



## Assessing Home Environmental Health Risks: Workforce Credentials

Healthcare organizations are increasingly supporting home visits to improve patient health outcomes. Community health workers and building assessors with the Building Performance Institute (BPI) Healthy Home Evaluator credential have complimentary skillsets to assess home conditions and address patient needs.

Community health workers (CHWs) excel at coaching clients around medication adherence and behavior change.

Healthy Home Evaluators (HHEs) are skilled at evaluating home building conditions and heating/cooling systems. They recommend home improvements that lead to healthier living environments. HHEs are also BPI certified building assessors - experts who evaluate home energy issues and environmental conditions that could impact the health of occupants.

Combining a community health worker visit with a home assessment conducted by a Healthy Home Evaluator is a highly effectively way to address home environmental health and safety risks for patients.

The table below compares the skills and expertise of Community Health Workers and Healthy Home Evaluators.

## Assessing Home Environmental Health Risks

Home Visit from Community Health Worker and Healthy Home Evaluator	Community Health Worker	Healthy Home Evaluator*
<b>Asthma or Respiratory Home Triggers</b>		
Visual assessment: Moisture, pests, allergens, contaminants	✓	✓
Client engagement: tobacco smoke, allergens, pets, cleaning strategies, etc.	✓	✓
Full home moisture assessment: interior & exterior		✓
Heat/cooling system assessment & testing		✓
Ventilation assessment		✓
Assess thermal comfort: identify insulation & air sealing opportunities		✓
<i>Recommends healthy home improvements</i>		✓
<b>Contaminants - Respiratory or Other Risks</b>		
Carbon monoxide testing: heating systems and other potential CO exposure to residents		✓
Gas appliances testing		✓
Visual assessment: cleaning, painting, home products, etc.	✓	✓
<i>Recommend smoke and carbon monoxide alarms</i>	✓	✓
<i>Recommends healthier home products</i>	✓	✓
<b>Medication Compliance and Respiratory Status</b>		
Medication adherence (self-reported by patient)	✓	
Asthma control test (ACT) score: assess and document	✓	
Clinical referrals	✓	
Respiratory function testing	**	
<b>Injury Risks</b>		
Inadequate lighting in stairwells, hallways, porches, etc.	✓	✓
Trip and fall hazards: carpets, handrails, toilet height, etc.	✓	✓
<i>Recommends home upgrades and actions to reduce risks</i>	✓	✓

\*Maintains building assessor credential (BPI Building Analyst)

\*\* Depending on training and program design

*Italics - Recommendation (rather than diagnosis/assessment)*


## Community Health Worker

Patient Coaching for Health Issues


Medication Adherence

Clinical referrals 

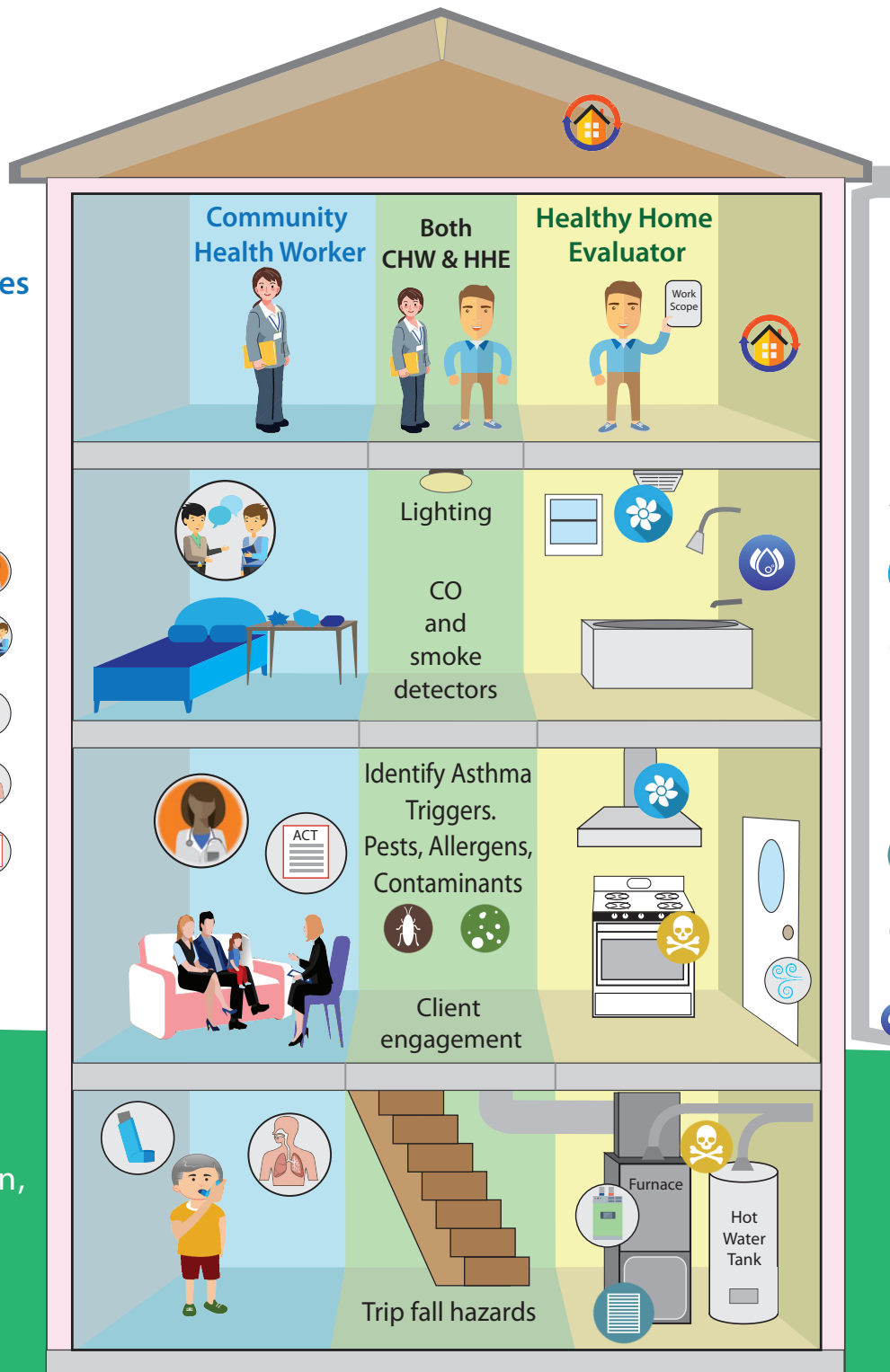
Patient coaching 

Medication adherence 

Respiratory function testing 

Asthma control test (ACT) 

CHWs having strong competency in client coaching related to medication, behavior change and environmental home health risks



## Healthy Home Evaluator\*

\*maintains Building Assessor Credential

Diagnostics to Create Work Scope for Home Improvements

-  Thermal comfort evaluation
-  Ventilation testing
-  Whole house moisture assessment
-  Air leakage & contaminant pathways
-  Carbon monoxide testing
-  Filtration evaluation
-  Heating /cooling system testing

HHEs are skilled at testing and evaluating the building conditions and recommending repairs.