

## Minnesota Healthy Homes and Communities Practical Vision Elements

**What do we want to see in place in the State of Minnesota in three to five years as a result of collaboration among health, housing, and community development programs?**

**DRAFT**  
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### Develop Resources and Services

- Establish a Centralized and Accessible Information Clearinghouse
  - One organization designated to provide leadership for Healthy Housing and Communities (HH & C)
  - Central location for HH & C information and resources
  - One stop shop for families to access HH & C services
  - User-friendly HH & C programs and regulations
  - Access to electronic resources
- Provide increased, sustainable public funding for healthy homes and communities
  - Prioritized funding for residential housing issues
  - Funding for incentives and rebates to reduce healthy housing costs
- Provide integrated health programs
- Ensure stable funding for transit/biking/walking
- Volunteer transportation for kid's activities (help for working parents)
- Mold mitigation programs offered by agencies
- Access to mental health services (reducing stigma)
- Community center/library as the to-go-to resource
- Referral list of community programs for service providers and residents (fitness, housing, cooking)
  - How-to classes

### Increase Public Awareness and Education

- Comprehensive public education campaign
- Families making informed housing choices
- Community based efforts using local expertise and partners
- Policy and financial incentives to encourage behavior change
- Create HH & C movement starting in elementary school (teacher training)
- Market homes and apartments as “healthy homes”
  - Healthy homes registry (especially for renters)
  - Real estate market tracking by healthy homes and communities attributes
- Referral list of community programs for service providers and residents (fitness, housing, cooking)

## **Practical Vision Elements** *(continued)*

### **Increased Opportunities for Social Connectedness**

- People live, work, and play in the same community
- Referral list of local activities, how-to classes
- Police presence on foot, bike, and horse
- Neighbors know neighbors' full names
- Latch key program
- Family members live in the same neighborhood
- Block clubs for social and neighborhood advocacy
- Neighborhood watch—neighbors helping neighbors
- Pet parks

### **Develop Capacity in the Medical and Referral System**

- HH & C issues recognized by health plans/insurers
- HH & C integrated into primary care services
- Educated medical providers
- Referral system for healthy homes interventions
- Comprehensive network for HH & C services

### **Create Healthier Built Environment**

- Stronger bike/walk/transit, connecting suburbs to city, towns to regional centers
  - Connect bicycle trails to destinations and nearby communities
  - Bike parking at all schools
  - Sidewalks and paths friendly to users of all ages and abilities
  - Clearance of winter sidewalks, intersections
- Decreased food deserts
  - Access to grocery stores, farmers markets, community gardens, and affordable produce
- Attend to Neighborhood Beauty and Access to Nature
  - Beautification projects on main thoroughfares
  - Trees/gardens along residential streets
  - Neighborhood has mentor gardener
  - Community gardens
- Safe housing and neighborhood choices for lower-income families
- Convenient electrical car hook-up stations
- Solar panels on business roofs to support grid

## Practical Vision Elements *(continued)*

### Adoption of Safe, Healthy Housing and Healthy Communities Policies and Corresponding Regulations

- Foster health-centric leadership with a shared vision among government levels and departments
  - Public policy supports healthy lifestyles (exercise, healthy eating, no tobacco, low/no alcohol)
- Holistic approach to the built environment and programs
- Coalition established to address systemic problems
- State guidelines and standards for health and safety hazards
  - HH & C standards required for housing interventions that are publicly funded
  - Active radon systems required for new construction
  - Smoke-free requirements for foster and child care
- Smoke-free multi-unit housing and smoke-free rental property enforced
- Coordinated funding across sectors
  - Pooled funding for HH & C remediation, outreach, and education
- Statewide adoption of International Code Council/Green Building Codes
  - One building official per county statewide

### Implement Widespread and Comprehensive Healthy Housing Inspections

- Standardized (and simple) healthy housing assessment
- Healthy Housing assessments integrated into all inspectional service
  - Cross-disciplinary training and certification of inspectors
  - Housing inspectors trained/funded to do environmental healthy homes assessments
- Comprehensive (inter- and intra-agency) referral/tracking system
- Uniform enforcement of statewide housing/building codes
- Red flag referrals for housing inspections
- HH&C assessments of non-licensed day cares

### Ensure Evaluation Infrastructure and Documented Outcomes

- Clearly defined HH & C goals and metrics
- Document Return on Investment (ROI)
- Build upon existing data system
- One stop shop for HH & C program data, policies, and metrics
  - Integrated housing and health data/survey
- Target high risk areas

