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Obama Administration Releases FY 2010 Budget Proposal

On May 7, President Obama released the administration's proposed FY10 budget (for the year starting October 1, 2009). The President's budget requests \$140 million for HUD's Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control (OHHLHC), the same amount appropriated in FY09 (without counting the additional \$100 million in stimulus money appropriated in February 2009). The administration, however, did increase its funding request for the Healthy Homes Initiative by \$5.6 million, to a total of \$20 million, essentially moving this amount from Lead Hazard Control grants into Healthy Homes.

The administration requested small increases to EPA's lead budget, boosting state grants by one million dollars for a total of \$14.6 million. The extra money is justified as being needed to certify additional lead professionals to meet the increased demand resulting from HUD's additional stimulus grants. The budget also proposes a small half-million dollar increase for the EPA's lead risk reduction program, bringing the total to \$14.4 million. The increase is essentially just to provide cost of living increases for staff. Additionally, the proposal allocates a paltry \$29,000 to fund public awareness about the new RRP Rule, which advocates know will require tens of millions to successfully build capacity and support state implementation and enforcement.

The budget request also includes \$34.8 million for CDC's Healthy Housing/Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. This is a half million-dollar decrease over FY09 appropriations.

Congress is currently considering changes to the administration's proposal. Senators Jack Reed (D-RI) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME) circulated a bipartisan "Dear Colleague" letter that was signed by ten other Senators, seeking to increase the OHHLHC appropriations to \$225 million, an \$85 million increase over the administration's proposal. If accepted by the appropriations committees, the increase would more than triple the funds distributed to the healthy homes grant program, likely allotting \$70 million to the Healthy Homes Initiative.

Healthy housing advocates are also seeking substantial increases in EPA's budget — particularly for the implementation of the RRP Rule — as well as in the budgets of CDC's and other agencies that play significant roles in creating and promoting healthy housing.

See www.afhh.org/aa/aa_hh_policy_federal_funding.htm for more information.

Campaign to Improve Model Housing Codes Continues



The Alliance and National Center for Healthy Housing are again submitting proposals to the International Code Council to help make model codes more health-protective. These model codes are adopted and enforced by state and local governments around the country, and therefore including better health protections in them is essential for ensuring the health and safety of millions of families. The codes of interest are the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC), the International Residential Code (IRC), and the International Existing Building Code (IEBC). The proposals address:

- **Health and Safety Chapter:** Prevent and eliminate health hazards by requiring compliance with health standards in IPMC, especially for toxics.
- **Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms:** Require alarms in IEBC and IPMC consistent with IRC language adopted last cycle.
- **Space Heaters:** Prohibit in IPMC use of unvented, portable fuel-burning space heaters as a primary source of heat, and if used, require a CO alarm.
- **Lead-based Paint and Renovations:** Modify IEBC to require compliance with EPA's RRP Rule.
- **Deteriorated Paint in pre-1978 structures:** Modify IPMC to explicitly prohibit deteriorated paint because it is a presumed hazard in pre-1978 buildings, and require lead-safe repair unless approved test proves paint is not lead-based paint.
- **Pest Control:** Modify IPMC to require certified professional to eliminate pests in response to a pest control order.
- **Infestation:** Expand IPMC definition to expressly include bedbugs, cockroaches, and pest rodents, as well as visible pest residues or debris unless there is clear evidence that the pest has been eliminated.
- **Sanitary:** Add definition to IPMC to specify that this is a condition that is clean and free of pest infestations and residues; human and animal waste; mold; wastewater; sewage; rotting material; and uncontained rubbish or garbage.
- **Formaldehyde and Wood Products:** Update IBC, IRC and IEBC to incorporate latest versions of the relevant ANSI standards. These ANSI standards incorporate the stringent California standards for formaldehyde emissions from wood products.
- **Radon:** Modify the IRC to require Radon Resistant New Construction.
- **Moldy Building Materials:** Modify IEBC and IPMC to require repair/removal/ remediation of moldy permeable materials made of or containing organic materials, such as but not limited to wood, textiles, paint, cellulose insulation, and paper, including paper-faced gypsum board.
- **Swimming Pool Fencing:** Modify the IRC to require four sides of fencing around pools.
- **Water Temperature Limits:** Modify IEBC to reflect IRC language.

