

hud NEWS

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HUD ANNOUNCES \$1.9 MILLION TO PROTECT CHILDREN IN SHEBOYGAN FROM DANGEROUS LEAD IN THE HOME *Funding will clean up 120 low-income homes and train 125 workers*

MILWAUKEE – At least 120 homes in Sheboygan will become healthier places to raise children due to \$1,880,441 awarded today by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. HUD's grant is designed to help Sheboygan to identify and clean up potentially dangerous lead-based paint hazards in older privately owned low-income housing. The funding is part of nearly \$150 million awarded nationwide.

“This is an investment in our children's futures,” said HUD Deputy Secretary Roy A. Bernardi. “As public servants, we have no greater responsibility than to leave our kids a world that is better than what our parents gave us. We can help do that by making sure that the tragedy of lead poisoning will be resigned to history books.”

HUD's grant to Sheboygan is provided through the Department's *Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control (LBPHC)* grant program. LBPHC grants assist states, Native American Tribes and local governments in undertaking comprehensive programs to identify and control lead-based paint hazards in eligible privately owned rental housing. This program is the largest federal program designed to clean up potentially dangerous lead in housing, and represents a significant effort to address the Presidential goal to eliminate childhood lead poisoning by 2010.

While lead-based paint was banned for use in the home in 1978, HUD estimates approximately 24 million homes still have significant lead-based paint hazards today. Lead-contaminated dust is the primary cause of lead exposure and can lead to a variety of health problems in young children including reduced IQ, learning disabilities, developmental delays, reduced height, and impaired hearing. At higher levels, lead can damage a child's kidneys and central nervous system and cause anemia, coma, convulsions and even death.

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HUD is the nation's housing agency committed to increasing homeownership, particularly among minorities; creating affordable housing opportunities for low-income Americans; and supporting the homeless, elderly, people with disabilities and people living with AIDS. The Department also promotes economic and community development and enforces the nation's fair housing laws. More information about HUD and its programs is available on the Internet at www.hud.gov and espanol.hud.gov.

FY 2007 Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control Grant Awards

WISCONSIN

The City of Sheboygan will be awarded \$1,880,441 in federal funds to control lead hazards in 120 housing units. The grant will build on the strength and capacity demonstrated by local agencies to support low-to-moderate income families in high risk areas. The grant will also provide worker training, public education on lead hazards, including information on lead hazard control and other housing and health service resources. The grant program will offer lead hazard control training for home renovation, lead abatement work and lead abatement supervision to at least 125 low income or unemployed individuals. Contact: Barbara Olm, Housing Building Specialist, (920) 459-3377.