



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Montgomery County Health and Human Services Receives \$1.8 Million HUD Grant to Combat Lead Poisoning and Other Hazards in Homes

Norristown, PA (November 26, 2019) – The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services has received a first-time award of \$1.8 million from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Lead Hazard Control & Healthy Homes to address lead and other hazards in housing units located in the boroughs of Lansdale and Pottstown.

“HUD understands the close connection between health and housing,” said Matthew Ammon, Director of HUD’s Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes. “This year, HUD is awarding a record number of awards to jurisdictions to directly support their efforts to identify and clean up housing-based health hazards like lead and mold.” More than \$314 million was awarded to 77 state and local government agencies. Montgomery County is one of only six grantees awarded in the state of Pennsylvania.

Montgomery County has more than 163,000 homes built before 1978, putting its inhabitants at risk for lead exposure. This grant will support the County in remediating lead and other hazards in homes owned or occupied by low-income families with children under six years of age.

The program will be administered jointly by the HHS Offices of Public Health (OPH) and Housing and Community Development (OHCD). The goals include controlling lead-based paint hazards and reducing housing-related health hazards in eligible households, building workforce capacity of lead certified contractors, and ensuring that families affected by lead hazards are connected to health resources. The new grant draws on the strengths and experience of both OPH and OHCD in addressing issues related to housing and health.

OHCD provides a comprehensive, coordinated program that addresses housing, community, and economic development within Montgomery County. They have been administering funding for programs related to housing, economic, and community development since 1974.

OPH’s Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program provides information, education and prevention strategies to assist parents in identifying and controlling a child’s exposure to lead. OPH offers case management services for children with elevated lead levels. A public health nurse assists parents with strategies to help reduce the child’s lead level, and keep the lead level from increasing and environmental health specialist identifies lead hazards in the home. An environmental health specialist also conducts an environmental investigation and works with the property owner to remediate any lead hazards identified in the home.

OPH encourages physicians to test all children twice before the age of two and report any lead levels of >5 micrograms per deciliter (ug/dL) to OPH for case management services.

Contact: Janet Panning, 610-278-5117 ext. 6724, jpanning@montcopa.org

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