The organizations are also supporting proposals from the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers to require compliance with ASHRAE's 62.2 standard for ventilation of low-rise residential buildings: whole-house mechanical ventilation; local ventilation from kitchens and bathrooms; preventing migration of contaminants from an attached garage; and exhaust of range hoods to the outside.

The proposals are due on Monday, June 1. The ICC committees will consider the proposals as part of their deliberations in Baltimore from Oct. 24 to Nov. 11, 2009. The proposals will receive a final vote (by government agency ICC members only) at a hearing in Charlotte in the fall of 2010. Both meetings are open to the public. For more information on the model code campaign, contact Jane Malone at jmalone@afhh.org.

Updates on EPA's RRP Rule

EPA released more tools this month to further aid compliance with the new Renovation, Repair, and Painting (RRP) Rule, which goes into full effect next April. Most notably, EPA released the model curriculum for the Dust Sampling Technician 8-hour initial class. This class will accredit individuals who wish to take quantitative dust samples after a renovation job (as an alternative to the cleaning verification procedure when required by local law, the contract, or HUD). The RRP rule allows the same individual who performed the renovation work to also perform dust sampling, if they so choose, as long as they have the certification. The new Dust Sampling Technician model curriculum is available at <http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/samplingmodel.htm>. The curriculum has six modules and includes two hour-long hands-on activities.

EPA began accepting applications from potential RRP trainers on April 22, 2009, and is now reviewing applications. It is our understanding that EPA will first accredit existing accredited lead training providers who are adding renovator classes to their repertoire, initially hoping to complete those reviews within a month (although no accreditations have been issued to our knowledge as of May 28). Applications from entities not currently providing abatement training will be reviewed next. EPA has six months by its own regulation to review applications, although the agency has verbally committed to the Alliance a desire to expedite the process. EPA's regional offices are processing the applications, and it is our understanding that regional staff may pay a visit to trainers' offices or facilities prior to approving accreditation. The Alliance, along with other advocates and industry representatives, has been meeting with EPA to discuss ways to secure adequate training capacity, including ensuring that applications are processed in a timely fashion so that training can begin as soon as possible.

EPA has also provided a list of 13 existing lead-safe work practices courses for which successful prior completion will entitle one to become an RRP-Certified Renovator by simply completing a 4-hour refresher course approved by EPA (or by a state authorized by EPA to approve RRP training courses and trainers) in lieu of completing an 8-hour initial renovator training course. This list of "grandfathered courses" is available at http://afhh.org/res/res_rrp_grandfathered_courses.htm.

The Alliance continues to hold "Train the Trainer" courses throughout the country in order to help prepare organizations to become accredited trainers under EPA's rule. Upcoming trainings will be held in Worcester and Canton, Massachusetts, in June, as well as Chicago on August 17-18 in partnership with the NeighborWorks Training Institute. [Click here to register for the Chicago NTI training.](#)

For more information on the RRP Rule, refer to the April issue of the Alliance Alert, or visit EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovation.htm>.

HUD and EPA Announce Lead Funding Opportunities

On May 19, HUD released the first notices of funding availability (NOFAs) for FY09, announcing the availability of \$69 million for Lead Hazard Control (LHC) grants and \$48 million for Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration grants. New to the LHC NOFA this year, applicants can request up to \$70,000 in supplemental funding to promote healthy housing. The additional money is intended to assist grantees develop mechanisms to address other health hazards while conducting lead hazard control work. The Alliance is optimistic that this is an early preview of a larger effort to better integrate LHC and healthy homes activities in future years.



