

F R E E

# LEAD VIDEO

AVAILABLE THROUGH MDH



**T**

he Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Lead Program is offering complimentary copies (while supplies last) of the video "Lead-Safe Home Improvement – Practical Methods for Reducing Lead Hazards." The video was produced by the Upper Swede Hollow Neighborhoods Association in conjunction with the MDH Lead Program and the city of St. Paul. It is estimated that 75 percent of homes built before 1978 contain some lead-based paint. If you are remodeling or renovating an older home that may contain lead-based paint, this video will provide you with practical, lead-safe guidelines for completing the work. If remodeling and renovation work are not done correctly, lead hazards may be created, poisoning workers and families. Please contact the Lead Program at 651-215-0890 to order your copy. Please limit one copy per agency or household. 📞

## New Area Code for MDH Lead Program

As of July 12, 1998, the area code for St. Paul (and many other cities in the East Metro) was changed from "612" to "651." A transition period has been established between July 12, 1998 through January 10, 1999 during which you may use either area code to complete calls. Use of the new area code and dialing pattern will be mandatory after January 10, 1999. When calling the MDH



Lead Program, located in St. Paul, please use the new area code. Callers in Minneapolis and the West Metro must dial "651" before our number: 215-0890. Those calling long distance will need to dial "1-651" before our number to complete their calls. 📞

### ADDITIONAL LEAD RESOURCES



## New HUD Escrow Program Helps Pay for Lead Fix-Ups

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has expanded its section 203(k) program to cover the cost of lead fix-ups. HUD took this action to facilitate compliance with the federal lead disclosure rule, which was developed jointly by HUD and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The rule requires property owners to disclose known lead hazards prior to selling or leasing their property. Under the new HUD program, the

cost of lead-based paint inspections, risk assessment and treatment can be included in an FHA-insured mortgage issued for the purchase of any HUD home built before 1978. The new program – known as the Lead-based Paint Escrow Program (203(b)) – covers lead fix-up costs of up to \$5,000.00.

Call the HUD Lead Hazard Control office at 202-755-1785 for more information on the Lead-based Paint Escrow Program. 📞

## WHERE IS THE MONEY?

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**Swab team services** are also available. Swab teams conduct lead-specific cleaning, including vacuuming and removing loose paint and paint chips from window components and floors. They also install metal inserts in window wells to cover deteriorated lead paint surfaces, which allows these surfaces to be more easily cleaned. This insert also provides a barrier between the deteriorated lead paint and children and pets who may come in contact with the window.

There are two programs involving swab team services. The SPRCDPH Lead Hazard Control Program provides swab team services for families with a child with an elevated blood lead level which is not high enough to require lead orders for the property. This is the only eligibility requirement for these services. The goal is to lower the child's blood lead level by improving and maintaining their home environment.

*Please contact the SPRCDPH Lead Hazard Control Program for more information about swab team services in St. Paul.*

**CONTACT:** SPRCDPH 651-292-7775

A new partnership is underway between the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), SPRCDPH, and the Ramsey Action Program (RAP) to provide swab team services. RAP will be working with families with young children seeking energy audits and weatherization services from their agency. RAP will then identify homes which are in additional need of lead-specific cleaning. This is an efficient and cost effective way to prevent lead poisoning. RAP staff will provide the swab team services. Staff from the SPRCDPH will provide additional environmental testing services. MDH provided the funding for this swab team effort.

*Please contact RAP's weatherization division for more information on their weatherization programs.*

**CONTACT:** RAP Weatherization 651-482-8260



### SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES CENTER (SRC)

The Sustainable Resources Center (SRC) is a nonprofit, community-based organization located in Minneapolis, dedicated to working with Minnesotans to change the way they think about, and use, natural resources.

### CLEARCorps

The Community Lead Education and Reduction Corps (CLEARCorps) project is designed to reduce childhood lead poisoning in urban neighborhoods. In Minnesota, CLEARCorps is administered by the Sustainable Resources Center and primarily serves families in Minneapolis.

**SERVICES:** Community outreach and education, lead hazard reduction (lead-specific cleaning & light repair and maintenance), evaluation and follow up are all part of CLEARCorps services.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Low income families with a lead poisoned child or pregnant woman on the property currently receive priority services from the CLEARCorps project. However, CLEARCorps staff are eager to provide increasing lead-prevention services to families who identify a potential lead paint hazard on their property.

**PAYMENT:** Lead hazard reduction services provided through the CLEARCorps project are free to participants, and all work is completed by SRC staff.

