



BALTIMORE HOUSING

STEPHANIE
RAWLINGS-BLAKE
Mayor

PAUL T. GRAZIANO
Executive Director, HABC
Commissioner, HCD

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

From: Paul T. Graziano, Commissioner

Date: February 2, 2016

Re: **City Council Bill 16-0280R - Investigative Hearing – Lead Paint
Poisoning and Baltimore’s Children**

The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 16-0280R for the purpose of assessing the status and accelerating the pace of eradicating lead paint poisoning in Baltimore City and Maryland as a whole and working to achieve consensus on the coordinated roles and investments required to spare Baltimore’s families and children from another generation of this devastating and preventable disease.

The HCD Division of Green, Healthy and Sustainable Homes, manages programs that are focused on reducing/eliminating lead hazards.

From July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2015, HCD implemented a federally funded Lead Hazard Reduction Program to remove lead hazards in 210 homes with children in the home under the age of six. The success of that program in meeting federal benchmarks, and partnering with the state, the Baltimore City Health Department and the non-profit Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI), set the stage for a new grant awarded to HCD at the end of 2015 by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Starting January 1, 2016, HCD began implementing the new Lead Hazard Reduction Program (LHRP) with \$6 million in federal, state and local support to remove lead paint hazards in 230 homes over the next three years. The new grant supports a full-time Public Health Investigator in the Baltimore City Health Department providing home visits and healthy home education to 450 households with children testing in the 5-10 blood lead level range. The new grant further funds supplemental healthy home improvements coordinated by GHHI in 115 homes served by LHRP. HCD’s weatherization and housing rehabilitation programs will provide leveraged funds to be braided and coordinated with federal funding to support asthma trigger reduction, fall/injury prevention, and a range of other health and safety measures.



Comments

While the HCD Division is proud to have received funding for LHRP, we recognize that these services only reach a fraction of the children and families impacted by lead paint hazards. We look forward to working with the Baltimore City Council, other government agencies, non-profit organizations, and the public-at-large to provide broader protections with the ultimate goal of extending freedom from lead poisoning to all children growing up in Baltimore.

The Department of Housing and Community Development welcomes the opportunity to participate in the hearing to share information and answer questions concerning our lead abatement efforts.

PTG:sd

cc: Ms. Angela Gibson, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*
Mr. Colin Tarbert, *Deputy Mayor*