

Safe & Affordable Housing in Alameda County, CA

The Alameda County Public Health Department in California recognizes the links between health and safe and affordable housing, and offers data and policy expertise to inform community advocates and public officials.

1 In close partnership with advocates and policymakers, the Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) addresses housing from two angles – habitability and affordability.



2 To reduce high rates of asthma among low-income residents, the health department partnered with city and county officials to talk about code enforcement, landlord accountability, and regulatory loopholes related to mold.



3 The health department served as a bridge between Causa Justa, a grassroots organizing group that favored a ballot initiative to protect tenants' rights, and researchers studying its impact on health. Causa Justa and ACPHD also jointly published two reports documenting the health impacts of displacement.



4 ACPHD has informed efforts by The Utility Reform Network (TURN) to reduce utility shutoffs and TURN has trained health department staff in the availability of resources to which they can refer clients who are at risk of a shutoff.



“ We understood that we needed to get the support of an institution that really cared about this to help us make the case. We started this partnership very intentionally. The health department could provide the data on what conditions were and how people were being impacted, data that we could use to lobby elected officials and present to the public.”

Camilo Zmora, Causa Justa