

Housing

Regulatory Revisions, Q & A Equity Initiatives

Massachusetts Environmental Health Association
Annual Seminar, May 24, 2023

Paul Halfmann, MPH, RS
Manager
Halfmann Public Health Consulting, LLC



Environmental Justice

- Massachusetts public health officials award \$100,000 to address environmental and climate justice, 2/2/23
 - \$100,000 in funding to four organizations working to improve public health in Environmental Justice communities
 - Promote health equity by reducing harmful levels of exposure to environmental hazards in communities disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic



Environmental Justice

- \$25,000 each to 4 communities between January and June 2023
 - Pilot program to implement interventions aimed at reducing environmental exposures and potential health impacts
 - La Colaborativa, Chelsea
 - Everett Community Growers, Everett
 - Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts, Springfield
 - Southeast Asian Coalition of Central Massachusetts, Inc., Worcester



Environmental Justice

- La Colaborativa, Chelsea
 - Safe Homes Support Healthy Lives Project
 - Revise "Made Up To Code Toolkit"
 - Document housing code violations
 - Document hazardous living conditions
 - Build community capacity to
 - Understand their rights as tenants
 - Advocate for themselves
 - Hold landlords and city officials accountable to address environmental hazards



Environmental Justice

- Everett Community Growers, Everett
 - Build on its “Heat Health and Housing: Organizing for Resident-led Strategies for Development Without Displacement”
 - Project is a series of community workshops focused on developing community-led resilience solutions through engaging residents in a series of workshops
 - Develop strategies to help the community be resilient to climate change

Environmental Justice

- Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts, Springfield
 - Expand on its “Healthy Air Network Project,”
 - A community air quality data collection collaboration, by developing educational materials for the public about risks and ways to reduce exposure



Environmental Justice

- Southeast Asian Coalition of Central Massachusetts, Inc., Worcester
 - Increase awareness of environmental and public health issues that affect Southeast Asian and other immigrant, refugee, and asylee communities through the Environmental and Public Health Education program



Revised Housing Code

- Clarifications

- 410.260(A) Every dwelling unit, and rooming unit shall have as many means of exit as will allow for the safe passage of all people in accordance with 780 CMR: Massachusetts State Building Code.
- 410.900(E) When a residence or portion thereof has been condemned and the occupant of a condemned residence is not the owner of the residence, the owner shall provide comparable, suitable housing
 - If the reason the unit is found to be Unfit for Human Habitation because of the occupant, the owner is not required to provide other housing

Revised Housing Code

