



# EPA Lead Program Grant Fact Sheet *More Than Words*

EPA has selected **More Than Words** in Massachusetts for a Targeted Lead Grant.

The \$75,000 grant to More Than Words will be used to develop and implement strategies for reaching vulnerable populations in high risk communities in New England.

Across New England, risk for childhood lead poisoning is not spread equitably. The following communities have been identified as having some of the highest elevated blood lead levels in children in New England: Manchester, New Hampshire, Lewiston, Maine, Bellows Falls, Vermont; Springfield, Massachusetts; Central Falls, Rhode Island, and Bridgeport, Connecticut. These high risk communities will be the focal point for education, outreach and specialized training focused to improve knowledge and awareness of regulatory requirements and best practices for compliance.

Select measurable results for the project include, but are not limited to:

- Engaging local and state government officials in target communities to become part of the solution.
- Conducting lead poisoning prevention training and outreach activities in target areas which will increase understanding and inspire behavior changes in the community.
- Creating and implementing strategies for reaching high risk communities to decrease elevated blood lead levels in areas with greatest need.

## **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.**