Housing quality and safety

LocalHousingSolutions.org includes guidance on policies and programs that communities can use to improve housing quality and safety for homeowners and renters. It also provides a range of resources that can help cities, towns, and counties assess the quality and condition of their housing stock along with ways to address shortcomings.

Brief: Improving housing quality and safety

In high-cost cities, towns, and counties, lower-income individuals and families often need to make tradeoffs to find or keep housing they can afford. In some cases, these tradeoffs mean living in low-quality housing that may pose health and safety risks. When left unaddressed, quality and safety issues can pose serious threats to residents’ well-being, especially young children and older adults. This brief describes opportunities to improve housing quality and safety for homeowners and renters. Read the brief

Analyze housing stock characteristics

This guidance shows how to use data to gain a better understanding of key aspects of the quality and condition of your housing stock. Such insights help in the designing and the targeting of resources of your local housing strategy. Learn more about what data is readily available that can help shed light on the quality and composition of your housing stock. View the presentation.

Selected local housing policies

- Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD)
- Housing rehabilitation codes
- Tax incentives for new construction and substantial rehabilitation
- Housing and building codes
- Code enforcement
- Lead abatement
- Assistance for home safety modifications
- Homeowner rehabilitation assistance programs
- Weatherization assistance
- Tax incentives for maintenance and rehabilitation of subsidized affordable rental properties

Related content

Housing Policy Library section: Improving Quality of Both New and Existing Housing
Issue brief: How should cities, towns, and counties balance trade-offs among the quantity, quality, and location of affordable housing?
Issue brief: Enhancing resilience to flooding and other climate-related threats
Issue brief: Why housing matters
Resources on health of children and adults
Explore external resources for housing quality and safety