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## NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

### 'Healthy Housing' Training Offered In Utica

*LPP, MVCC, Environmental Associates Partner For Two Day Course*

Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente, Jr. today announced a training program being offered by the Oneida County Health Department, in partnership with Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC) and Environmental Education Associates, designed to provide a better understanding of the relationship between the area's housing deficiencies and the overall health of the occupants.

*"In order to promote good health in our community, it is essential that we have a knowledgeable workforce with the skills to recognize and address unsafe and unhealthy housing conditions,"* Picente said. He continued, *"We will continue to forge new public/private partnerships that will ensure that the necessary training opportunities are available to the local workforce through our local community college."*

The program, being offered for the first time in Oneida County, will be held on **Tuesday and Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>** at the Mohawk Valley Community College building located at 524 Elizabeth Street in Utica. The classes will begin at 8:15 am and run until 4:15 pm both days. The fee for the course is \$260. Formerly, those seeking this training had to travel to Syracuse for the course.

*"The link between safe and healthy housing and the health of the family is well documented,"* Cathie Bullwinkle, Quality Improvement Coordinator for the health department said. She added, *"Unsafe housing can be a contributing factor in lead poisoning, asthma, allergies, falls and burns causing illness and death. This training is essential for all contractors, real estate professionals and home visitation workers and offers an extensive examination of health and safety problems in the home as well as remediation methods."*

The topics or principles covered in the course include:

- **Keep it Dry** – mold allergies, illness, asthma
- **Keep it Clean** – harborage for pests including cockroaches and bedbugs
- **Keep it Pest-free** – rodent and roach droppings contribute to asthma
- **Keep it Safe** – prevention of falls, scalding burns, carbon monoxide poisoning, chimney and flue fires and wood stove safety.
- **Keep it Contaminant Free** – proper use of pesticides, candles with lead wicks, Ursi wood incense containing lead.
- **Keep it Maintained** – leaks cause structural damage and mold issues.

There will also be hazard specific training on dealing with lead-based paint, radon, mold, pests and asbestos, according to the County Executive.

*“Codes officials, visiting nurses, social workers and real estate professionals routinely enter some of the oldest housing stock in the state but may lack the training to look at the house from a holistic perspective so they are able to recognize and identify many problems which jeopardize the wellbeing of the residents,”* Picente said.

Those interested in registering for the course can call 1-888-436-8338 or by e mail at [training@environmentaleducation.com](mailto:training@environmentaleducation.com).