*Please contact Jonathan Beale for more information about the CLEARCorps project.*

**CONTACT:** Jonathan Beale 612-872-3281



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this material in another format contact:

Phone: 651-215-0890  
TDD: 651-215-0707  
MN Relay Service TDD: 1-800-627-3529

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# The Lead Link

NEWS FOR MINNESOTA'S LEAD PROFESSIONALS

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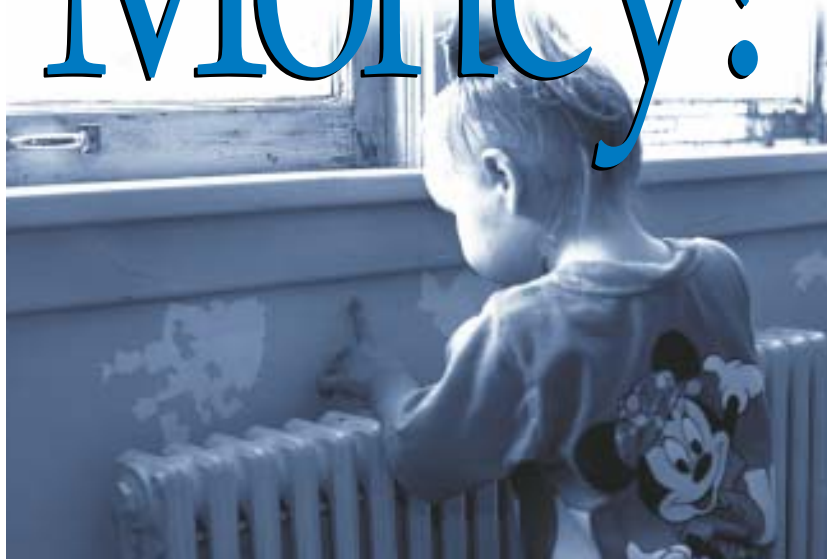
One of the most frequently asked questions we receive from property owners at the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Lead Program is, "Are funds available to pay for lead work on my property?" In this issue of *The Lead Link* we will present some of the programs offered in Minnesota that provide funds for doing lead hazard reduction. The term "lead hazard reduction" refers to the various measures that can be taken to make a home lead safe – or to reduce the amount of lead in the home to safe levels. Some of these programs are designed specifically to address lead hazards. Some programs have broader home fix-up and livability in mind – like weatherization programs – but may cover lead repairs.

A summary is provided for each program and includes who is eligible to participate, who can do the work, and a contact name and telephone number.

**Please call each agency directly for more information and to verify that resources for doing lead work are available.**

Some of the programs featured in this issue are for property owners who voluntarily want to fix up or repair their properties. Some of the programs offer funds only to families who are under

## Where is the Money?



### Finding Resources for Lead Hazard Reduction in Minnesota

#### In This Issue

- *Finding Resources for Lead Hazard Reduction in Minnesota*
- *Free Lead Video Available from MDH Lead Program*
- *Our Area Code has Changed*

lead orders. An environmental assessment will be done on properties where a lead poisoned child or pregnant woman lives. If the amount of lead in the paint, dust, drinking water, or bare soil on the property exceeds state standards, lead orders will be

written against the property to correct the lead problems. If your property, or your client's, is under lead orders, be sure to contact the city, county or state public health office that issued the orders. They can tell you about programs that might be available to help complete the ordered lead work.

Another frequently asked question we receive is from lead professionals who ask, "Do you have a listing of lead jobs in Minnesota?" Some of the programs featured in this issue allow property owners to do the work themselves. Some programs require property owners to hire licensed lead professionals to do the work. Still others

require that their own trained staff perform the work. Please contact each program to find out about potential lead work through these programs. Call the MDH Lead Program at 651-215-0890 for a list of licensed lead contractors and inspectors.

*If you have heard about lead fix-up programs that don't appear in this article, please call the MDH Lead Program at 651-215-0890 and let us know about them. Information about additional lead fix-up resources will appear in future issues of The Lead Link.*

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**MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Lead Program does not have funds directly available to the general public for doing lead fix-up work. However, the Lead Program obtained a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in 1997. Most of this money was "passed through" to the cities of Duluth and St. Paul to be used for lead hazard reduction work in their communities (see page 3 for Duluth resources, and page 4 for St. Paul lead funds information). This lead hazard reduction work may include window replacement or enclosure, lead-specific cleaning, and lead-related rehabilitation work. Lead abatement, the complete removal of lead paint hazards, is not considered cost-effective, and will not be done as part of the HUD grant projects.

