

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Council Communication</b> Office of the City Manager</p>	<b>Date:</b>	May 23, 2011
	<b>Agenda Item No.</b>	<b>33</b>
	<b>Roll Call No.</b>	<b><u>11-896</u></b>
	<b>Communication No.</b>	<b><u>11-335</u></b>
	<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>Phillip Delafield, Community Development Director</b>

**AGENDA HEADING:**

Approving the 2011 *Lead-Safe...for Kids' Sake!* grant application.

**SYNOPSIS:**

This action would receive and file a grant application to the *Lead-Safe...for Kids' Sake!* program sponsored by the United States Conference of Mayors and Dupont. The program will award a total of \$375,000 grants this year. The City of Des Moines is not required to provide any match beyond the current allocations to lead abatement and education. The City of Des Moines last applied for this grant in 2004.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Amount: \$50,000 request to assist with renovation work on 1720 8th Street, \$25,000 request to provide lead safety training to residents; \$75,000 total request.

Funding Source: Grant with no City matching requirement.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

*Lead-Safe...for Kids' Sake!* has had continued successes in helping to reduce elevated blood lead levels across the U.S. Nearly \$5 million in lead-safety grants have been awarded, with \$375,000 earmarked for 2011. The winners will be cities with the most effective lead-safety plans, and grants will be announced at The USCM Annual Meeting in Baltimore, June 2011. Mayors from Cities chosen for the award must attend the conference.

Many Des Moines neighborhoods are in the process of revitalization. Due to the economic downturn and the increasing number of urban pioneers, homeowners are spending more of their own time renovating their homes; this is particularly true of residents in low-income neighborhoods. The state of Iowa was the first in the Country to adopt the Environmental Protection Agency's Renovate, Repair, and Painting (RRP) rule. These regulations require contractors working in homes build prior to 1978 to receive lead safety training. While the RRP legislation has been effective in increasing lead-safety for contractors, it does not require or provide education and safety training for homeowners who chose to complete renovation work on their own. This proposal aims to meet this growing need by providing training and education to help protect homeowners and their children from the effects of lead poisoning by using lead-safe work practices in their renovation efforts.

Two-thirds of Des Moines' housing stock was built before 1978. The US Department of Housing and Urban Development estimates that 35 percent of all housing units in the Midwest have "significant lead-based paint hazards". In Polk County that would amount to 63,017 units (based on 2006 US Census data).

Statewide, the prevalence of lead poisoning among children under the age of six years is 7%. This is more than four times the national average of 1.6%. In Polk County, the prevalence of lead poisoning among children under the age of six years averages 4% but in some zip codes the rate is up to 13%.

The River Bend Neighborhood, located in the heart of the central part of the city, is home to some of the oldest houses in Des Moines. Many of these large homes were converted to multi-family rental housing but are now being restored to their original single-family use. Much of this work is being done by homeowners as they are unable to afford professional contractors.

The River Bend Neighborhood Association is the owner of a century-old house located at 1720 Eighth Street. This house has been vacant for over ten years and has been a blight on the neighborhood. In 2009, the Neighborhood Association took possession of the property to prevent it from being demolished with the intent to restore the property and sell it to a new family upon completion; with the proceeds from the project being used in future rehabilitation projects. Through restoration of this property, the neighborhood will be able to retain one of its historic homes and be able proceed with the proposed National Historic District nomination for this section of the neighborhood.

The Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) Urban Campus is located in the vicinity and provides lead safety courses for contractors. DMACC has been a strong partner in the commercial revitalization of this neighborhood. The intent is to partner with DMACC to host a series of RRP educational workshops for homeowners in partnership with the City of Des Moines, Polk County Health and the River Bend Neighborhood Association. The program will have the capacity to provide lead-safety training to approximately 150 homeowners and upon completion of the training DMACC will provide practicum on-site at the neighborhood-owned house to give practical application to the training received.

The Lead-Safe for Kids' Sake! funds used to renovate the home will be leveraged with local and state grant funding and private loans, as well as many volunteer hours to restore the house. These funds will allow the neighborhood association to cash-flow a projected \$200,000 project and educate their residents about the harmful effects of lead poisoning.

The Lead-Safe for Kids' Sake! funds used to provide workshops will allow DMACC to provide the City of Des Moines a discounted rate and classroom materials, training, and on-site experience to residents of a predominately low-income neighborhood.

On-site experience will allow home-renovators the opportunity to practice their work in an unoccupied home before starting new projects in their own homes. This will help residents understand the need for lead-safe practices in occupied homes. The on-site experiences will also help assist the Neighborhood Association in educating the public about their efforts in historic preservation while utilizing lead-safety trained volunteers to complete some of the work on the house.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE**

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE**

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE**

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