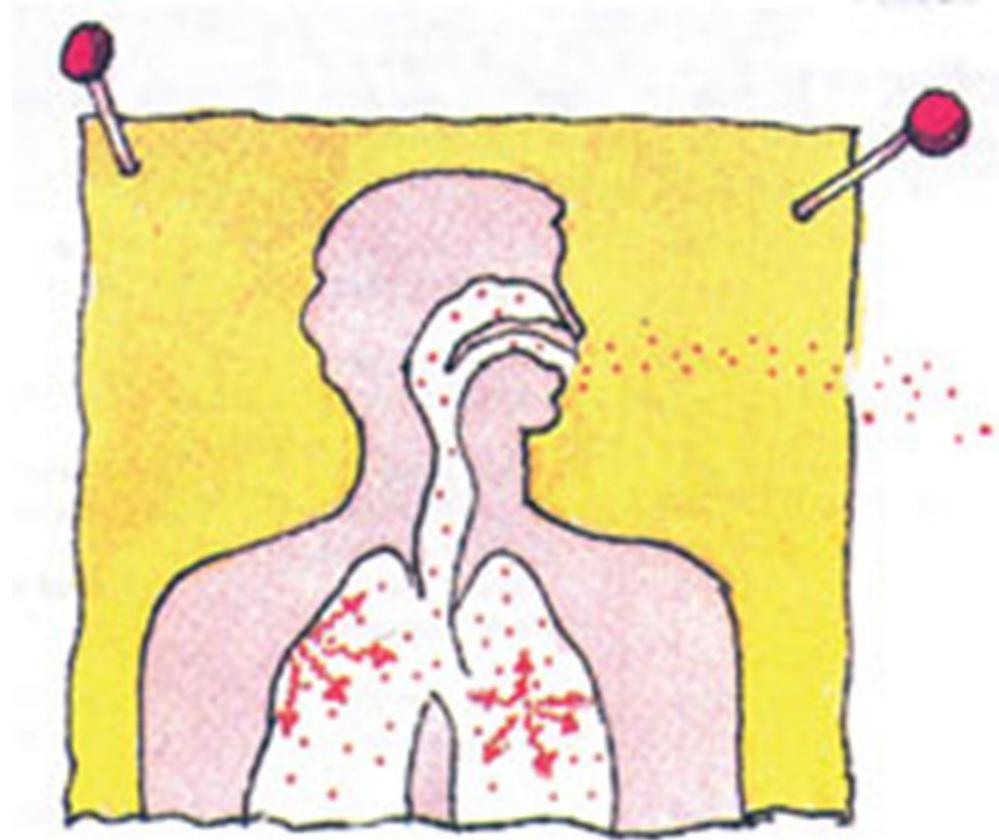
***Each year, lung cancer caused by radon costs about \$2 billion in medical care expenses and lost productivity.***

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



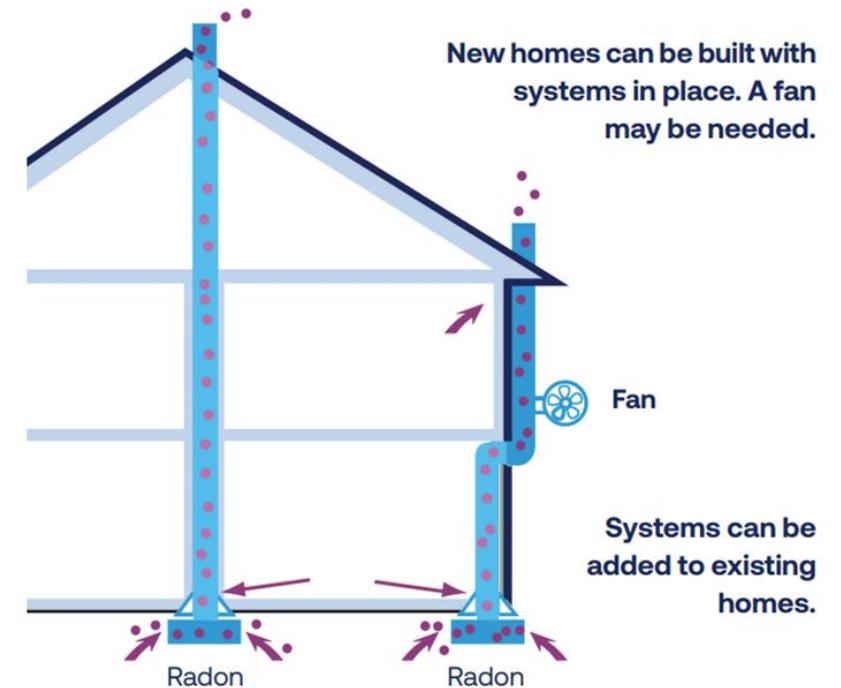
# How does it cause lung cancer?

