

Mississippi Healthy Homes & Lead Poisoning Prevention Capacity Building Project

About this Project

The primary goal of the Lead Free Mississippi Healthy Housing Project is to build awareness of the health impacts of housing quality and address needs for community engagement, education, municipal planning, workforce training, fundraising, and code enforcement to reduce hazards in housing that impact community health.

The Mississippi State Department of Health Office of Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthy Homes has provided funding for this project and its lead organization, the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative. GHHI is a non-profit organization with a mission to break the link between unhealthy housing and unhealthy families by creating and advocating for healthy, safe and efficient homes. GHHI is a national organization with staff located in Jackson (website is ghhi.org). Organizations from Biloxi, Clarksdale, Choctaw (Neshoba County), Greenwood, Hattiesburg, Jackson, Laurel, and Yazoo City will all be participating in the project from October 2020 to September 2021.

Project Activities and Community Benefits

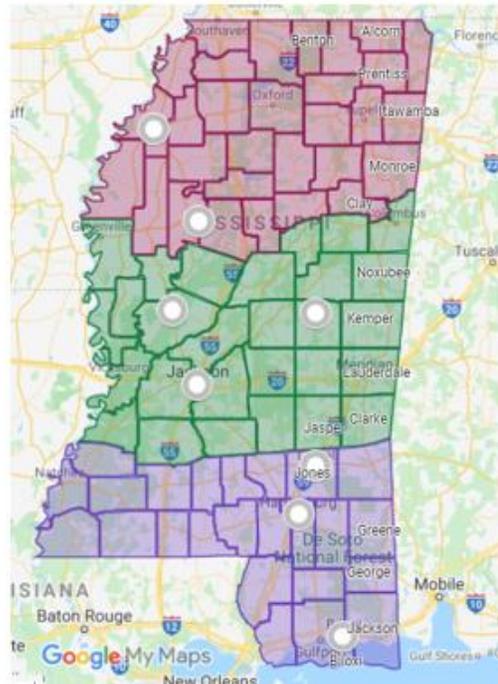
GHHI will lead project activities in coordination with locally-based organizations throughout the project year. Due to the ongoing need to follow Coronavirus Safety practices, most activities will take place using virtual platforms. Our work plan is designed to assess community priorities related to housing health and safety, and to support development of programs and practices that create equitable standards for housing statewide.



Where We Are Working

Communities by Public Health Region

- Biloxi
- Clarksdale
- Choctaw (Neshoba County)
- Greenwood
- Hattiesburg
- Jackson
- Laurel
- Yazoo City



Activities in Your Community

1. Creation of a healthy homes partnership group that will:
 - a. Complete surveys, focus group meetings, and review findings, to support project planning;

- b. Identify goals related to capacity building for local engagement, education, partnership development, fundraising, or policy implementation; and,
 - c. Support community outreach activities, political engagement, and local communications of assessment findings and recommendations.
2. GHHI will engage local governments, businesses, institutions of higher learning, and others as well as statewide organizations (such as the Mississippi Apartment Association, Mississippi State Fire Academy, and Mississippi Association of Realtors) to review findings and discuss feasibility of implementing recommendations.
3. Lead Free MS will produce a final Mississippi Property Maintenance Policy Health Impact Report including:
 - a. Community assessments of need and capacity for participating jurisdictions;
 - b. Proposals and alternatives to mitigate adverse health effects of substandard housing;
 - c. Summaries of any successful implementation actions;
 - d. Recommendations for statewide housing code policy development opportunities; and,
 - e. Rental Registration and similar program design models based on research of communities with similar characteristics.

Additional Resources Available

This project also enables GHHI and our Lead Free MS partners to offer the following resources to participating communities upon request:

- **Topic Briefings:** Responses to frequently asked questions about topics related to healthy housing, housing policy, residential energy efficiency, lead poisoning prevention, and others. We can develop these briefings as fact sheets, presentations, or social media campaigns.
- **Workforce Trainings:** GHHI has offered several workforce training modules in Mississippi over the past 5 years, including Healthy Homes 101 and Pathways to Lead Poisoning Prevention, for many types of workers such as housing program managers, contractors, community health workers, public housing residents, code enforcement officers, and more. We can develop and offer trainings in any of the communities participating in project activities.
- **Education Resources:** The Lead Free MS network has a variety of resources available for public education related to home health and safety, including social media campaign materials, videos, brochures, information packets, and more. The leadfreems.org website provides information on our education topics of focus.

Residents, businesses, and agencies can sign up to participate in project activities by contacting the Project Director, Catherine Lee, at clee@ghhi.org or (601) 345-2052. We look forward to working with community residents and leaders to complete this work and identify opportunities to improve health and safety in local housing and neighborhoods.