EPA also issued in May a request for proposals for its FY 2009 Targeted Grants to Reduce Childhood Lead Poisoning. EPA will award a total of \$1 million to 10 - 20 projects designed to: (1) reduce lead poisoning in areas with high incidences of elevated blood-lead levels through outreach and education; (2) identify and reduce lead poisoning in under-studied areas with high potential for undocumented elevated blood-lead levels through data gathering and monitoring; and (3) develop tools to address unique and challenging issues in lead poisoning prevention, especially tools that are replicable and scalable for other areas.

The announcement for HUD's lead grant programs is available at www.hud.gov/offices/lead/09NOFA/leadcombo.cfm. EPA's announcement is available at www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/rfp20090513.pdf.

HUD will release other NOFAs, including the Healthy Homes Demonstration and Technical Studies programs, in the coming weeks.

National Advocates Convene Healthy Housing Policy Summit

The Alliance and the National Center for Healthy Housing convened a national summit of housing and health leaders on May 7 to help develop the action steps necessary to address health hazards in the country's housing stock. Forty representatives of national housing, health, and environmental organizations, as well as topic area experts, served as panelists and provided suggestions for how to increase the supply of healthy, affordable housing. After a welcoming greeting from Senator Jack Reed (D-RI), panelists received an overview of the science demonstrating the impact of simple healthy homes treatments and the impact of community and housing conditions on health.

Case studies of unique models to address housing related asthma triggers, as well as policy tools such as code enforcement and health impact analysis, were presented by experts in these fields. In discussions moderated by Alliance Board Member Stephanie Pollack, the panelists highlighted areas for joint cooperation and discussed mechanisms for moving forward. Former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Joycelyn Elders also delivered comments on the importance of healthy housing during a luncheon speech.

Participating organizations were invited in advance of the summit to commit to elements of a National Healthy Housing Action Plan. Twelve national organizations agreed to endorse and support Senator Reed's Healthy Housing Vision bill when it is introduced this summer. (The bill will be similar to the bill introduced last fall – see the October 2008 Alliance Alert). Others agreed to add healthy homes to their strategic plans, help educate their membership or clients about healthy housing, and support local efforts to implement healthy housing policies, among other commitments.

While the official summary of the meeting is still being prepared, the four background papers developed for the meeting, along with copies of the presentations made at the meeting, are available at [here](#).

Surgeon General Will Deliver Call to Action to Promote Healthy Homes

On June 9 in Washington DC, at 10:00am Eastern time, the Acting U.S. Surgeon General Steven K. Galson, M.D., M.P.H., will hold an event to release his "Call to Action to Promote Healthy Homes." Although the event can no longer accommodate additional in-person attendees, it will be Webcast live on the Surgeon General's website, www.surgeongeneral.gov.

The Call to Action is part of the national Healthy Homes Initiative led by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD, CDC and other partners will join the Acting Surgeon General to highlight the public health importance of promoting healthy homes. In addition, HUD's Deputy Secretary Ron Sims will announce HUD's Healthy Homes Strategic Plan, which supports the recommendations outlined

in the Call to Action.

According to the Acting Surgeon General, “the Call to Action looks at the ways housing can affect health, and its release will initiate a national dialogue about the importance of healthy homes.”

For more information contact Angie Malpass at angie.malpass@porternovelli.com or 206-770-7014.

Groups Petition EPA to Ban the Production and Use of Lead Wheel Weights



Source: autoblog.com

The Alliance joined several other environmental and health advocates in signing on to a [petition](#) from the Sierra Club and the Ecology Center urging EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson to establish regulations prohibiting the manufacture, processing, and distribution in commerce of lead wheel balancing weights (“wheel weights”). The May 28th letter explained that “the time has come for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to recognize that lead is an element that does not go away. It simply accumulates in our environment, year after year. EPA must use pollution prevention to regulate major sources of lead releases into our environment, our communities, our neighborhoods, and our homes.” If EPA honors the petition, it could address the significant threat that lead from wheel weights poses to human health.