- Radon in the air decays (producing atoms called “decay products”).
- You inhale the radon decay products.
- Decay products deposit on airway tissues—where they stay and decay further.
- The radioactivity damages cells, causing mutations that can result in lung cancer.



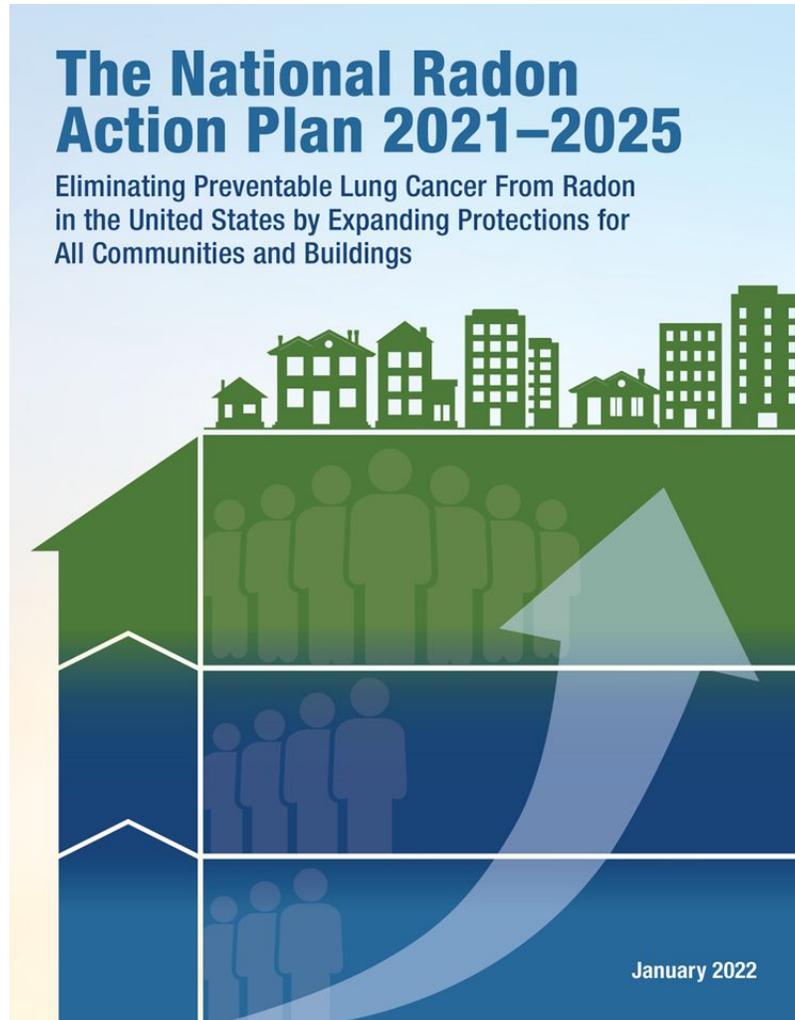
# Finding and fixing radon problems

- The only way to find radon is to test
- *Every* home should be tested at least every 5 years
- Testing can be done with DIY test kits or using certified professional service
- Radon levels over 4.0 pCi/L should be fixed by certified mitigation professionals
- Mitigation systems collect radon from soil below the building and vent it out the roof



