



Executive Summary  
**Framework for Public Housing Index**

**Innovation**

The present invention relates to a method whereby one can assess the public housing environment and provide insight into the future possibility of individuals living outside of public housing or improving the current state and quality of life inside public housing complexes. The methodology is a quantitative approach in which an assessment instrument tool is created (survey or checklist) that would ascertain the physical condition of the home and surroundings. Administrators of the property, as well as the residents, would complete the survey. HUD and state housing authorities could use this instrument to determine workable solutions to improve the quality of life for the residents. An index would be developed that would take the following high-level components into account: crime, health, environment, aging of physical building, intergenerational factors, education, cleanliness, employment, or other factors.

**Market Need**

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) estimates there are about 30 million households in the United States that possess indoor environmental hazards, including lead-based paint, mold, water leaks, and pests, among others (2018). These conditions create housing that is substandard and negatively impacts health. Healthy homes concentrate on eliminating dangerous and toxic items such as pests, contaminants, allergens, and hazards, all of which cause injury that result in challenges to well-being. The model of healthy homes is a way to address concerns regarding the relationship between the house and its interior environment. Tackling this issue is imperative as health challenges are often associated with a person's home interior and exterior surroundings. Thus, there remains a need in the art for systems and methods capable of collecting critical data reflecting public housing residents' environment, evaluating that data to determine interrelationships among environmental factors, and allowing access to housing authorities for purposes of interventional planning.

**Intellectual Property**

An intellectual property disclosure was filed with Morgan OTT in August 2018 and U.S. Patent Application No. 20210012446 was published in January 2021.

**Stage of Development**

The instrument has already been applied to engage with the community. Through direct contact with residents of multiple neighborhoods, interrelationships have already been established by defining thresholds that can be displayed in a tabular fashion or in a "heat map."

**Technology Transfer Opportunity**

A survey instrument that is developed to drive the methodology can be administered to public housing agencies, public housing residents, academics, and policy makers. The innovation allows individuals to provide input into the condition of public housing along with known and perceived environmental factors to quantify the overall state of public housing.

**Key Investigators**

Dr. Jacqueline M. Holland

**Field(s) of Use:**

- Public Policy
- Family and Consumer Sciences
- Social Sciences

**Key Words:**

- Public Housing
- Public Health
- Survey

**Advantages**

- Comprehensive tool that aids in policy decisions/planning
- Multifactor analysis and correlations
- Available to policy makers, residents, and academics

**Status:**

[Patent pending](#)

**Links:**

[Inventor Bio](#)

**Reference Number:**

061/2019

**Tech Transfer Contact:**

[Ray Dizon](#)