



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MAYOR JERRY SANDERS **FACT SHEET**

CITY OF SAN DIEGO AWARDED \$7 MILLION IN HUD GRANTS TO ADDRESS LEAD HAZARDS IN HOMES

Mayor Jerry Sanders today announced that the city of San Diego has received a \$7 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to remove lead-paint hazards from San Diego homes.

The funds, awarded to the San Diego Housing Commission on behalf of the city of San Diego, will enable the city's Lead Safe San Diego program to assist approximately 516 households within the city over the next three years.



“The Lead Safe program has helped many lower-income families reduce the risks of lead poisoning,” Sanders said. “It’s an excellent example of how the city works in tandem with other community organizations to improve the health and safety of San Diego residents.”

Grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per unit are available for owner-occupied and rental housing built before 1978. The program targets homes with children under the age of 6, and eligibility is based on family size and income.

Children under six years of age are at higher risk for lead poisoning because their bodies absorb more lead, and because their hand-to-mouth activities increase exposure. Even small amounts of lead can have severe effects on a child’s nervous system – and can cause brain damage, learning disabilities, reduced muscle and bone growth, and hearing loss.

Since 2002, HUD has provided more than \$17 million in funding to help eliminate lead hazards in 735 San Diego housing units. The Lead Safe San Diego program is a collaborative effort between the city of San Diego and other organizations all working toward the goal of eliminating

lead poisoning as a major health concern. The program is administered by the SDHC in conjunction with the city's Environmental Services Department, the Environmental Health Coalition, the County of San Diego Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program and other program partners.

“Keeping homes healthy and safe is a high priority for us, and that’s what the program is about,” said Rick Gentry, president and CEO of the San Diego Housing Commission. “For the second time, HUD has granted us the maximum amount available for this type of program, which is a testament to the effectiveness of the program.”

For more information on lead paint safety, contact SDHC at 619-578-7521, or send an email to lead-safe@sandiego.gov.

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