# Strategies for Reducing Radon Risk

# National Radon Action Plan



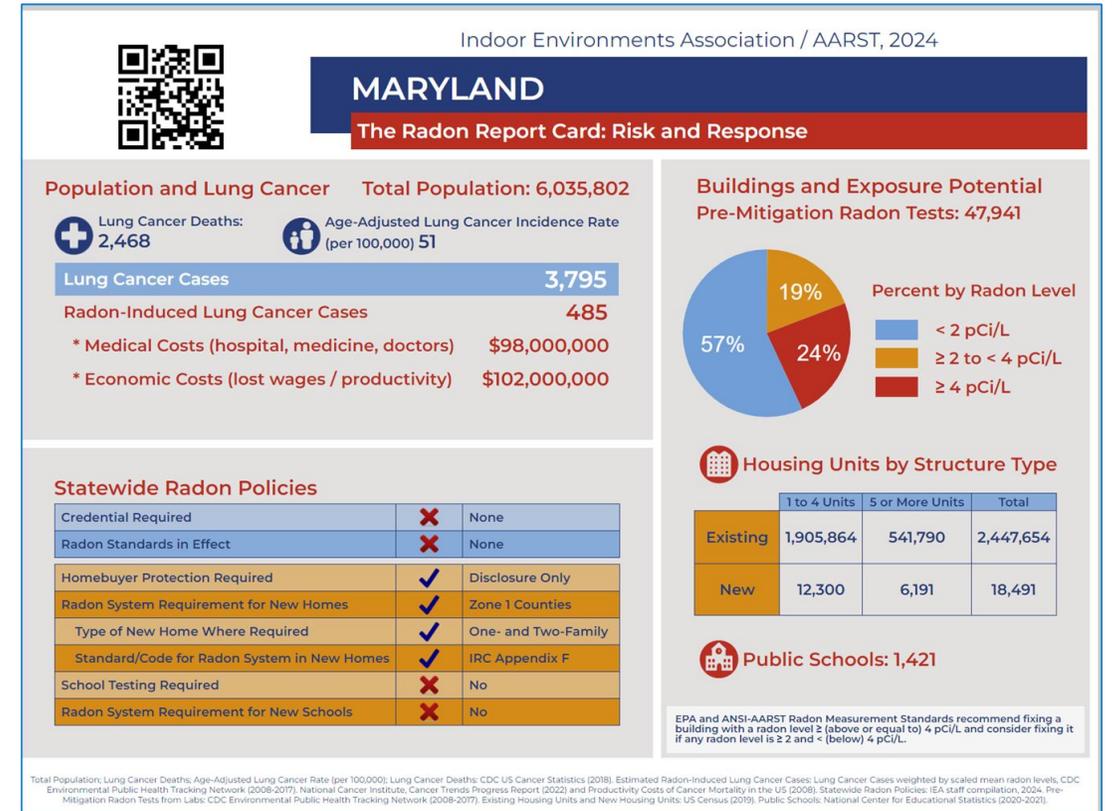
- A road map for reducing radon exposure and saving lives from lung cancer
- Consensus guided by diverse public/private stakeholder group

## Organized into 4 key priority areas

- Building protection into law and policies
- Expanding financing and support for testing and mitigation
- Increasing capacity of radon workforce
- Increasing awareness of health risk and control strategies

# Priorities for policy change

- Standards and credentialing for radon services
- Homebuyer and tenant protection
- Radon in schools and daycares
- Evidence-based interventions in state cancer control plans



# Protecting tenants from radon risk

- Most policies and practices have focused on homeowners
- Comparable protection for tenants is a health equity issue
- Recommended components of radon policy:
  - Disclosure of known results
  - Notification about radon hazard, with signed acknowledgments
  - Testing by certified professional in 100% of ground-contact units
  - Mitigation of elevated levels
- Tenant education and engagement builds support

# What healthcare providers can do

- Ask
  - Is there a family history of lung cancer?
  - Do they have a smoking history?
  - Are they aware of radon?
  - Do they know if their home has been tested?
- Advise
  - Provide education
  - Coach on next steps
- Refer
- Advocate for policy change

# Resources

# Lung.org/radon

- Radon factsheets in English and Spanish
- Radon Basics
  - One-hour learning module
  - CEU available for respiratory care education
- Radon toolkit for healthcare professionals
  - Decision support tool
  - Video about radon risks, testing and mitigation
- Policy backgrounders and recorded webinars
  - *Advancing Health Equity in Radon Risk Reduction*
  - *Radon Risk Reduction Strategies in Rental Housing*
  - *Finding Funding to Fix Radon Problems*

American Lung Association.

