



EPA Lead Program Grant Fact Sheet

Lead Screening and Family Education (S.A.F.E.) Project Tacoma, Washington

EPA has selected the **Pierce County Health Department** in Tacoma, Washington for a Targeted Lead Grant.

The Tacoma Pierce County Health Department plans to use \$98,258 in EPA grant money to screen children to determine the prevalence of elevated blood-lead levels in high risk populations. The project addresses an area of suspected but undocumented elevated blood-lead levels. The Pierce County Lead S.A.F.E. (Screening and Family Education) project will screen children by partnering with established culturally based community organizations. The project goals are to:

- Screen large numbers of young children in targeted populations to give a basis for developing a lead-related health policy,
- Characterize the nature and scope of childhood lead poisoning in Pierce County,
- Increase awareness among community members about health risks from lead and increase the number of people that will take steps to reduce contact with lead,
- Reduce elevated blood-lead levels by providing services to families with high lead levels, and
- Build capacity within the community to conduct ongoing lead exposure prevention activities.

At the end of the grant period, the county will have partnerships in place, information about the extent and location of childhood lead poisoning in Pierce County, and a roadmap for how best to proceed.

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 or call the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD.