



EPA Lead Program Grant Fact Sheet

Community Based Healthy Home Maintenance Program *Kalamazoo, Michigan*

EPA selected the **City of Kalamazoo, MI** for a Targeted Lead Grant.

The City, in conjunction with Kalamazoo Valley Community College, the county of Kalamazoo, and the Wayne County Prosecutors Office, will implement a four-tiered innovative approach to address and reduce the risk of lead poisoning.

Specifically, the project will:

- Provide lead-safe work practices classes for contractors, landlords, agents and other people who work on older housing stock;
- Provide classes to educate realtors, landlords, tenants, and homeowners about the new lead-safe law in Michigan;
- Conduct a public awareness campaign involving public service announcements on local television and radio, as well as billboards and print media; and
- Provide lead hazard assessments for rental houses that have suspected, but not confirmed, lead hazards. The intention of this portion of the program is to educate landlords about the hazards of lead and provide a 50:50 match of the cost of a lead assessment so that if lead hazards are found, they can be addressed before there is an actual elevated blood lead level in a tenant.

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.