**Radon**

**What is radon?**  
Often called an "invisible killer," radon is an odorless, colorless and tasteless gas that is harmful to people's health.

Radon comes naturally from the ground. It can enter and build up inside any building without warning, cause risk to all that live inside. Fortunately, testing for radon and fixing any radon problems are quick, easy and can save residents' lives.

**Radon and Lung Cancer**  
Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer. Although radon exposure causes no immediate symptoms, the long-term threat of lung cancer is very real. Radon can cause lung cancer in anyone—even those who have never smoked. If you also smoke and are exposed to radon, your risk is even higher.

**How Does Radon Get Inside?**

**Radon Basics**

with or without neighbors have  
is by testing the  
for radon. There  
ly from qualified  
n if radon levels  
L  
the ground and  
or. Contact your  
Association at

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. The American Lung Association's Radon Basics course is a free one-hour interactive online learning program designed to help people understand more about radon, a radioactive gas commonly found indoors at dangerous levels.

1-800-LUNGUSA | Lung.org/radon

# Resources in your state

- State radon programs
- State cancer coalitions
- Lung Association advocacy and health education staff
- Indoor Environments Association state chapters
- Certified radon professionals



**Thank you!**





**Brenda Reyes, MD, MPH**

Director, Policy and Standards Division, Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development



# The Role of Health Centers in Reducing the Burden of Radon-Induced Lung Cancers

## Funding Sources



**U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**

**Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH),  
Policy & Standards Division (PSD)**



# Objectives



- Provide a General overview of HUD's Radon Grant Programs
- Describe how to Identify Grantees in your jurisdiction
- Describe what services each grant may provide

