

In tough budget times, we have to do more with less. Luckily, there are many organizations in the same boat who are coming to recognize the potential benefits of collaboration. The chart below lists various types of potential partners and the benefits that could result from a strategic coordination of resources.

Partner Types and Potential Benefits of Collaboration

Partner	Benefit
Advocacy Groups	Advocacy groups can be instrumental in getting the word out about your initiative. They may also have the kind of political clout at the State and local level to prioritize more healthy homes related funding in budget discussions.
Community Development	CD Departments have access to HOME and CDBG funds which, in most communities, can be used to address unsafe living conditions. These often cover roof repairs, electrical repairs and plumbing repairs. These sometimes cover lead hazards.
Elderly Programs	Elderly programs may have resources dedicated to preventing unintentional injury, either through retrofit or client education. Though often overlooked, unintentional injury prevention is extremely effective, and often requires low-cost interventions.
Head Start	Partnering with Head Start will broaden the scope and impact of your home intervention, increasing children’s chances of performing well in school. Head Start can refer their clients to programs that improve the home environment, increasing their success rate.
Health Departments	State and local health departments often run lead poisoning prevention programs, asthma programs, and/or radon programs. They can be extremely helpful in providing client education, cross training, data collection, and mitigation services if funding allows.
Housing Code Enforcement	Housing Code Enforcement can identify the needed areas of home improvement and help identify available funding streams to improve health and safety in homes. They could also cross train to help your organization better identify home health hazards.
Income Support Programs (WIC, SNAP, Foreclosure Prevention)	Partnering with financial assistance programs will help to provide extra stability for clients. This helps ensure that clients know where they can access income supports, so that they can remain in their homes and enjoy the benefits of the interventions provided.
Insurance Companies	Insurance companies have incentive to keep their clients healthy. The less money they have to pay out, the better their bottom line looks. As such, insurance companies may be inclined to provide support for your initiative on the grounds of prevention services.
Local Media	Local media, such as newspapers and talk radio, can be instrumental in getting the word out about your initiative. Often, local talk radio wants guests to appear on their program. Here, you can showcase your organization’s work.
Research Institutions, Universities, Cooperative Extensions	Research Institutions can provide data collection to assist in measuring the success of your initiative. University extension programs often have Integrated Pest Management programs or healthy homes education programs that can help with client education.
Smoking Cessation Programs	Smoking cessation programs will be good partners in extending the length of the impact provided by your healthy homes interventions. They can provide client education, materials for quitting smoking, and advocacy for smoke free building laws.
Tenant’s Rights Organizations	Tenant’s Rights organizations usually have knowledge of the law that can help determine when landlords are required to make changes in buildings to improve the standard of living conditions.
Utility Companies	Utility companies are committed to and sometimes required to offer energy efficiency programs. Utility companies can therefore be used for client education, energy related repairs, referrals to your program, data collection, and loans for clients who may not qualify for WAP services.
Volunteer Home Repair	Volunteer home repair programs are essentially an untapped resource. Habitat for Humanity and Rebuilding Together, for example, put special focus on improving the energy efficiency and health and safety in the homes they touch.
Weatherization	The Weatherization Assistance Program touches more low-income homes than any other federal program. Partnering with WAP is likely to increase exposure, broaden the impact of your initiative, and help the clients you serve save even more money.