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NEWS RELEASE

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Dubuque Awarded \$4 Million in HUD Grants for Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes Programs

DUBUQUE, Iowa -- The City of Dubuque Health Services and Housing and Community Development Departments have been awarded a major Lead Hazard Control grant and a Healthy Homes Production Program grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

A \$3,099,948 grant will be administered jointly by the two City departments over a 36-month timeframe. The City's lead-based paint hazard reduction program will provide \$840,270 in matching contributions. The grant will fund several lead control initiatives including inspection of and lead-based paint hazard reduction in 185 Dubuque housing units. It will provide a comprehensive public education campaign aimed at teaching property owners, tenants, and maintenance and remodeling contractors how to provide and maintain lead-safe dwellings. Additionally, area contractors will be certified, trained and provided economic incentives to increase businesses and improve skills in lead hazard reduction.

"Our goal is to continue to reduce the incidence of childhood lead poisoning and to begin addressing other environmental health hazards in the home that affect children's health," said Mary Rose Corrigan, City of Dubuque Public Health Specialist.

The HUD grant will build on the established partnerships with the Washington Neighborhood Development Corporation, Visiting Nurse Association, Dubuque Food Pantry, Operation New View, KeyLine Transit, HEART Program, the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, as well as neighborhood associations, area-housing providers, and other community-based organizations. It will continue the City's efforts toward the primary prevention and elimination of childhood lead poisoning, as well as providing employment, training and economic opportunities for area citizens.

HUD also awarded the City's health services and housing and community development departments \$999,973 to develop and promote the Healthy Homes Production Program in conjunction with the lead hazard activities. The Healthy Homes grant will provide \$300,954 in matching contributions. This initiative will identify and remediate housing-related health and safety hazards in 100 low-income housing units throughout Dubuque.

“These grants will enhance our past efforts in public information and lead paint remediation to provide healthier and safer housing for Dubuque residents,” said Kevin Hirsch, City of Dubuque Lead Paint Program Manager. “These programs will also contribute to the City's sustainability plan and Green and Healthy Homes Initiative.”

The City's HUD lead hazard abatement grants began in 1997 and since its inception, 966 units have been made lead-safe using a lead hazard reduction strategy of abating lead-painted surfaces most accessible to children.

“Protecting the health, and indeed the futures, of our children is a top priority for HUD. We cannot allow children to be poisoned in their own homes,” said US HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan. “These grants will help communities around the nation to protect families from lead exposure and other significant health and safety hazards.”

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