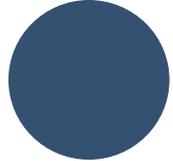
# OLHCHH: What We Do



GRANTS FOR MAKING EXISTING HOMES SAFE & HEALTHY



GRANTS FOR HEALTHY HOMES RESEARCH



ENFORCEMENT OF LEAD REGULATIONS

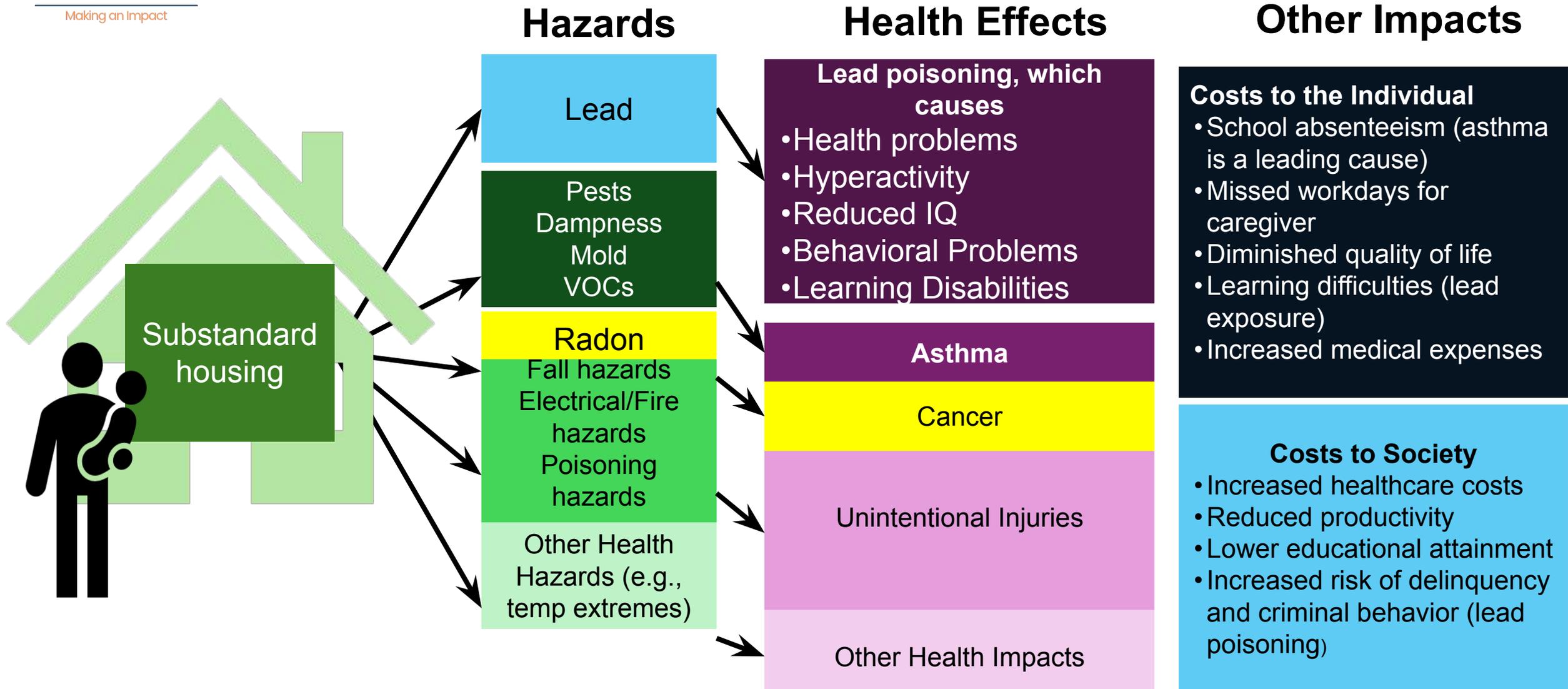


GUIDANCE AND PERFORMANCE CRITERIA



OUTREACH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

# Potential Impacts of Unhealthy Housing



# WHAT IS A HEALTHY HOME?



DRY



SAFE



CLEAN &  
UNCLUTTERED



WELL  
VENTILATED

# WHAT IS A HEALTHY HOME?



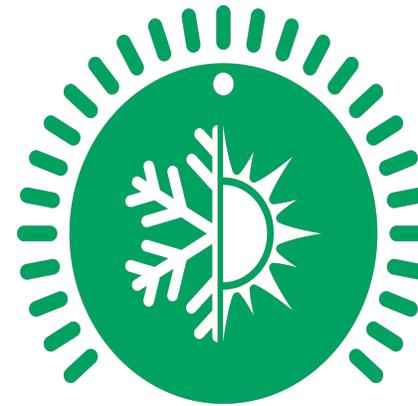
PEST  
FREE



WELL-MAINTAINED



CONTAMINANT  
FREE



THERMALLY  
CONTROLLED

# These Funds Transform Communities and Support Research

- **Radon Testing and Mitigation grant program**
- **Capital Fund Housing –Related Hazards and Lead Based Paint (Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH))**
- **Older Adult Home Modification (OAHMP)**
- Healthy Homes Production Program (HHP)
- Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes
- Healthy Homes and Weatherization grant program (HHWCD)
- Lead and Healthy Homes Technical Studies grants programs. (LTS and HHTS)



# Radon Testing & Mitigation (RTM) Demonstration Grant Program

Provide funds to public housing agencies to test for and mitigate elevated radon levels (i.e.,  $\geq$  the EPA action level of 4 pCi/L) in housing developments they manage.

Support the development of a plan for future testing and mitigation.

Provide important information on methods and costs for radon testing and mitigation in public housing.

# HUD's Radon Story:

## How HUD is Working to Better Address Radon

HUD has a policy and commitment to protect the health and safety of residents in HUD-supported housing from hazardous substances, a commitment it constantly strives to better meet

This commitment includes addressing the risk of radon exposure in HUD-supported housing and highlighting the radon story of our grantees and stakeholders

HUD's Radon Testing and Mitigation Demonstration Grant Program

Funds for Public Housing Authorities to plan, test for, and mitigate radon in their public housing

