

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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City Launches “Lead Safe Lansing” Initiative

Mayor Says \$1.4 Million Federal Grant will Help Protect Lansing Children from Dangers of Lead Poisoning

(LANSING) – Mayor Virg Bernero today announced that the City is launching a 3-year “Lead Safe Lansing” project to help protect Lansing children from the dangers of lead poisoning. The program is funded through a \$1.4 million federal grant that will allow the City and numerous partner organizations to conduct community outreach, training and lead hazard remediation activities.

“Protecting kids from the dangers of lead poisoning is vital,” said Mayor Virg Bernero. “Exposure to lead-based paint is a principal source of lead poisoning in children and can lead to serious mental and physical deficiencies. These federal dollars will allow us to reach into the community as never before to identify homes with lead-based paint and eliminate the threat to kids living in the home.”

Lead-based paint becomes a hazard when it is in a deteriorated condition. Most homes in Lansing contain some lead based paint, and homes built prior to 1940 have the biggest risk for containing lead-based paint hazards on the interior and exterior. 24% of Lansing’s housing units – about 12,000 units – were built prior to 1940.

The Lead Safe Lansing Program is the result of a \$1,384,886 million dollar grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control. Matching funds of \$513,000 along with leveraged funds of \$980,970 bring the total community investment to \$2,879,015. The program emphasizes lead-safe housing units and education opportunities for residents, contractors, landlords and maintenance workers.

The Lead Safe Lansing Program offers up to \$8000 to homeowners and landlords to help remediate lead paint hazards. The funds are available for units housing children under age six. A 25% match is required, and other resources and programs are available to help meet the match requirement. The Lead Safe Lansing Program plans to make 120 housing units lead-safe over the next 3 years.

Grant partners on the Lead Safe Lansing project include the City of Lansing Development Office, the Office of Code Compliance, the Greater Lansing Housing Coalition, Lansing Community Micro-Enterprise Fund, Lansing Neighborhood Council, the Ingham County Health Department, Capital Area Michigan Works!, the Mayors Office of Community and Faith-Based Initiatives, Paint a Place, Urban Options, O’Leary Paint, the Board of Water and Light, Eliezer Temple Church and the MSU Urban and Regional Planning Student Organization.

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