**MINNESOTA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY**

The Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA) provides affordable financing for the purchase, construction, and improvement of housing for Minnesota residents with modest incomes. MHFA has three, low-cost home improvement loan programs through which lead work can be completed. For all three programs, applicants can choose their own contractor, or do the work themselves. MHFA's low cost loan programs include:

**HOME ENERGY LOANS**

**ELIGIBLE IMPROVEMENTS:** Include insulation, furnace replacement, and window and door replacements.  
**INCOME (LIMIT):** There is NO maximum household income limit for this program.  
**LOAN MAXIMUM:** \$8,000.  
**WORK:** Property owners may either do the work themselves, or hire a contractor. Labor costs can be included in the cost of the loan, unless the worker is a household member. At least one bid is necessary—but 2 to 3 are recommended.  
**LOANS OBTAINED:** Local, participating banks, credit unions and housing agencies.  
**ELIGIBLE PROPERTIES:** Owner-occupied, year-round homes. Single family properties only.

**THE GREAT MINNESOTA FIX-UP FUND**

**ELIGIBLE IMPROVEMENTS:** This statewide loan program covers basic home improvements, remodeling and repair work, and work specifically addressing a lead problem.  
**INCOME (LIMIT):** The program is open to families with gross household incomes of \$49,000 or less. The fixed loan percentage rates are based on household income – currently ranging from 2 percent to 8 percent.  
**LOAN MAXIMUM:** \$25,000.  
**WORK:** Property owners may either do the work themselves, or hire a contractor. Labor costs can be included in the cost of the loan, unless the worker is a household member. At least one bid is necessary—but 2 to 3 are recommended.  
**LOANS OBTAINED:** Local, participating banks, credit unions & housing agencies.  
**ELIGIBLE PROPERTIES:** Owner-occupied, year-round homes. One to four unit properties only.

**RENTAL REHABILITATION LOAN PROGRAM**

This program offers low-interest loans for owners of smaller rental properties in Minnesota.  
**ELIGIBLE IMPROVEMENTS:** Painting, new windows, general remodeling, and most activities which will improve the livability and energy-efficiency of the building.  
**INCOME (LIMIT):** There is no limit on the owner's income for eligibility. However, at the time the property improvements are completed, the majority of the units must be rented by persons or families that have an income of 80 percent or less of the statewide median income.  
**LOAN MAXIMUM:** Up to \$25,000 for a one- or two-unit property; \$10,000 per unit for a larger property up to \$100,000. The interest rate is currently 6 percent and the term of the loan may be up to 15 years.  
**LOANS OBTAINED:** Local, participating lenders.  
**ELIGIBLE PROPERTIES:** A building must have been used for residential housing in the past five years to qualify.

*Please contact the MHFA to get a brochure, and a list of participating lenders in your area who can send you a credit application.*

**MHFA CONTACTS:**  
 Metro Area 651-296-8215  
 Greater Minnesota 800-710-8871

**MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (DTED)**

**SMALL CITIES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

The purpose of the "small cities" program is to provide decent housing, a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income.  
**FUNDING SOURCE:** The funding comes to DTED from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), to administer to local units of government.  
**ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:** Cities and townships with populations under 50,000 and counties with populations under 200,000.  
**ELIGIBLE PROJECTS:** At a minimum, proposed projects must meet one of three national objectives: benefit low-and-moderate income persons; eliminate slum and blight conditions; or eliminate an urgent threat to public health or safety.  
**STATE GRANT FUND CATEGORIES:** State program rules subdivide grant funds into three general categories:

1. *Housing Grants* – Housing grants are awarded to local governments which use the small cities program funds for the purpose of rehabilitating local housing stock. Funds may be used for owner-occupied, rental, single family, or multiple family housing rehabilitation. Eligible rehabilitation activities include the removal or correction of lead paint hazards. In all cases, housing funds must benefit low and moderate income persons.
  2. *Public Facility Grants* – Granted for wastewater treatment projects, including treatment plants, storm sewer, and street projects. Old service lines, which run under the street and connect to homes, may contain lead. They can be replaced as part of this grant project, as can leaded joints and solder found in plumbing systems within the home or property.
  3. *Comprehensive Grants* – May include housing and public facility activities. May also include an economic development activity— usually involving the rehabilitation of local commercial districts.
- MAXIMUM GRANT:** For a public facility or housing project \$600,000. The maximum for a comprehensive grant project is \$1.4 million.

