

LRB-RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS SECTION

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 14, 2013

ITEM 8, #121423

File Number 121423 is a resolution authorizing application for the Lead Based Paint Hazard Control Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Background

1. The City has expended over \$96,000,000 since 1992 for lead abatement efforts resulting in dramatic decreases in children’s blood-lead levels.
2. More than \$14.8 million of these expenditures were from the tax levy. The large majority of expenditures have been funded from federal sources and primarily from HUD which has awarded the City more than \$65 million through 20 separate grant programs over the last 2 decades.
3. From the inception of the program through 2012, more than 16,500 housing units have been abated. The average cost to the City of abatement per unit has varied from as high as \$34,600 in 1997 to as low as \$3,600 in 2001. The average cost to the City of abatement for a single unit in 2012 was approximately \$5,500.
4. A large portion of the costs of abatement have been expended by the private owners of housing stock who generally have been in a financial position to abate lead hazards absent the additional assistance provided through the City. In addition, a large majority of this funding has been committed to contracting with private repair, remodeling and housing contractors.
5. Housing stock has been targeted based upon income levels and historically high incidence rates of elevated blood lead levels in children. Over this period, the proportion of City children with elevated blood lead levels has dropped from a 1997 prevalence (greater than 10 micrograms per deciliter) of 31.9% in children less than 6 years of age to a current prevalence of 3.2%.
6. The following table represents expenditures for 5-year periods beginning in 1992 based upon figures provided by the Health Department:

<u>Period</u>	<u>Total Expended</u>	<u>Portion O&M Funded</u>
1992-1996	\$ 12,299,158	\$ 2,715,875
1997-2001	\$ 23,442,362	\$ 4,357,311
2002-2006	\$ 28,874,075	\$ 6,343,165
2007-2011	\$ 26,967,017	\$ 1,223,482

7. Two large HUD grants expired in 2012 though funding carried-over from year-to-year has resulted in expenditures continuing at comparably high levels through 2012. The estimated total expenditures in 2012 were more than \$4,420,000; of this amount, \$250,000 was budgeted from tax-levy sources.
8. Current social and medical research finds a strong association between reductions in blood-lead levels and a variety of positive outcomes including increased educational achievement and reduced violence and crime. See, *Low Level Lead Exposure Harms Children: A Renewed Call for Primary Prevention*; Report of the Advisory Committee on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, January 4, 2012 (References, pp. 49-54).

Discussion

1. Reduction in grant funding available in 2013 has resulted in the elimination of 6 authorized positions in the former Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Program. Five positions were eliminated in the Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Program. While 2 new positions have been authorized under a HUD-funded program through the Social Development Commission, overall reductions, particularly in funds available for contracting, will significantly reduce the numbers of units projected to be abated from 700 to 800 annually to perhaps fewer than 500 in 2013.
2. The Centers for Disease Control has just announced that it is changing the targeted level for blood-lead prevalence in children from less than 10 micrograms per deciliter to less than 5 micrograms. This change, based upon the latest research into impact of lead poisoning at lower concentrations, changes the metrics of program targeting and performance. The adverse public health consequences of low blood-lead levels appear to be greater than previously understood.
3. The proposed application for new HUD funding seeks \$2.5 million for a 3 year period. The anticipated starting date has not been established.
- 4.. The proposed 3-year (36 months) budget, if awarded, is anticipated to provide the following:

Personnel	\$ 499,793
Fringe (48%)	239,901
Travel	41,962
Supplies & Materials	219,394
Contracts & Sub-Contracts	1,488,750
Construction	4,800
Miscellaneous Costs	5,400
TOTAL	\$2,500,000

Fiscal Impact

If the proposed grant award is successful, the funding will be entirely grantor share and will not have a direct impact on the tax levy.

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