

HEADLINES

October 13, 2005



City Receives Funds to Address Lead Hazards in Homes

The City of Rock Island has received a \$1,896,834 Lead Hazard Control grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Funds will be used to reduce lead hazards in 140 privately owned homes over a three-year period. The grant will also provide funding to support prevention and education initiatives, making citizens more aware of the dangers of exposure to lead in their homes. Rock Island is partnering with the [City of Moline](#), [Project NOW](#), the [Rock Island Economic Growth Corporation](#) and the [Rock Island County Health Department](#) to implement the program. The program will officially begin in January of 2006.



In 2003, the Illinois Department of Public Health designated Rock Island County as a “high risk” area for lead poisoning, due to the age of the housing stock and the incidence of childhood lead poisoning. Homes built prior to 1978 are likely to have lead-based paint, which poses health risks to people – especially pregnant women and children under the age of six. By reducing or eliminating lead hazards and providing education activities, the cities of Rock Island and Moline can simultaneously address this public health problem and improve the housing stock – especially units that are affordable to low income families.

Rock Island [Mayor Mark W. Schwiebert](#) stated the “City is very pleased to be receiving these grant funds, especially as the collaborative effort that took place in preparing the grant application was outstanding and demonstrates the positive results that follow when communities work on common problems together.”

The City of Rock Island had made three previously unsuccessful attempts at this extremely competitive grant. Only 31 cities in the nation received Lead Hazard Control grant funding in this round, with one other Illinois community – Chicago – also receiving funds. Funding will be used to remove lead hazards, provide for temporary relocation expenses, outreach and education, equipment purchase,

training and contractor incentives. The \$1.9 million dollar grant is supported by an additional \$2,207,088 in local matching and leveraged funds.

Alan Carmen, Rock Island Planning and Redevelopment Administrator, said “Our perseverance paid off and we can now aggressively address this public health and housing challenge.”

Brian Hollenback, Rock Island Economic Growth Corporation Executive Director, stated “most of our affordable housing stock was built before 1935 and lead has become a significant issue in the increasing cost of renovating properties to meet the needs of our clients... the Lead Hazard Control grant will help us with our mission to provide homeownership and renovation opportunities for owner-occupied units.”