U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Secretary's Award for Healthy Homes

2016

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), in partnership with the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA), announces the second annual Secretary's Award for Healthy Homes.

The award will recognize excellence in healthy housing innovation and achievement in three categories: Public Housing/Multifamily Housing, Policy and Research Innovation, and Cross Program Coordination among health, environment, and housing. The activities or policies nominated must show measurable benefits in the health of residents and be available to low- and/or moderate-income families.

Complete applications must be submitted via e-mail no later than 11:59:59 p.m. Pacific Time, March 15, 2016. The awards will be presented at the NEHA 2016 Annual Educational Conference (AEC) & Exhibition and HUD National Healthy Homes Conference. Please complete this application form, then e-mail it and all other required materials as attachments to HUDAward@neha.org. Applicants selected for an award agree to submit a summary of their accomplishments to be published online.

AWARD CATEGORIES

Award submissions will be considered in one of three categories described on this page. An organization may submit only a single application as the lead agency. Organizations may participate as partnering organizations in more than one application.

Public Housing/ Multifamily Housing

Eligible Applicants: Public housing authorities; multifamily housing owners and managers; resident organizations (for example, tenant task forces) in public or private assisted housing.

Nomination Examples: A public housing authority's universal adoption of smoke-free housing; adoption of integrated pest management policies; tenant task force creating and implementing a resident health and energy program.

Outcome Data Examples: Number of residents impacted by policy; number or rate of residents with improved health outcomes due to implementation of healthy homes activity; number or rate of reduction in asthmatic episodes among residents; measurable reduction of indoor air pollutants related to policy.

Policy and Research Innovation

Eligible Applicants: State, county, city, regional units of government (including legislative bodies); healthcare providers (including hospitals); universities and schools of higher education; nonprofit organizations; health insurance providers; advocacy organizations.

Nomination Examples: Creating adopted local/state code enhancements with significant health outcomes or impacts; developing a system for enhancing housing and/or code inspection efficiency and effectiveness; research related to environmental conditions, such as allergens, and resident health.

Outcome Data Examples: Numbers of localities adopting public policy change(s); number of residents directly and indirectly affected by the public policy change(s); Research Innovation applicants should have recent (or in process) peer-reviewed published article. (See more information on Page 4.)

Cross Program Coordination

Eligible Applicants: State, county, city, regional units of government; healthcare providers (including hospitals); housing providers; nonprofit organizations; health insurance providers; advocacy organizations.

Nomination Examples: Comprehensive cross-program coordination (for example, a county health department coordinating asthma interventions with Community Development Block Grant program and/or HOME program rehabilitation resources; a national or regional foundation creates and funds a healthy housing program based on cross sector coordination.

Outcome Data Examples: Number or rate of residents with improved health outcomes due to implementation of healthy homes activity (for example, reduction in asthmatic episodes among residents or falls in the home among elderly people).

CRITERIA FOR JUDGING

Applications will be judged on meeting eligibility criteria, completeness, timeliness, and employing the required format. Note: Previous year's award winners are ineligible to apply for the award this year.

Applications will be subject to a thorough screening and review of eligibility, program/technical, and impact/effectiveness. Applications will be evaluated by an independent panel of judges selected by NEHA.

The evaluation process includes, but is not limited to, an assessment of the criteria in the following list. Due to the wide variety of projects that can be considered, a project does not need to address each criterion. In the text of the application description section (the five-page maximum policy/program narrative), the application should describe—

✓ Policy/Program Innovation: Specific emphasis on the policy/program's impact on a health/housing condition(s) previously unaddressed or specific improvements made to existing programs. Policies/programs do not necessarily need to address a new subject of concern, but all policies/programs discussed should demonstrate innovative aspects of addressing the concerns.

✓ Health Impact on Population: Data on the policy/program's health outcomes including, where available, data on healthcare utilization (for example, emergency/urgent care visits, inpatient hospital stays, healthcare costs); absenteeism from school or work; data on self-reported or objectively reported symptom impact; and data on reduction of unhealthy resident activities (for example, use of tobacco products, proximity to those who smoke).

✓ Impact on Physical Environment: Data on the policy/program's effect on reducing environmental hazards (for example, lead paint hazards, asbestos, combustion gases, toxic chemicals, asthma triggers/allergens); home safety hazards; and other impacts.

✓ Partnership/Collaboration: How the policy/program was developed and implemented and the role(s) that partnering organizations played. These partnering organizations do not necessarily need to be formal partners and may have played an important role in just one or a few phases of the development or implementation of the policy/program. The text should identify whether formal partnerships do exist and describe ongoing efforts to coordinate activities. Applicants should identify whether the policy/program was or is supported by philanthropy, governmental, and/or other sources and what kind(s) of support was (were) provided.

✓ Economic Sustainability: How the policy/program will continue to have impact into the future. In cases of policy advances based on statutory or regulatory actions, a description of anticipated permanence; for example, lack of sunset provision in the legislation or demonstration of ongoing industry acceptance of policy, will suffice. For program sustainability, applicants should describe permanent and temporary sources of support.

> *"The connection between health and dwelling is one of the most important that exists."*
>
> **Florence Nightingale**

RESEARCH INNOVATION APPLICATIONS

Under the Policy and Research Innovation category, the applications identified as Research Innovation will be judged utilizing the criteria in the following list. Policy Innovation applications, whether from public or private organizations, will be reviewed in accordance with the standards established on Page 3 of this application under the Criteria For Judging section. The following criteria apply only to Research Innovation applications, and applications in this category will be judged solely on these criteria.

