

Headlines



City Expands Application Process for Lead Hazard Control Grant

November 1, 2006

The City of Rock Island has expanded the application process for its Lead Hazard Control Grant Program, announced Alan Carmen, the City's Planning and Redevelopment Administrator. "The City of Rock Island was awarded a \$1,896,834 Lead Hazard Control grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development," said Carmen. "Until now our main source of referrals was through our existing rehab program pipelines," he said. "However, because we want to reach more people who may need this program, we are now taking applications directly from eligible families in high-risk census tracts in Rock Island and Moline."

The program is a three-year grant and the funds will be used to reduce lead hazards in 140 privately owned homes in Rock Island and Moline during that time. Lead hazards include such things as chipped, cracked and peeling lead paint, and lead dust.

The priority population for this program includes homes where there is a lead poisoned child, and homes with the presence of lead and children under the age of six or a pregnant family member. Families must have a household income of less than 80% of the Median Family Income to be eligible for the program.

In order to accomplish the program goal, the City has partnered with the City of Moline, Project NOW, the Rock Island Economic Growth Corporation and the Rock Island County Health Department. Additional partners include a network of faith institutions and childcare facilities.

Rock Island County is a "high risk" area for lead poisoning, according to the Illinois Department of Health, and the program targets census tracts in Rock Island and Moline. The areas were selected based upon their concentration of elevated lead blood levels, the presence of children less than six years of age, the household incomes and the age and condition of the housing stock. The age and condition of the homes in these areas is a strong indicator for the presence of lead hazards.

The Lead Program Manager, who works with each partner to ensure that priority households are being enrolled and that all program requirements are being met, will coordinate applications. Each partner will then conduct its own intake, perform a home inspection and lead risk assessment, and then coordinate lead work in conjunction with other rehab activities that are completed.

If a family needs temporary relocation, the Lead Case Manager, from the Rock Island County Health Department, will work with the family to find short-term housing. Limited funds are available through the grant to assist families who need this.

For more information contact the Lead Program Manager at 309-732-2900.