Ecology Center had previously petitioned EPA on May 13, 2005 (OPPT-2005-0032; FRL-7720-5) on the same matter, but EPA denied that petition on August 8 of the same year. To compensate for its failure to regulate lead wheel weights, EPA launched a voluntary National Lead-Free Wheel Weight Initiative (NLFWWI) on August 29, 2008. The Initiative had 40 charter members and four subsequent members including every new car manufacturer, four domestic wheel weight producers (3M, Hennessy, Perfect, and Plombco), two leading tire manufacturers (Bridgestone Firestone and Goodyear) and major retailers (Bridgestone Firestone, Goodyear, Costco, Wal-Mart, and Sam’s Club).

While the voluntary initiative was a good first step, the NLFWWI falls short of what is needed to protect children, the public, and the environment. Some states have taken up the issue themselves, recognizing EPA’s lack of enforcement as a significant failure. The petition emphasizes that “while state action is important, states have limited ability to regulate imports. Congress gave EPA that authority in Section 13 of TSCA. Congress also gave EPA the responsibility, under Section 6 of TSCA, to protect the public from unreasonable risks, such as those currently posed by the installation of leaded wheel weights.

EPA acknowledges that 1.6 million pounds of lead is lost when wheel weights are uncontrolled or unmanaged in the environment, and further admits that there is no safe level of exposure. The petition asks EPA to ban the manufacturing, distribution and sale of lead wheel weights by January 1, 2011.

Recent Research Findings in Healthy Housing

Formaldehyde exposure linked to common cancers

A research article published online on May 12, 2009, in the [Journal of the National Cancer Institute](#) raises new concerns about the harmful effects of formaldehyde, a common chemical found in pressed wood products such as particleboard (sub-flooring, shelving, cabinetry, furniture), hardwood plywood paneling (decorative wall covering, cabinets, furniture); and medium density fiberboard (drawer fronts, cabinets, furniture tops), from which it off-gasses into indoor air. Formaldehyde is also a component of cigarette smoke.

Formaldehyde has long been linked to rare tumors of the nasopharynx, an area that includes the back of the

throat, that affect about 2,000 Americans a year, according to the American Cancer Society. A new study provides further evidence linking formaldehyde with cancers of the blood and lymphatic system. These cancers are far more common -- affecting nearly 140,000 Americans a year.

Association observed between child cognition and attention problems and living in a home with gas appliances

A study published in the June 1, 2009, issue of the [American Journal of Epidemiology](#) found that preschoolers who lived in homes using gas appliances scored lower on cognitive tests and had a higher likelihood of exhibiting inattention behaviors than those in homes without gas appliances. The adverse effects on memory, verbal skills and the coordination of complex behaviors were greater when more gas appliances were in use.

Children living in houses with gas stoves and other gas-fired appliances were more likely to exhibit inattention behaviors and scored lower at 4 years of age on tests that measure memory, verbal abilities and motor skills than children living in houses with no gas appliances. Gas-fueled cooking and heating appliances release nitrogen dioxide, a gas that has been found to damage cells. Children living in houses with high air concentrations of nitrogen dioxide had lower cognitive abilities and were more likely to have attention problems.

The authors conclude that the “current data provide preliminary evidence that early-life exposure to indoor air pollution from gas appliances may be related to impaired cognitive functioning among preschoolers and may increase their risk of developing ADHD symptoms.”

Adverse effects associated with school-age lead exposure

An article published May 7, 2009, in [Environmental Health Perspectives Online](#) concludes that while lead toxicity is usually assumed to be greatest during early childhood, recent studies suggest that blood lead concentrations at 5 to 7 years of age are more strongly associated with IQ and behavior problems.