# Radon Testing & Mitigation (RTM) Demonstration Grant Program

State	Recipient
AL	Huntsville Housing Authority
CT	City of Bridgeport Housing Authority
IL	Lake County Housing Authority
IL	Rockford Housing Authority
IL	Warren County Housing Authority
IN	East Chicago Housing Authority
IN	Fort Wayne Housing Authority
KS	Topeka Housing Authority
KY	Housing Authority of Bowling Green
KY	Louisville Metro Housing Authority
MD	Prince George's County
MD	Rockville Housing Enterprises
MI	Inkster Housing Commission
MO	Housing Authority of Kansas City, Missouri
MO	Independence Housing Authority
MO	The Housing Authority of the City of Lee's Summit
NE	Blair Housing Authority
NY	Albany Housing Authority
OH	Columbiana Metropolitan Housing Authority
OH	Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority
OH	Dayton Metropolitan Housing Authority
OH	Springfield Metropolitan Housing Authority
PA	Lebanon County Housing Authority
SC	Rock Hill Housing Authority
TN	Maryville Housing Authority
TN	Newport Housing Authority
VA	Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority

# PIH Housing-Related Hazards Capital Fund and Lead-Based Paint Capital Fund Program NOFO

September 2024, HUD Announces \$87 Million to Address Health Hazards in Public Housing

[https://www.hud.gov/press/press\\_releases\\_media\\_advisories/HUD\\_No\\_24\\_238](https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_24_238)

The purpose of the NOFO is to evaluate and reduce residential health hazards in public housing, including lead-based paint, carbon monoxide, mold, RADON, asbestos, and fire safety.

<b>STATE</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
AL	Housing Authority of the City of Bessemer
AL	Housing Authority of the City of Northport
CA	City of South San Francisco Housing Authority
GA	Housing Authority of the City of Warner Robins
IA	Eastern Iowa Regional Housing Authority
IN	Housing Authority of the City of Elkhart
MA	Lawrence Housing Authority
ME	Portland Housing Authority
MS	The Housing Authority of the City of Hattiesburg
NE	Schuyler Housing Authority
NE	Clarkson Housing Authority
NY	Peekskill Housing Authority
OH	Greater Dayton Premier Management
OH	Harrison Metropolitan Housing Authority
PA	Housing Authority of the County of Jefferson
TN	Rogersville Housing Authority
TN	Woodbury Housing Authority
TX	San Antonio Housing Authority
TX	Housing Authority of the City of Bryan
TX	Housing Authority of Hico
VA	Hopewell Redevelopment & Housing Authority
WI	Housing Authority of the City of Oshkosh, WI

## **Housing-Related Hazards (HRH) Capital Fund programs.**



**Housing**  
Social Determinant of Health

**Healthy Homes**  
**Grant Programs**

**Healthy**

**Safe**

# Family Self Sufficiency

Promotes the development of local strategies to coordinate public and private resources **that help** housing choice voucher program participants, public housing tenants, and tenants in the Section 8 Project-Based Rental Assistance (PBRA) program **obtain employment that will enable participating families to achieve economic independence and reduce dependence on welfare assistance and rental subsidies.**

[Family Self-Sufficiency \(FSS\) | HUD.gov / U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\)](#)



# Older Adult Home Modification Program

Enable elderly persons with low incomes to remain in their homes through low-cost, low barrier, high impact home modifications to reduce older adults' risk of falling, improve general safety, increase accessibility, and improve their functional abilities in their home.

- Rural Areas to Receive 50% of Funding
- Rental and Owner Occupied

## HEALTHY TOGETHER

A Toolkit for Health Center Collaborations with HUD-Assisted Housing and Community-Based Organizations



Villie M. Appoo, M.A., MSW

National Center for Health in Public Housing

National Nurse-Led Care Consortium,  
a subsidiary of Public Health Management Corporation

## HEALTHY TOGETHER

### A Toolkit for Health Center Collaborations with HUD Assisted Housing and Community-Based Organization

- Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) and health centers can collaborate by sharing information about residents' health needs, coordinating on health promotion initiatives within public housing communities, providing on-site health screenings, facilitating access to healthcare services for residents, and advocating for policies that support both housing stability and health outcomes, essentially working together to address the social determinants of health by linking housing with healthcare access.

