

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

2008 MAY 23 P 3:00



May 16, 2008

The Honorable Thomas Mayfield  
Board of Supervisors  
1010 Tenth Street  
Suite 6500  
Modesto, California 95354

Dear Chairman Mayfield:

On behalf of the Children's Health Forum, a non-profit organization dedicated to the elimination of childhood diseases which disproportionately impact underserved communities, we are pleased to write you about a multi-million dollar grant program that is now available to high-risk cities, counties, and states from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The **Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration (LHRD) Grant Program** assists urban jurisdictions with the greatest lead-based paint hazard control needs in undertaking programs for the identification and control of lead-based paint hazards in eligible privately-owned rental and owner-occupied housing units. **This year, \$44.1 million is available to eligible jurisdictions with each qualifying city, county, or state set to receive a grant up to \$4 million for the purpose of lead hazard control.**

To qualify for the Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Grant Program, **applicants must have at least 3,500 pre-1940 rental housing units** in their jurisdictions. According to U.S. Census figures, Stanislaus County appears to meet the eligibility criteria. Applicants must provide a matching contribution of at least 25 percent of the requested grant amount, unless a waiver is formally requested by June 15, 2008. Applicants whose waiver request has been approved must provide a matching contribution of at least 10 percent of the requested amount. Additionally, applicants are required to designate 80 percent of the requested grant amount for direct lead hazard control activities, and are allowed to apportion a maximum of 10 percent of funding for administrative purposes. The deadline to apply for the LHRD Grant Program is **July 17, 2008**.

As Co-Chairs of the Children's Health Forum, we have worked diligently since 2003 with Senators Christopher Bond (R-MO) and Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) to ensure that this funding is made available to at-risk communities for lead hazard reduction. Over the past five years, the LHRD grant program has directed \$240 million to 49 communities containing disproportionately high numbers of children with elevated blood lead levels and high numbers of pre-1940 housing units. We are pleased that HUD is continuing its efforts to eradicate lead hazards nationwide, and we hope you will consider applying for this funding.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) call childhood lead poisoning the number one most preventable environmental health hazard facing our country's children. The ingestion of lead particles by infants and young children can result in reduced attention spans, behavioral problems, headaches, lowered IQ levels, and, in extreme cases, severe neurological damage, comas, and even death. Approximately 310,000 children aged 1 to 5 years have elevated blood lead levels today, with minority and low-income children at greatest risk.

Fortunately, lead hazard remediation programs have significant effects on the health of children and the safety of housing. Cities like Baltimore and Boston have become leaders in childhood lead poisoning prevention and lead hazard reduction and have significantly reduced the numbers of children with elevated blood lead levels, in part due to funding provided by HUD grants. In the past decade, the number of children with elevated lead levels has decreased in Baltimore from 1,850 to 160 and in Boston from more than 5,000 to 647. These numbers are encouraging because they prove a concentrated effort to combat lead, including developing lead hazard reduction programs, is producing significant results in some of the most at-risk cities.

The mission of the Children's Health Forum is in part to educate the public on the urgency of the fight against childhood lead poisoning, and to assist in the efforts needed to implement successful programs in communities across the nation. We encourage you to take advantage of the available funds from the Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Grant Program to establish and maintain a lead poison prevention and lead hazard reduction program. We also encourage you to share with us any questions, comments, or success stories from your communities.

**Again, please be apprised that the deadline for submission of applications to receive up to \$4 million in grants is July 17, 2008.** If you have any questions about the requirements of the program, do not hesitate to contact CHF staff at (202) 347-6143 or [ntedesco@chf4kids.org](mailto:ntedesco@chf4kids.org) or visit our website at [www.chf4kids.org](http://www.chf4kids.org). Thank you for your continued dedication to lead poisoning prevention, and we look forward to the improvements your city can make with this grant funding.

Sincerely,



Dr. Benjamin Hooks  
Founder and Chair



Secretary Jack Kemp  
Co-Chair



Contact CHF:  
Nicholas Tedesco, Deputy Director  
(202) 347-6143  
ntedesco@chf4kids.org  
www.chf4kids.org

**\*ALERT\***

**FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR YOUR COMMUNITY**

**Deadline to Apply: July 17, 2008**

# HUD 2008 Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Grant

On May 7, 2008, the Department of Housing and Urban Development announced the release of the Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Grant (LHRD) for FY2008. This grant appropriates **\$44.1 million** in federal dollars for eligible communities with the greatest lead-based paint hazard control needs.

## Eligibility & Application Requirements:

- A city, county, tribe or state must contain at least **3,500 pre-1940 rental housing units**.
- A state may apply on behalf of one or more of the eligible local jurisdictions if it has an EPA-authorized lead-based paint training certification program.
- Multiple units of a local government may apply as a consortium if the total number of pre-1940 occupied rental housing units for the combined jurisdictions is at least 3,500.
- Communities must submit detailed plans showing adequate capacity to carry out the proposal.
- Communities must use at least **80%** of the funds for direct lead hazard control activities.
- Administrative costs may be no more than **10%** of the total grant amount requested.
- Communities must provide a matching contribution of at least **25%** of the requested grant amount, unless a waiver is formally requested by **June 15, 2008**. Applicants who obtain a waiver must provide a matching contribution of at least **10%** of the requested amount.
- Recipients of 2007 LHRD grants are *not* eligible to apply in 2008.
- Recipients of 2007 Lead Hazard Control grants *are* eligible.
- Each qualifying jurisdiction can apply for a grant in an amount up to **\$4 million**.
- Applications are due **July 17, 2008**.



For more information go to: [www.hud.gov/grants](http://www.hud.gov/grants)

To view the Notice of Funding go to: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/pdf/E8-8863.pdf>