

Your Input is Needed to Create a Healthy Homes Strategic Plan for Minnesota

“The connection between health and the dwelling of the population is one of the most important that exists” Florence Nightingale

All Minnesotans should have the opportunity to make choices that allow them to live a long, healthy life, regardless of their income, education or ethnic background. Everyone wants good health in order to be productive at work and to succeed in school, and to have affordable medical and housing costs. To make this opportunity a choice for all Minnesotans, we all have to do our part in creating and maintaining healthy homes and communities. Every person and every organization has a role to play, small or large.

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has received support from the Centers for Disease Control to develop a Healthy Homes Strategic Plan for Minnesota. We your help in creating a common vision for healthy homes and communities in Minnesota and to develop a plan about how make sure health begins where all Minnesotans live, work and play.

There are several ways individuals and organizations throughout the state can help create a plan that works for Minnesota.

Statewide Kickoff March 12 12:30 – 3:30 Brookdale Hennepin County Library
6125 Shingle Creek Parkway, Brooklyn Center

At this first public planning meeting you will:

- Learn about the state of healthy housing and communities in Minnesota*
- Assess current activities, assets and needs at the state level*
- Learn about the upcoming Regional Gatherings and how you can help to build participation*

We hope that you or a representative of your organization will be able to attend and help us get the planning effort off to a strong start.

Regional Gatherings to Build Healthy Homes and Communities April 12 – May 9

The Alliance for Healthy Homes and Communities is a group of affordable, green and healthy homes non-profit organizations who see the need for statewide collaboration in support of local efforts to create healthier homes and communities. The Alliance and the Minnesota Department of Health are partnering to host **Regional Gatherings across Minnesota this April and May**. Locations and dates are detailed below.

At the Regional Gatherings participants will:

- *Learn about the state of healthy housing and communities in their region and the state*
- *Assess current activities, assets and needs of their area*
- *Identify ideas for action, both locally and statewide*
- *Help to develop a shared vision for the future*
- *Identify resources and partnerships that exist and that are needed.*

Date	City	Venue
April 10	Eagan	Eagan Community Center
April 18	Owatonna	Gainey Conference Center /St Thomas
April 25	Marshall	Ramada Inn - Marshall
April 26	Fergus Falls	Bigwoods Conf/Best Western
May 2	Minnetonka	Ridgedale Hennepin County Library
May 8	Bemidji	Bemidji State University, Hobson Union
May 9	Duluth	Spirit Mountain

Each gathering will be held from 10:00 – 3:00. Lunch will be provided. Please register ASAP, but no later than 1 week in advance of the meeting date. To register, contact Marjean Hoeft at m.hoeft@src-mn.org.

Statewide Review of Draft Plan July 23 1:00 – 4:00 pm MDH Training Center
1645 Energy Park Drive, Saint Paul, MN 55108

Following the Regional Gatherings a plan will be drafted and made available to all participants. This meeting will provide the opportunity to discuss and critique the draft plan with the authors and other participants.

More information about the Healthy Homes Strategic Plan

MDH has selected the Sustainable Resources Center and the National Center for Healthy Housing to facilitate the planning process and develop the plan, which will be completed by August, 2012.

The Minnesota Healthy Homes Strategic Plan will include:

- A mission and vision for healthy homes
- Why healthy homes matter
- Prioritized housing-based hazards, high-risk populations, and an assessment of exposure burdens
- Partners who are already involved and new partners who need to be recruited
- Goals, objectives, and tasks that address identified public health threats
- Resources available and needed for implementation of the Health Homes Strategic Plan and opportunities for collaboration and leveraging
- Evaluation measures
- A sustainability plan

For more information about the Healthy Homes Strategic Plan and how you can participate, contact Marjean Hoeft at Sustainable Resources Center, m.hoeft@src-mn.org or 612-872-3295