*Please contact the Business and Community Development Division of DTED for information about how lead fix-up work can be accomplished through the "small cities" program.*

**DTED CONTACTS:**  
 Metro Area 651-297-1291  
 Greater Minnesota 800-657-3858



**DULUTH**

The City of Duluth is now taking applications from eligible property owners interested in doing lead work.

**FUNDING:** Funds were obtained through a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Lead Program.

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:** Families with earnings of 80 percent or less of the statewide median income, who own their own homes, and who have children less than 72 months of age. This funding is available for families with a lead poisoned child who are under lead orders, and for families who want to do preventive lead work.

**PAYMENT:** Funding obtained from Duluth to complete lead hazard reduction work does not need to be repaid.

**CONTRACTORS:** Project participants must use lead contractors licensed by the Minnesota Department of Health to complete the lead work.

*Please contact the Duluth Housing Rehabilitation Authority (DHRA) to learn about these funds and obtain an application.*

**CONTACT:**  
DHRA 218-726-2824

**MINNEAPOLIS**

**FUNDING:** The City of Minneapolis was awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to provide lead hazard reduction, and lead education and outreach services to property owners and families in Minneapolis.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Currently, the City of Minneapolis Lead Program is conducting lead hazard reduction activities in properties where children have been identified with elevated blood lead levels which required lead orders.

**WORK:** A licensed lead abatement contractor must complete the ordered work.

**SERVICES:** While the ordered lead hazard reduction is being performed the family is relocated to lead-safe housing, usually for 3 to 5 days. The relocation is paid for by the Minneapolis Lead Program.

**EDUCATION:** In addition to the lead hazard reduction, the Metropolitan Visiting Nurses Association (MVNA) is notified by the lead program and provides lead education services to families with children with elevated blood lead levels.

**10,000 WINDOWS**

As a subgrantee, the Greater Minneapolis Day Care Association (GMDCA) has a goal of providing lead hazard reduction services to 100 family child care homes in Minneapolis.

**WORK:** Replacing window components is the focus of the "10,000 Windows" family day care project. Older windows with deteriorating lead paint are often a primary source of lead hazards in a home.

**SERVICES:** Participants will be offered one to two weeks of transitional, lead-safe

housing, depending on the number of windows and other hazards that are present in the day care home. Also, temporary child care sites will be available for providers to continue doing business while they are out of their homes. An independent contractor will be providing the lead hazard reduction services for this project.

**EDUCATION:** Lead poisoning prevention education will also be provided by MVNA. Information will be given to child care providers so that they can be equipped to give important prevention messages to the families they serve. MVNA has developed a child-centered lead prevention presentation for the children in the participating child care homes.

**ELIGIBILITY:** The program targets 25 Minneapolis neighborhoods with the highest levels of lead exposure and the lowest family incomes. Properties must also be in generally good repair and not tax delinquent.

**PAYMENT:** There will be no expense to participants for the window replacement.

**REFERRALS:** Home day care centers which are not eligible for the "10,000 Windows" project will be referred to the Sustainable Resources Center (SRC) for lead hazard control services. SRC also does lead poisoning prevention outreach to day care sites.

*Please contact Project Manager Ed Petsche at GMDCA for more information about eligible neighborhoods, to apply for the "10,000 Windows" home day care project, and to learn about additional lead hazard reduction resources in the Minneapolis area.*

**CONTACT:**  
GMDCA 612-349-0563

**Resources for Lead Hazard Reduction in Minnesota**

**Minnesota Housing Finance Agency**

Statewide, low-cost property improvement loans; lead work allowed.

**Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development**

Grants to eligible Minnesota cities, townships and counties to improve housing, public and commercial properties; lead work allowed.

**Duluth Housing Rehabilitation Authority**

Grants for ordered and preventive lead hazard reduction work in Duluth.

**City of Minneapolis Lead Program**

Subsidized lead hazard reduction work for Minneapolis properties with lead orders; Lead education for families with children with elevated blood lead levels (with Minnesota Visiting Nurses Association (MVNA)).

**Greater Minneapolis Day Care Association**

Free window replacement for eligible Minneapolis home day care sites; Lead education for day care providers and families (with MVNA).

**Sustainable Resources Center**

Community education about lead hazards; Subsidized lead hazard reduction, including swab team services, for Minneapolis properties with lead orders.

**St. Paul/Ramsey County Department of Public Health**

Subsidized lead hazard reduction work for St. Paul/Ramsey County properties with lead orders; Subsidized voluntary lead hazard reduction work in St. Paul/Ramsey County (with Sustainable Resources Center, Ramsey Action Program, Greater Frogtown Community Development Corporation, and East Side Neighborhood Development Corporation); Swab team services in St. Paul/Ramsey County (with Ramsey Action Program). Lead education for families with children with elevated blood lead levels.

