



National Center for
Healthy Housing



2014 AICP Symposium • National Building Museum
October 29, 2014 • Washington, DC

Housing Equity and Healthy Housing Choices

"HOME" AND HEALTH

TWO INDIVIDUALS
OF THE ROUGHLY
30 Million Americans LIVING IN HOMES WITH
HEALTH OR SAFETY HAZARDS.



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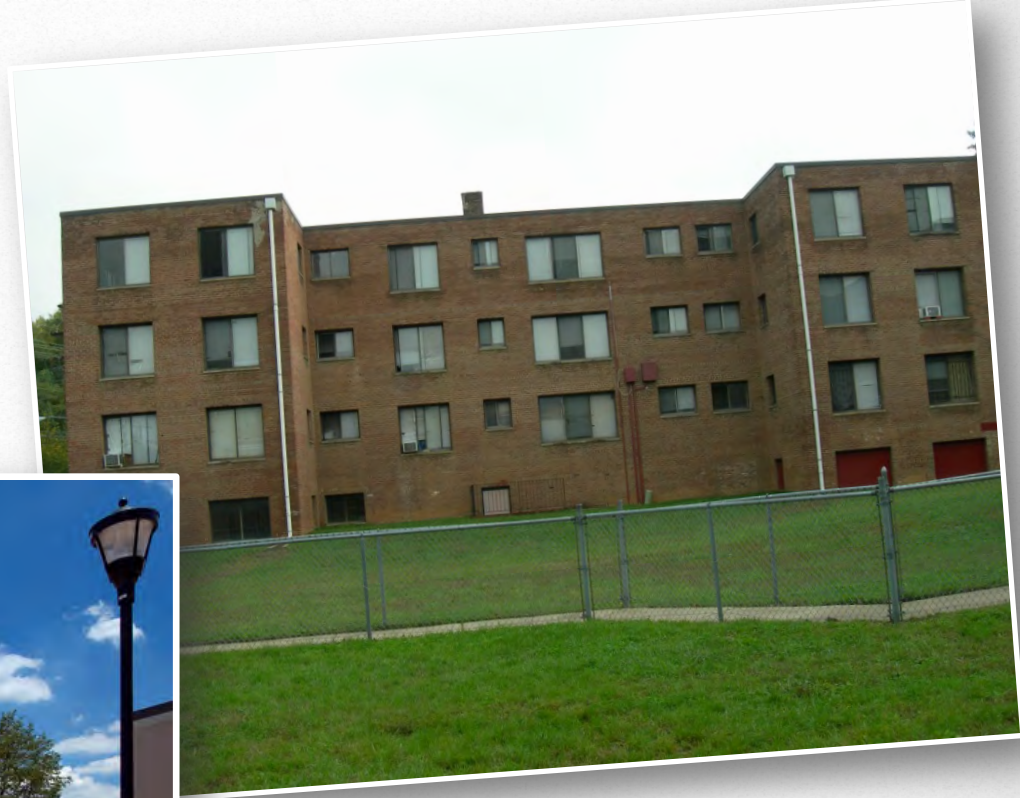


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Before →



← After





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Housing and Health: New Opportunities for Dialogue and Action

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Renowned community developer and philanthropist Jim Rouse once said, "For many years, I have lived uncomfortably with the belief that most planning and architectural design suffers for lack of real and basic purpose. The ultimate purpose, it seems to me, must be the improvement of mankind."

The adoption of a new "health in all policies" approach by the federal government provides an historic opportunity to extend Jim Rouse's advice to the nexus of health and housing and foster a dialogue that can lead to new partnerships and stronger policies that advance health and housing objectives in equal measure. By developing a framework for improving those aspects of housing that impact health, this dialogue could help ensure that housing policy and neighborhood design make the maximum possible contribution to the health of children, older adults, and other community members.

To facilitate this dialogue, we have prepared a concept paper documenting the many ways in which housing affects health and outlining potential next steps for fostering greater collaboration between the public health and housing policy communities to advance shared goals.

I. Summary and Recommendations

Housing affects health in multiple ways:

- *Housing quality* can impact physiological health (e.g., lead, radon, mold, extreme temperatures), psychological health (e.g., noise, inadequate light), and safety (e.g., falls, fires).
- *Unaffordable housing costs* affect health by reducing the income that a household has available for nutritious

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HOUSING AND HEALTH:

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How Does Housing Affect Health?