•[https://nurseledcare.phmc.org/images/pdf/nttap/ho\\_using%20toolkit/partnerships-toolkit-5322022%20\(1\).pdf](https://nurseledcare.phmc.org/images/pdf/nttap/ho_using%20toolkit/partnerships-toolkit-5322022%20(1).pdf)

# Helpful Links

- **Healthy Homes and Weatherization Cooperation Demonstration NOFO Webinar**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RU1ohoyTp2M>
- **PIH Housing-Related Hazards Capital Fund and Lead-Based Paint Capital Fund Program Webinar:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fqcVyxors6Y>
- **Link for other HUD grant opportunities :** [www.hud.gov/grants](http://www.hud.gov/grants)
- **[PIH Housing-Related Hazards and Lead-Based Paint Capital Funds](#)**
- **[OLHCHH Grantee Contact List](#)**
- **[Family Self-Sufficiency \(FSS\) | HUD.gov / U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\)](#)**
- **[Radon - HUD Exchange \(Infographics and Fact Sheets\)](#)**



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Director, Policy and Standards Division  
Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes  
[Brenda.m.reyes@hud.gov](mailto:Brenda.m.reyes@hud.gov)

<https://www.hud.gov/healthyhomes>

# Healthy Homes Production Grant Program

This program can transform communities by fixing older housing, preserving affordable housing, and improving communities and the health of children and vulnerable residents in these communities.

The Healthy Homes Production Program (HHP) enables grantees to address multiple housing-related hazards in a comprehensive fashion, instead of one hazard at a time.

The HHP program helps children and other vulnerable residents reach their full potential by preventing injuries and diseases, lowering healthcare costs, and improving their overall quality of life.

# Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes Supplement

This grant program **assists** states, cities, counties/parishes, Native American Tribes or other units of local government in developing and implementing comprehensive programs to identify and control lead-based paint hazards in eligible low-income privately-owned rental and owner-occupied housing.

**Taking a holistic approach to safe and healthy housing** In addition to addressing lead-based paint hazards, applicants can apply for healthy homes supplemental funding to address other housing related health and safety issues while addressing the Lead Based Paint.

# Healthy Homes and Weatherization Cooperation Demonstration Grant

- Support coordination between Healthy Homes Production (HHP) and Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) to maximize program efficiencies and reduce WAP deferrals.
- Demonstrate sustainable models of inter-program cooperation, including data-sharing and reporting, and create the opportunity to improve health outcomes by supporting data collection and evaluation.
- Promote sustainable financing of coordinated healthy homes and weatherization interventions.

# Lead Hazard Control Capacity Building

Assist states and units of local in developing the infrastructure necessary to successfully implement a Lead Hazard Reduction grant program.

Promotes: Capacity building to ensure the successful implementation of grant programs, hiring qualified staff with experienced organizational management and financial capacity, and developing key partnerships/subgrantees such as: faith-based, health departments, coalitions, or other community-based organizations.

# To Improve Efficacy and Reducing Costs of In-Home Health Hazard Evaluations (LHHTS)

HUD awards funding to **educational institutions, non-profit organizations and corporations** through

