



# EPA Lead Program Grant Fact Sheet

## *Building Capacity for Primary Prevention: Housing Codes and Code Enforcement*

*Indianapolis, IN*

EPA has selected **Improving Kids Environment, Inc.** in Indianapolis, Indiana for a Targeted Lead Grant.

Improving Kids Environment, Inc. (IKE) will use the funds to implement a program which will increase the number of communities in Indiana where local housing or health codes explicitly address lead hazards in housing, and will provide tools to local governments to strengthen their code enforcement activities.

The elements of this project include:

- Education of city and county health officials about the prevalence of childhood lead poisoning and the legal tools available to proactively require identification and remediation of lead hazards, including the use of lead safe work practices;
- One-on-one consultation with local officials in the highest risk cities to encourage the adoption of new or revised ordinances that will provide greater authority to address lead hazards, preferably before children are poisoned;
- Provision of model ordinance language; and
- Education and assistance if local governments choose to rely on State statutory authority to address lead risks rather than adopting local authorities. In areas where code revisions are adopted, IKE will assist local agencies in the development of outreach materials that explain the new revisions.

### **EPA's Targeted Lead Grants**

EPA's Targeted Lead Grant Program funds projects in areas with high incidences of children with elevated blood-lead levels in vulnerable populations. In 2007 the Agency awarded more than \$5.2 Million in grants under this ambitious program. These targeted grants are intended to address immediate needs of the communities in which they are awarded, and will also highlight lead poison prevention strategies that can be used in similar communities across the country.

EPA's lead program is playing a major role in meeting the federal goal of eliminating childhood lead poisoning as a major public health concern by 2010, and the projects supported by these grant funds are an important part of this ongoing effort. According to the Centers for Disease Control in 1978 there were 13.5 million children in the US with elevated blood lead levels. By 2002, that number had dropped to 310,000.

**For more information about EPA's Lead Program, visit [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead) or call the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD.**