



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Biddeford Partners Work Together to Improve Safe and Healthy Housing

BIDDEFORD, Maine — April 2026 — In recognition of National Healthy Homes Month, organizations across Biddeford are working together to help make homes safe and healthier for everyone. This year's NHHM theme, *“Healthy Homes for Everyone,”* reflects the shared commitment behind a growing community effort to identify practical steps that protect health and strengthen housing in Biddeford.

Over the past 2-weeks, round-table discussions have been taking place with cross-sector representation from city departments, housing staff, public health, property owners, and tenants. These conversations are focused on identifying community strengths, understanding barriers that impact healthy housing, and exploring practical solutions—particularly for older homes and rental apartments.

These efforts aim to:

- Reduce lead hazards
- Help prevent asthma caused by mold, pests, and poor indoor air quality
- Strengthen access to resources and support for both renters and property owners to keep homes healthy
- Keep housing safe, affordable, and well maintained

The round-table discussions are helping shape preparations for a community-wide Safe and Healthy Housing Summit, envisioned as an energizing space where residents, property owners, community organizations, and city partners can come together to share ideas, learn from one another, and build practical strategies for healthier homes. By turning the strengths, challenges, and opportunities identified through these early conversations into collective action, the summit will help strengthen Biddeford's ability to create lasting housing solutions for the future.

Supported by the Maine CDC Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, the Coastal Healthy Communities Coalition is coordinating this effort alongside the City of Biddeford's HUD-funded Lead Hazard Reduction and Healthy Homes Program. Together, these programs help connect health, housing improvements, and community education.

“In this housing crisis, it is critical that we put in the effort needed to preserve our existing housing stock and help families stay healthy and strong,” said Cheri Anderson, Director of the Coastal Healthy Communities Coalition. “Everyone deserves a safe place to live. When residents, property owners, and city partners work together, we can protect health and keep our homes safe for the future.”

If you would like to stay informed about this work and the upcoming Housing Summit contact Cheri Anderson at canderson51@une.edu or 207-602-3589, or visit www.chccme.org.