



CONTACT:
Robert Boge
Housing Inspection Supervisor
563-690-6073
rboge@cityofdubuque.org

NEWS RELEASE

Aug. 27, 2015 – For Immediate Release

HUD Awards Dubuque \$3.2 Million for Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes Program

DUBUQUE, Iowa – In an effort to protect children and families from potentially dangerous lead-based paint and other health and safety hazards, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded over \$101 million to 32 city, county, and state governments. The grant funding announced today will reduce the number of lead-poisoned children and protect families by targeting health hazards in over 6,000 low-income homes with significant lead and/or other home health and safety hazards.

As part of this initiative, the City of Dubuque was awarded \$2,905,815 in Lead Hazard Control grant program funding and \$325,000 in Healthy Homes initiative funding. The City will use the funds to address lead hazards in 136 housing units, providing safer homes for low and very low-income families with children. The goals of the lead hazard control project are: 1) reduction of lead-poisoned children, especially throughout the target neighborhoods of Dubuque; 2) continuance of professional lead certification and training of area contractors, workers, program inspectors and property owners; 3) collaborative public education, awareness, and training of health professionals, tenants, and property owners; 4) integration and braiding of related services and resources from community partners who will promote and establish lead-safe housing throughout the neighborhoods of Dubuque; and 5) continued transition of Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Program to a more comprehensive Healthy Homes Program

Healthy Homes funding addresses environmental hazards in the home to protect children and their families from housing-related health and safety hazards. A home assessment will be conducted utilizing a Healthy Homes rating system that identifies 29 potential hazards. Scoring of the hazard and the mitigations cost will determine which hazards are corrected. Simple, low-cost examples of hazard repairs may include installation of handrails and guardrails for trip hazards, providing a dehumidifier, and installation of exhaust vents for mold prevention.

The efforts in Dubuque will be a collaboration among the City of Dubuque's Housing and Community Development, Health Services, Sustainability, Fire, and Police Departments, the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, Dubuque Visiting Nurse Association, Crescent Community Health Center, Operation: New View Community Action Agency, Iowa Department of Public Health, Black Hills Energy, Alliant Energy, and the Dubuque Community School District.

Since January 1992, the City of Dubuque has addressed childhood lead poisoning, first in cooperation with the Iowa Department of Public Health, and then by conducting its own Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. In 1997, Dubuque was awarded a Round 4 HUD Lead Paint Hazard Control Program Grant in the amount of \$3.69 million; in 2003, a Round 11 HUD grant in the amount of \$2.4 million; and a Round 14 grant of \$2.98 million in 2007, for a combined total of \$9.09 million. Approximately 1,150 properties occupied by very low to moderate-income families have been made lead safe. More than 1,800 contractors, workers, owners, and inspectors have been trained. This program has initiated many cost-effective measures to prevent and eliminate childhood lead poisoning in Dubuque and has built local capacity through extensive public education efforts.

According to HUD, unsafe and unhealthy homes affect the health of millions of people of all income levels, geographic areas, and walks of life in the U.S. These unsafe and unhealthy homes affect the economy directly, through increased utilization of health care services, and indirectly through lost wages and increased school days missed. Housing improvements help prevent injuries and illnesses, reduce associated health care and social services costs, reduce absentee rates for children in school and adults at work, and reduce stress, all which help to improve the quality of life.

HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes promotes local efforts to eliminate dangerous lead paint and other housing-related health hazards from lower income homes; stimulate private sector investment in lead hazard control; support cutting-edge research on methods for assessing and controlling housing-related health and safety hazards; and educate the public about the dangers of hazards in the home.

The funding announced recently directs critical funds to cities, counties and states to eliminate dangerous lead paint and other housing-related health hazards in thousands of privately-owned, low-income housing units. HUD is also providing the grantees over \$8.8 million in Healthy Homes supplemental funding to help communities mitigate multiple health hazards in high risk housing simultaneously, in conjunction with their lead hazard control activities.

#