

## Phone Script: Contacting Housing Experts

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, I'm calling from the Alameda County Public Health Department. Could I speak with \_\_\_\_\_? (Or, if you had their direct number, is this \_\_\_\_\_?)

I'm calling on behalf of our Place Matters Initiative, which is a national project of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. The initiative was launched in response to research showing that efforts to improve social conditions can actually improve health, too. We joined the national project because we've seen that in Alameda County, access to clean air, healthy food, and space to play, not to mention good education, living wage jobs, and decent housing, depends on the neighborhood where a person lives. All of these inequities add up over people's lives, and over time, quality and length of life in these neighborhoods gets worse and worse. The project is about addressing the root causes of health and health inequities, through action and also policy development. Does that make sense? (Wait for any questions.)

Here at the health department, we've chosen six areas that we think impact health the most, and we are working towards local policy agendas for each of them. Of course, housing is one of these areas. I'm in the housing workgroup, and we have reached the stage of our work where we have completed a literature review and preliminary needs assessment, and now need to hear from experts in the field to better understand current policy issues and how we help support change in these areas.

One of the housing issues we're very interested in is substandard housing and what can be done to remediate and prevent it.

We know you have a lot of experience in this area and hoped we might be able to talk with you to learn more about it and how we might be able to help. Our next meeting is August 6<sup>th</sup> at the Eastmont Town Center and we hoped you could come from:

**Neighborhood Law Corps, East Bay Community Law Center, Code Enforcement: 1:10-2:00**

**OCO, ACORN: 2:10-3:00.**

We are also inviting Neighborhood Law Corps, East Bay Community Law Center, Oakland Code Enforcement, Oakland Community Organizations, and ACORN (LEAVE OUT THE NAME OF THE ONE YOU'RE TALKING TO!)

At this meeting, we will give you a little more information about who we are and our process moving forward. Additionally, we will have some questions for you that we can send to you in advance of the meeting.

- If yes: Great, thank you so much! We will be in touch with more details as the time gets closer. Can you give me an email address where I can send those details?
- If no: Okay, that's fine, do you think you could come a bit earlier or later that day? OR, is there a location that works better for you? If no: do you think you and I could schedule a time for a phone interview so that I can bring back some of your knowledge to the group?