**Ramsey Action Program**

Weatherization programs for Ramsey County properties; Swab team services for Ramsey County properties.

## ST. PAUL

Property owners in St. Paul and Ramsey County have a variety of lead funding sources available to them through the Lead Hazard Control Program at the St. Paul - Ramsey County Department of Public Health (SPRCDPH). There are funds available for property owners who have received lead orders, and for those who are attempting to stabilize the lead paint hazards on their property before a problem occurs.

The Lead Hazard Control Program has funding from a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant to subsidize the cost of completing **ordered lead hazard reduction work** and to perform preventive lead work.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Priority for this funding is based on the blood lead levels of children under age six years who occupy the home.

**INCOME:** The funds are available to those families who have incomes of 80 percent or less of the statewide median income.

**PAYMENT:** Families can receive a grant – the money does not need to be repaid – for up to 75 percent of the cost of the ordered lead work. The homeowner is responsible for the remaining 25 percent of the cost.

**SERVICES:** Families will be relocated to a lead-safe apartment for two to four days, at the expense of the health department, while a licensed lead contractor completes the work.

**ELIGIBLE PROPERTIES:** Single family and duplex properties are eligible for these funds. Properties may be either owner occupied or rental property.

The HUD grant also provides funding for property owners to complete **voluntary lead hazard reduction work** in targeted areas.

**AREA:** Thomas/Dale-Frogtown area and on St. Paul's East Side.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Homes where children with elevated blood lead levels have been identified, but whose levels are not high enough to require lead orders. Some older homes with very high lead dust levels may qualify even though a child with an elevated blood lead level has not been identified on the property.

**FOCUS:** Reducing lead hazards in the home, and lowering the child's elevated blood lead level before lead orders are required.

**WORK:** Lead hazard reduction work on these properties may include window replacement, and stabilizing other surfaces with deteriorated lead-based paint.

**INCOME:** Families must have an income of 80 percent or less of the statewide median income level to participate.

# Blood Lead Concentrations & Corresponding Actions



### <10 µg/dL\*\*

- no additional steps necessary
- continue lead-safe cleaning and general maintenance
- may retest in one year

### 10-14 µg/dL

- blood lead retest in 3-6 months
- receive lead education from public health agency about lead-specific cleaning, good nutrition, and general lead prevention

### 15-19 µg/dL

- blood lead levels that persist in this range for 90 days will require an environmental assessment of the property to determine sources of lead
- blood lead retest in 3 months
- receive lead education from public health agency

*A public health agency will require an initial venous blood lead test, or a confirmatory venous test of a capillary blood lead test in order to take action on a report of a lead poisoned child or pregnant woman.*

*\*\* µg/dL = micrograms of lead per deciliter of whole blood*

*Preventing Lead Poisoning in Young Children, The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, October 1991*

### 20-44 µg/dL

- will require an environmental assessment of the property to determine sources of lead
- may require medical treatment at higher levels
- follow doctor's recommendations for treatment and blood lead retests
- receive lead education to reduce child's blood lead level and prevent further poisonings

### >44 µg/dL

- will require an environmental assessment of the property to determine sources of lead
- will require medical treatment
- follow doctor's recommendations for treatment and blood lead retests
- receive lead education to reduce child's blood lead level and prevent further poisonings

**ELIGIBLE PROPERTIES:** Single family and duplex properties are eligible. Properties can be owner-occupied or rental property.

**LOCATIONS:** The SPRCDPH is working in partnership with the Greater Frogtown Community Development Corporation and CLEARCorps members from the Sustainable Resources Center on projects west of Interstate 35E. CLEARCorps stands for the Community Lead Education and Reduction Corps project and is designed to reduce childhood lead poisoning in urban neighborhoods.

*For more information about lead hazard reduction services in the Thomas/Dale-Frogtown area please call Jill Nikodym at the Greater Frogtown Community Development Corporation.*

#### CONTACTS:

Jill Nikodym 651-848-2024

Projects on St. Paul's East Side are being completed by the Ramsey Action Program (RAP) with marketing assistance from the East Side Neighborhood Development Corporation.

*Please contact the East Side Neighborhood Development Corporation for more information. The SPRCDPH Lead Hazard Control Program can also be contacted for information about the programs in both neighborhoods.*

#### CONTACTS:

East Side Neighborhood Development Corp. 651-771-1152  
SPRCDPH 651-292-7775

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