The researchers studied two sets of children from infancy to 6 years of age in Rochester, NY, and Cincinnati. IQ decreased by seven points for children whose 6-year blood lead level was 50% greater than their 2-year level compared with those children whose 6-year blood lead level was 50% less than their 2-year blood lead level. Also, criminal arrest rates were more than three times higher for children whose 6-year blood lead level was 50% higher than their 2-year blood lead level. The researchers concluded that 6-year blood lead concentration is more strongly associated with cognitive and behavioral development than blood lead concentration measured in early childhood.

Upcoming Events

Join premier experts and future leaders at the Communities in Action for Asthma-Friendly Environments National Forum on June 4-5, 2009, in Washington, D.C. Don't miss this chance to learn how to improve program quality and impact, build a sustainable asthma care enterprise, and expand the scope of your services to improve the health and quality of life of everyone with asthma in your community. Register today at <https://www.epaasthmaforum.com>.

The National Environmental Health Association's Annual Educational Conference will be from June 21-24th, 2009 in Atlanta, GA. For more information or to register for the AEC, visit www.neha.org/AEC/2009.

The National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures Kick-off Meeting will be held Friday, June 26, 2009 at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center at 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. This is a collaborative initiative to identify and prioritize actions for strengthening the public health approach to chemical exposures. CDC's National Center for Environmental Health and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (NCEH/ATSDR) are sponsoring this project. If you would like to receive additional information on this project and meeting, please send your contact information to nationalconversation@cdc.gov.

The 7th Annual Conference on Children's Health and the Environment will be held Sept. 11, 2009 at the Johns Hopkins University Mount Washington Conference Center in Baltimore, MD. Cosponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Center for Children's Health and the Environment (MACCHE), the conference will explore how current children's environmental health issues are directing policy changes in the field. For details, visit the website at <http://www.gwu.edu/~macche/baltimoreconference09>.

Save the date for the symposium entitled "Promoting Environmental and Policy Change to Support Healthy Aging," to be held Sept. 15-16, 2009, in Chapel Hill, NC. This symposium is a third in a series funded by CDC's Healthy Aging Program. More information on this symposium can be found at www.prc-han.org.

The 2009 National Environmental Public Health Conference: **Healthy People in a Healthy Environment** seeks to promote the nation's environmental health capacity by enhancing the expertise of environmental health professionals - including public health and healthcare professionals, academic researchers, representatives from communities and organizations, as well as advocacy and business groups with a primary interest in environmental public health. The conference will be held October 25-28 in Atlanta, GA.

The American Public Health Association will be holding its Annual Meeting, Nov. 7-11, 2009 in Philadelphia, PA. The theme this year is "Water and Public Health: the 21st Century Challenge." The conference will explore the latest public health challenges and learn about what can be done to protect our resources, our health and our world. **Registration opens June 1.** For more information, visit <http://www.apha.org/meetings/>.

ALLIANCE NEWS

The Alliance would like to introduce our 2009 Summer Intern! Nina Dutton will be a junior at Emory University in the fall, majoring in environmental studies and international studies. She previously interned at the U.S. EPA, and volunteered for the Alliance during January 2009, helping to produce materials for our Renovation, Repair, and Painting Train the Trainer course. Nina will be working on several projects at the Alliance, including updates to our website. We're excited to have her on our staff this summer!

* * *

The Alliance would also like to thank Steve Weil of Weil Communications for presenting our organization with a Leadership Award at the 2009 National Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthy Homes Conference held in Orlando, Florida. The Alliance is deeply grateful for the recognition in advancing our nation's efforts to eliminate childhood lead poisoning and would like to extend this acknowledgement to the numerous organizations around the country with whom we work.

If you appreciate the news and information in the Alliance Alert, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Alliance! We rely on donations from individuals and organizations to allow us to do policy work in Washington and across the country. You can make a one-time donation or sign up to make a recurring monthly or quarterly donation on our [website](http://www.afhh.org/forms/alert_subscribe.asp). Thank you for your support!

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