

NSF-PATH Housing Research Agenda

Volume 1 Recommendations and Focus Area Reports

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Sponsoring Organizations:

National Science Foundation (CMS-0332404)
HUD - Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing
National Consortium of Housing Research Centers
University of Central Florida
Purdue University
Michigan State University

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PREFACE

On behalf of my co-principal investigators, advisory committee members and participants of the NSF-PATH Housing Research Agenda project, we are pleased to present the final report. Volume 2 contains position papers submitted by 45 housing researchers nationwide and Volume 1 consists of the deliberations, summary and recommendations of the research agenda development including the workshop held at University of Central Florida in February 2004.

The need for a well defined housing research agenda was recognized since the creation of the Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing (PATH) program in 1998. The PATH program initiated a number of research road mapping exercises that focused on developing applied research. In 2000, the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Directorate of Engineering through its Civil and Mechanical Systems division launched the housing research program in conjunction with PATH. The NSF's housing research program led to a very positive response by a number of researchers at several major universities. After offering the NSF-PATH program for three years, it was felt that there was a vital need to define the basic/development research agenda in order to successfully continue or possibly, expand the program. As a result, this research agenda project was awarded.

This report represents research ideas, workshop deliberations and recommendations categorized in five focus areas – (1) Construction Management and Production; (2) Structural Design and Materials; (3) Building Enclosures, Energy, and Indoor Air Quality (IAQ); (4) Housing Technology, Community and the Economy; and (5) Systems Interactions and “Whole House” Approach. I would like to thank the focus area leaders and other members of the advisory committee for their hard work and input. I would also like to acknowledge funding by NSF (CMS-0332404) and Michigan State University. In addition, I am thankful to HUD-PATH and the University of Central Florida for their help with the workshop organization and to HUD-PATH and Purdue University for their assistance with the production of the final report.

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June 2004