



SAN DIEGO
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LEAD-BASED PAINT HOMES IN LINDA VISTA NEIGHBORHOOD TARGETED TO RECEIVE FEDERAL GRANTS TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM LEAD POISONING

A \$2.48 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development will extend the “Home Safe Home” program, which eliminates lead-based paint hazards

San Diego, CA—Homes in World War II-era neighborhoods of Linda Vista are among those benefitting from a San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) program to eliminate hazards to children from lead-based paint, an effort which will continue under a new \$2.48 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development.

Remediation work that began today at a house constructed in 1941 on Coolidge and Glidden streets is being performed under [SDHC’s “Home Safe Home” program](#). Lead-based paint was banned for residential use nationally in 1978.

“The work being done here today and in other San Diego homes protects low-income families from one of the top childhood environmental health problems,” said SDHC President and CEO Richard C. Gentry. “This kind of intervention, and blood lead screening, will help achieve a major federal priority to eliminate childhood lead poisoning.”

The new federal funding will allow 175 additional homes to be tested for lead-based paint hazards and 135 to be remediated over the next three years. Funding provides \$10,000 for single-family homes and \$5,000 for each multifamily unit. Much of the cost is attributable to special precautions during removal, taken to prevent any risk from dust.

“Home Safe Home” has completed 43 lead remediation projects totaling 144 units in Linda Vista, where housing development began in the early years of World War II. SDHC is assessing or starting work on three other projects in Linda Vista, including a duplex around the corner from the Coolidge house also due for remediation this week.

“Through this program the Housing Commission is helping to provide safer communities for all of our families that are in need,” said City Councilmember Lorie Zapf. “And as a result of the grant, we can now test the homes of families who may have lead paint but cannot afford to remediate it themselves.”

The house on Coolidge was the backdrop for the official presentation of the new federal grant from Michelle Miller, director of the Programs Division for the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) in Washington, D.C.

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Miller said the agency appreciates the work SDHC has done over the past 10 years, “and we’re very excited for the things that they’re going to be doing with this new grant.”

The federal grant also includes four planned community events that will test 500 low-income children for lead in their blood. The blood testing for the presence of lead is held at select schools and communities by the Environmental Health Coalition and is conducted by La Maestra Community Health Center, two of SDHC’s “Home Safe Home” partners.

Children are assessed from a sample of blood drawn from a finger prick using blood analyzers purchased by SDHC. Parents of those with positive results are referred to local clinics for additional testing to confirm the results.

“The main source of lead poisoning in San Diego County as well as nationwide is the lead-based paint and the dust found in older housing,” said Leticia Ayala, associate director for programs with the Environmental Health Coalition. “The good news is that lead poisoning is completely preventable. Everyone in our society can play a huge role in protecting our children’s health.”

Ayala said the next free blood lead-level testing event for children under 6 will be Aug. 11 at Fiesta del Sol in Cesar Chavez Park.

An education and outreach campaign reaching thousands of households to raise awareness of the problem is another key component of “Home Safe Home.”

Additionally, 150 residences will receive “Healthy Homes” assessments for such problems as roaches, rodents, dust mites, mold and moisture, poor indoor air quality that can cause asthma or allergies, and debris or unsafe conditions that can cause unintentional injuries. About 60 homes will be remediated under the supplemental funding provided with the grant.

“Home Safe Home” seeks to protect low-income children from the severe health effects posed by the toxins in peeling, chipping, chalking or cracking lead-based paint and the dust created when paint breaks down.

Exposure to lead-based paint can have severe effects on children, including brain damage, learning disabilities, reduced muscle and bone growth and hearing loss. In high doses, it can be fatal.

SDHC and its partners in lead-based paint hazard control received a 2010 Environmental Justice Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for their work on the issue.

The San Diego Housing Commission is the managing partner in the “Home Safe Home” program, a collaboration that includes the Environmental Health Coalition, the City of San Diego Environmental Services Department, the County of San Diego Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, Richard Heath and Associates, MAAC (Maximizing Access to Advance our Communities), Campesinos Unidos and La Maestra Community Health Center.

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The new funding is SDHC's eighth award from the HUD Lead Hazard Control Grant Program, for a total of \$22,489,755. The program has tested nearly 600 San Diego children for lead poisoning. The remediation has placed a special focus on Linda Vista, City Heights, Logan Heights and Sherman Heights.

Previously awarded HUD grants to SDHC to identify and control lead-based paint and other environmental hazards:

- 2002 \$1.89 million
- 2005 7.0 million
- 2008: 7.0 million
- 2010: 4.2 million

For additional information or to submit a pre-application form for lead testing, residents can contact SDHC at (619) 578-7521 or go to www.sdhc.org and click on "Housing Rehabilitation" for the "Home Safe Home" program.

An online brochure on the "Home Safe Home" program [can be found here](#).

For more information on the San Diego Housing Commission, visit www.sdhc.org.

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