



EPA Lead Program Grant Fact Sheet

Reduce Cases of Childhood Lead Poisoning

Santa Cruz County, California

EPA has selected the **Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency** in Santa Cruz County, CA for a Targeted Lead Grant.

The Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency will undertake childhood blood lead testing, home screening, and home inspections for residents not covered by the county's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP). Santa Cruz County has a combination of pre-1978 housing, children from low-income families and a lack of resources and/or awareness regarding lead poisoning, all of which are causal factors in childhood lead poisoning cases. Specific milestone objectives for the project are:

- One thousand (1,000) children from low-income and/or poor immigrant families will be screened for blood lead levels,
- Children with elevated blood lead levels will be referred to the CLPPP for case management,
- Home screening test kits will be provided to families of children having elevated blood lead levels,
- Identify pre-1978 homes with deteriorating lead-based paint and referral to county Lead Hazard Control Program,
- Decrease the number of children in the county with lead poisoning consistent with the national 2010 goal of substantially reducing childhood lead poisoning as a major public health threat.

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.