✓ The research innovation must have been published within the past year or accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. Ongoing research is not eligible. Applications should include an electronic copy of the publication or evidence of the research being accepted for publication.

✓ The research innovation should address a key data gap on an important healthy homes focus area (for example, a description of the importance of the research based on the health impact of the hazard/condition or the contribution of the hazard/condition to health disparities). The importance of the hazard/condition targeted by the research and any disparate impact on vulnerable populations should be supported by referencing objective data sources (for example, published literature).

✓ The application should describe how the research findings can be used for informing healthy homes programs or policies and the potential impact of the research in reducing indoor environmental hazards and ultimately improving health outcomes. (That is, address the extent to which the research findings can be translated into improved policy or practice and the resulting impact.)

✓ For research conducted in the field, the application should describe to what extent community members were involved in the project. Examples of community involvement include meetings with the community members to obtain community feedback, participation of community members on a research advisory board, formal partnerships with one or more community-based organizations, and training and hiring of community members to work on the study (for example, participating as community health workers).

▪ **APPLICATION FORM**

APPLICANT ORGANIZATION	
ORGANIZATION TYPE	CHOOSE AN ORGANIZATION.
PROJECT NAME	
APPLICANT PARENT ORGANIZATION	
STREET ADDRESS	
CITY	
STATE	
ZIP	
APPLICANT CONTACT PERSON	
CONTACT EMAIL	
TELEPHONE	
WEBSITE	

AWARD CATEGORY	CHOOSE A CATEGORY.

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS (IDENTIFY UP TO 8 PROJECT CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS)
    1)
    2)
    3)
    4)
    5)
    6)
    7)
    8)

Will someone from your program be present to accept the award at the NEHA 2016 AEC & Exhibition and HUD National Healthy Homes Conference, June 13–16, 2016, in San Antonio, Texas?

☐ YES   ☐ NO

SUBMISSION ABSTRACT (LIMIT TO 300 WORDS)

Briefly describe the main elements of the program, project, and/or policy; the impact it has had on healthy homes; and the nature of partner participation.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

All entries must be completed using the award's fillable Word document form and submitted by an eligible policy/program via e-mail to HUDAward@neha.org or by utilizing the online application form at www.neha.org/about-neha/awards. The fillable form will be available beginning January 15, 2016, at www.neha.org/about-neha/awards and huduser.gov/secaward/healthyhomes. The deadline for completing e-mail submission is 11:59:59 p.m. Pacific Time, March 15, 2016.

The electronic submission should include the following information.

1. The Application Form

    A 2016 Secretary's Award for Healthy Homes application form that includes the title of the entry, name and contact information of the person from the policy/program submitting the application and who serves as the point of contact for the award application, and information about the policy/program and project. Include in the application form a brief summary of the initiative (only the first 300 words will be read) that can be used for publication and includes profile data on the policy/program application, including the initiative's goals, objectives, partners, public funding sources, and results, as applicable.

2. Project Narrative

    A narrative of no more than five pages describing the history of the initiative and addressing the five criteria for award consideration. The narrative must be in 12-point, non-narrow type font, on 8½-by-11-inch pages with margins no smaller than 1 inch.

3. Support Letters and Statements

    Letters or statements that show support of the initiative should offer substantive support for the value of the effort (that is, say more than "this is a good idea") and may not be written by the organization applying or its parent or subsidiary organizations. Comments from partners (including government partners, residents, donors, and other local stakeholders) familiar with or knowledgeable about the nominated effort are encouraged. The letter must accompany the application and can be addressed to the applicant or the panel of judges.

4. Images

    Applicants should submit a high-resolution image of your organization's logo. The applicant may also submit up to five digital images (.jpg format) with 15- to 25-word photo captions provided separately (on a page in addition to the project narrative) that provide context and show the initiative's results. Images should supplement what exists in the application. Photo collages and slide presentations (for example, PowerPoint) are NOT acceptable. Submit only digital images that are not copyrighted and that may be reproduced by NEHA or HUD without a fee, charge, or copyright infringement.

5. Supporting Documentation and Attachments

   One additional item (not to exceed five 8½-by-11-inch pages) may be included in the application. The supporting item could take the form of a review of the implementation effort; analysis of the results; newspaper clippings; editorials; legislative, regulatory, or policy provisions; and so on.

6. Research Innovation Applicants

   Applicants in the Research Innovation category should submit an electronic version of their published project or documentation of intent to publish in a peer-reviewed publication.

Additional Information

- Brevity is encouraged in all documents.

- No confidential, trade-secret, or otherwise nondisclosable information may be submitted. Neither NEHA nor HUD will review an application that indicates that it contains such information.

- Applications from individuals will not be reviewed.

- All applications become the property of NEHA, with HUD obtaining a license-free right to copy and distribute information in them. No fee is required to submit an entry or receive an award.

Schedule

- Applications must be submitted with an e-mail time no later than 11:59:59 p.m. Pacific Time, March 15, 2016. Applicants will be notified of their application's status in April.

- Presentation of the award will take place at NEHA's 2016 AEC & Exhibition and HUD National Healthy Homes Conference, June 13–16, 2016, in San Antonio, Texas.

- Award winners will be required to provide to NEHA a 500- to 800-word summary report of their project for online publication. NEHA will provide the winners with more information, including writing style guidance.