## Lead and Healthy Homes Technical Studies Programs

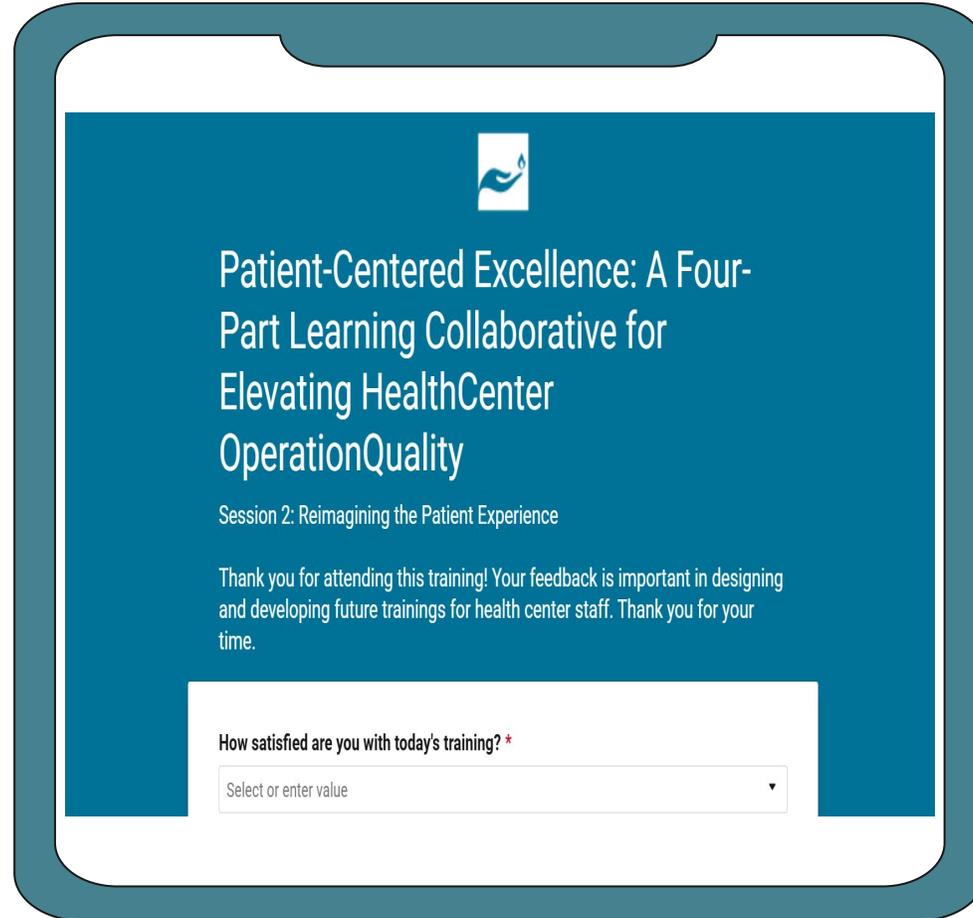
to support research that will improve the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of methods for evaluating and controlling housing-related health and safety hazards.



# Questions?



# Evaluation Survey

A graphic of a tablet displaying a survey form. The form has a dark blue header with a logo of a hand holding a flame. The main text is white on the blue background. Below the text is a white input field with a dropdown arrow.



**Patient-Centered Excellence: A Four-Part Learning Collaborative for Elevating HealthCenter OperationQuality**

Session 2: Reimagining the Patient Experience

Thank you for attending this training! Your feedback is important in designing and developing future trainings for health center staff. Thank you for your time.

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Select or enter value ▼



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**HEALTH CENTER RESOURCE  
CLEARINGHOUSE**



## **All Hazards Emergency Preparedness and Response Competencies for Health Center Staff**

To successfully perform their assigned emergency/disaster roles, health center staff must understand how their organization will respond to hazards, including the use of altered management structures and modified operations. The National Nurse-Led Care Consortium (NNCC) and the Community Health Care Association of New York State (CHCANYS) created a set of competencies to improve the emergency and disaster preparedness of all health center staff. This publication provides a comprehensive overview of those competencies and sub-competencies, as well as a description of their development process. The competencies are intended to form the foundation of health center staff education and preparedness for all-hazards emergency and disaster response and will allow health centers to direct their limited training time and resources to cover the most essential preparedness aspects.

### **ALL HAZARDS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE COMPETENCIES FOR HEALTH CENTER STAFF**

*Recommendations from the National Nurse-Led Care Consortium (NNCC) and  
Community Health Care Association of New York State (CHCANYS).*

September 2022

This publication is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling



# Upcoming Trainings

**January 28th, 2025 - 1 pm EST**

- **Patient-Centered Excellence: A Four-Part Learning Collaborative for Elevating Health Center Operations and Quality**

- *Registration:*

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_d7Wr8voOSDWarI42bBIAgw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_d7Wr8voOSDWarI42bBIAgw)

**January 28th, 2025 - 3 pm EST**

- **The Role of Health Centers in Reducing the Burden of Radon-Induced Lung Cancer—2-part Webinar Series**

- *Registration:*

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_PsXzNga2T5-2FO6eiEnIX2](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_PsXzNga2T5-2FO6eiEnIX2)



# Thank You!

If you have any further questions  
or concerns please reach out to  
Fatima Smith [fasmith@phmc.org](mailto:fasmith@phmc.org)

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