



# REPORT

**DATE:** For the Agenda of June 7, 2002 **Item 103**

**REPORT NO.:** HCR02-046

**SUBJECT:** Grant Application – HUD Lead Hazard Control Grant Program  
(Council District 8)

## SUMMARY

**Issue:** Should the Housing Commission authorize a grant application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Lead Hazard Control Grant Program, and seek Housing Authority approval to authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or designee to amend the FY03 Housing Commission Budget to reflect the addition of awarded funds (Attachment 1), and execute all required documents?

**Recommendation:** That the Housing Commission authorize an application for HUD's Lead Hazard Control Grant Program, and seek Housing Authority approval to authorize the CEO to amend the FY03 Housing Commission Budget and execute all required documents.

**Fiscal Impact:** A successful application will result in receipt of approximately \$2,000,000 in funds, to be used over a three-year program period, with a portion of that funding for two new contracted rehabilitation staff. The Eighth Council District Office and Mayor's Office have committed to a bcal program match of \$100,000, as requested by the Environmental Health Coalition, from federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, in addition to non-federal matching grant funds and in-kind services from collaborating non-profit and other city departments.

**Previous Related Action(s):** On October 20, 2000, the Housing Commission approved the implementation of a Lead-Based Paint Reduction Program to fund lead tests for participants in Housing Commission Programs. On March 2, 2001, the Housing Commission approved staff's recommendation to continue to cover costs of lead paint testing and reduction/abatement for each Housing Program as originally approved.

On May 11, 2001, the Housing Commission approved applications for a HUD Super NOFA (Notice of Funding Availability), of which the Lead Based Paint Hazard Control Program was a part. That application was unsuccessful.

On April 30, 2002, the San Diego City Council approved an ordinance amending the San Diego Municipal Code relating to the abatement of lead hazards as part of its Lead Safe Neighborhoods Program.

## **BACKGROUND**

Medical research in the 1980s identified exposure to lead-based paint as a significant environmental hazard for children living in areas with older housing. Lead poisoning is asymptomatic at first and does not show up until the child is in kindergarten and displays learning disabilities or behavior problems. Research shows that children with elevated blood lead levels are seven times more likely to drop out of school and twice as likely to lose a few years in language acquisition. Long-term exposure can lead to stunted growth and brain damage.

According to the San Diego County Department of Health Services, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, there have been 614 reported cases of children with elevated blood lead levels in the County from 1992 through 1999. Paint on houses and apartment buildings built before 1960 has been identified as a source of exposure in 29 percent of those cases, 84 percent of those children are Hispanic. Children from low-income families are five times more likely to suffer from lead poisoning.

## **DISCUSSION**

The San Diego Housing Commission is participating with several partners in a HUD Lead Hazard Control Grant Program application that includes the Environmental Health Coalition, the MAAC project, the Environmental Services Department of the City and County Health and Human Services Agency. Additional partners, such as the Logan Heights Family Health Center and Comprehensive Health Centers, may participate.

### **Target Area**

The proposed Lead-Based Paint Control Program will target the older segment of the central portion of the City of San Diego consisting of eight neighborhoods. These neighborhoods contain approximately 10,400 residential units, including 6,570 single-family residences and 3,830 multi-family units. Typical residential structures range from 70 to 110 years old and are likely to contain the highest percentages of lead-based paint in the City. The proposed program neighborhoods are Sherman Heights, Grant Hill, Stockton, Memorial, Logan Heights, Barrio Logan, Southcrest and Shelltown, and are contained within the Eighth Council District boundaries (Attachment 2).

