



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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City Seeking Applicants for Lead Remediation Grant

Qualified residents need to apply by August 1, 2012

Akron, Ohio (March 8, 2012) - The City of Akron is looking for qualified residents to apply for its Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Grant Program. Owner occupied properties may qualify for up to a \$7500.00 lead hazard reduction grant, and landlords will be provided a 75/25% match in lead grant funds used to rehabilitate rental units (75% City, 25% investment owner).

Despite the continued presence of lead in the environment, lead poisoning is preventable. Nearly one in nine children living in the Akron area has been exposed to

lead based paint. Nationwide, a quarter of a million children have blood lead levels high enough to cause significant damage to their health. Major sources of lead exposure among U.S. children are lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust found in deteriorating buildings.

“The City of Akron is addressing lead problem in older city homes through federal grant funding geared to help eliminate lead based paint in homes,” assures Akron’s Director of Planning, John Moore. “We currently have funds available to assist qualified homeowners. We just need them to apply for the grants, and use the grant money to eliminate lead in their home. It is essential we help keep our families in a healthy, safe environment by reducing the risk of lead poisoning in the home.”

Qualifications for a grant include:

- ✓ Households with a child under the age of six, including grandparents, baby sitters, etc. who watch children at least 60+ hours/year (documented).
- ✓ The property must be located in the service areas of Summit County including Akron and Barberton or Youngstown in Mahoning County.
- ✓ Household income cannot exceed income guidelines (please call to see if you qualify).
- ✓ Structures one (1) to four (4) units are eligible for assistance.
- ✓ Properties must have lead paint hazards (windows, siding, doors, porches, soil, etc.).
- ✓ All lead paint issues will be addressed as part of the work performed.

To see if you qualify for a grant to remove lead paint from your home, you may contact the Akron Lead Based Paint Programs Office at 330-773-2058 or call 330-375-2050 to learn more about ways to prevent childhood lead poisoning. In order to meet processing criteria, applications need to be received by August 1, 2012.

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