



RAMP's Work to Achieve Healthy & Stable Housing

Housing instability is a driver of health inequities, including for asthma. As a result of historical disinvestment in housing in communities of color through policies such as redlining and racially restrictive covenants, combined with a lack of policies that hold landlords accountable, unhealthy housing conditions are far more common in communities of color. Because substandard housing conditions such as mold and pest infestations can not only exacerbate asthma, but also cause the disease, it is no surprise that these same communities suffer disproportionately from asthma. Further, with few affordable alternatives and minimal protections from excessive rent increases and eviction, many tenants in low-income communities and communities of color are forced to accept unhealthy living conditions that exacerbate health problems like asthma or face displacement. In collaboration with community partners, Regional Asthma Management & Prevention (RAMP) advances comprehensive policies on housing quality, affordability and tenant protections.

Statewide Leadership

RAMP works to improve housing quality through leadership of the California Healthy Housing Coalition (CHHC), which brings together diverse stakeholders to advance state-level solutions to substandard housing conditions and emerging climate-related issues such as wildfire smoke and extreme heat. Since the CHHC's inception in 2009, we have successfully passed policies addressing pest infestations ([SB 488](#) in 2013 and [SB 1167](#) in 2014), pesticides ([SB 328](#) in 2015 and [AB 2362](#) in 2016), mold ([SB 655](#) in 2015), extreme heat ([AB 209](#) in 2022 and [SB 655](#) in 2025) and the practice of code enforcement ([AB 548](#) in 2023).

We have also provided extensive education to code enforcers and tenant-serving organizations to ensure that everyone is working together toward the goal of healthy housing in California.

Current priorities include policies to achieve:

- ❖ Safe and healthy housing for farmworkers across California
- ❖ Safe and healthy options for California's seniors to age in place
- ❖ Heat-resilient housing to keep low-income renters safe during extreme heat events



Collaboration and Power Building

RAMP strategically partners with tenants' rights and other community-based organizations that engage directly with communities to:

- ❖ Ensure policy priorities are driven by real community needs
- ❖ Develop feasible and equitable solutions that avoid unintended harms
- ❖ Build community capacity by providing technical assistance on public health and policy development.

Making Homes Heat Resilient

Extreme heat is the deadliest weather-related hazard in California. As heat waves become more frequent, more severe, and longer-lasting due to climate change, addressing extreme heat is emerging as a priority across the state. We know older adults, infants and children, those with chronic health conditions, people with disabilities, pregnant people, people of color, and low-income people are at greater risk of heat-related health impacts. To advance our work on extreme heat, with Western Center on Law and Poverty, California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, and Leadership Counsel, we were able to get funding in the state budget for the CA Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to identify a safe maximum indoor temperature for housing and to provide policy recommendations to the legislature based on their results. Unfortunately, their policy recommendations were not specific, actionable, nor equity-focused. As a result, we are working with partners to develop our own specific, actionable, impactful policy recommendations to address the growing health equity impacts of extreme heat on low-income renters. As a first successful step, we worked with CA Senator Stern's office to establish a state priority to ensure homes can maintain a safe indoor temperature in [SB 655](#), which the Governor just signed into law.

Local Action

In addition to our statewide policy work, RAMP is partnering with La Clinica de la Raza and others to support the mobilization of community residents in advocacy around healthy housing in Oakland. La Clinica's community organizing approach with *promotoras* is central to the project and RAMP provides policy leadership, training, and guidance for both the *promotoras* (Healthy Housing Champions) and a youth resident leadership group. We have brought on nearly two dozen organizations to advocate for two key policies: a lead hazard abatement program with the city's lead settlement funds and a proactive rental housing inspection program. While the city continues to push back the timeline, we now have a broad range of community partners in place to help us push back against further delays and ensure equity-focused policies are adopted.

"RAMP's impressive track record advocating for policy and systems changes targeting the root causes of asthma disparities provides numerous best-practices for other organizations to learn from and apply in their work. Their successes serve as models held up frequently on national stages and their willingness to share their learnings and experience are driving change in communities nationwide."

-Amanda Reddy, Executive Director,
National Center for Healthy Housing



Support for Community Health Workers

For over twenty years, RAMP has worked closely with CHWs and others who provide home-based asthma services. This has included:

- ❖ Hosting free capacity-building workshops on topics identified by participants
- ❖ Providing guidance on selecting safe and effective air cleaners to help their clients reduce exposure to wildfire smoke, and coordinating the distribution of donated air cleaners through asthma home visiting programs.
- ❖ Developing training and tools for asthma home visitors to help clients deal with pests through healthy and sustainable approaches that avoid harmful pesticides.