

Outline of Lead-based Paint Hazard Abatement Program

Currently, the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP), under the Public Health Division, works to promote routine blood lead testing for at-risk children and to prevent further exposure to lead for all Solano County families whose child has an elevated blood lead level. In FY 20-21, Solano County recorded 82 new cases of children with elevated blood lead levels, following 84 cases in FY 19-20. As described by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, even small amounts of lead can harm a child's brain, nerves, and kidneys, which may cause; slowed growth and development, learning and behavior problems, and hearing and speech problems. The experience and knowledge staff have developed with the CLPPP will be carried forward and inform the delivery of the Lead-based Paint Hazard Mitigation Program (Lead Program).

An important fact is that lead poisoning is preventable through the elimination of lead-based paint hazards and providing families with education and support to keep a child lead free. The proceeds from the settlement will allow the County to begin the process of removing poisonous lead-based paint from family homes built before 1978. The Lead Program will provide public education and community outreach to affected areas spearheaded by Public Health staff. After homes are approved for lead-based paint remediation, support and coordination of inspections, lead removal, and clearances will be provided to the affected families. Environmental Health will oversee the Lead Program and hire independent contractors that will assess, test and remove lead hazards discovered in eligible homes. Priority will be given to homes with children under 6 years old and/or pregnant women. With collaboration between Environmental Health and Public Health, targeted outreach efforts will encourage families to apply for lead-based paint hazard remediation. The settlement proceeds currently received will be utilized to initiate the Lead Program. Environmental Health and Public Health will work together to identify, evaluate, and abate lead hazards in the community utilizing future annual settlement proceeds.

Priority groups for this program will include properties (single family homes and multi-unit properties) with children who have been identified, or where children have been identified in the past several years, with blood lead levels above the current CDC reference level, as well as home-based childcare sites, high-risk housing, and high-risk neighborhoods or census tracts. Eligible properties will be those in these priority groups built before 1978 which are not confined to residence and use by adults only.

Public Health will realign staff duties to conduct outreach and tracking of participant data and surveying results. Public Health epidemiology staff will be responsible for identification of eligible properties, data collection and reporting processes and procedures, and evaluation of data. Outreach will be tailored to the specific locations and characteristics of the target communities based on home age and priority groups described above. Outreach will be provided through a variety of media including mailed materials, flyers, community presentations and print and social media. Content will be developed that is culturally appropriate and in the languages of the community including Spanish and Tagalog. Material development will be on-going as needed. Specific sectors to receive outreach will include family childcare providers, faith-based organizations, and real estate agencies within the geographic areas known to have priority

homes. Outreach will also target high-risk housing and residences which have or have had children identified with elevated blood lead levels.

The Environmental Health (EH) Division will coordinate available internal staffing resources and if necessary, propose additional staffing needs. EH will also coordinate procurements for lead testing inspectors and abatement contractors to mitigate lead hazards identified in residences as identified in the draft workplan.

A Request for Proposals, Request for Qualifications, or other similar process, as determined to be most appropriate by County Counsel and General Services, will be utilized to identify potential vendors to be contracted with for the provision of certified initial and clearance lead inspections (evaluations), and for lead abatement activities. Separate contractors or sets of contractors will be identified for each of these types of services.

Paint inspections and risk assessments of interiors and exteriors complying with the HUD Guidelines for the Evaluation and Control of Lead-Based Paint Hazards in Housing will be completed by State certified lead evaluation consultants on contract with Solano County. Interior and exterior paint will be tested primarily using an X-Ray Fluorescence Spectroscopy (XRF) device. Dust will be tested using dust wipes and XRF analysis or laboratory analysis if required. The report provided to the property owner will conform to federal and state requirements, be user-friendly, and include Title X Section 1018 disclosure requirements.

Lead hazard control interventions will be designed by State-certified individuals based upon the lead paint inspection risk assessment report findings and recommendations. Scopes of work, including priority work, will be developed for each participating property. Friction surface interventions along with paint stabilization will be the primary work components. Housing repairs necessary for the longevity of the lead hazard control work will also be included. The property owner will have input on the methods used, the extent of the work, and cost-reasonable materials and finishes, and colors. Specific work items will be based on standardized work specifications where appropriate.

Lead abatement activities and all contracted staff will be managed and supervised by Environmental Health.

Preventing lead hazards for occupants is essential to our success, an occupant protection plan will be prepared for each project, and occupants will be notified of the project schedule by the project manager. When only minimal interior work is performed, occupants will be protected by secure barriers and signage to isolate the work area as per Chapter 8 of the 2012 HUD Guidelines. Temporary relocation of occupants will be minimized through work scheduling and containment strategies. Relocation to lead-safe units in multi-family housing will be used when possible. Temporary relocation will typically be for periods of five days or less and tenants will be assisted with relocation by Public Health.

Public health will work with the family and ensure that individuals with disabilities or special needs receive appropriate accommodations. When other relocation options are not available, tenants will be relocated to a motel or other lodging. Temporary storage will be provided if belongings need to be removed from the unit temporarily and pet boarding will be provided if no other options are available, and it is required for the safety of workers, residents, and pets. When temporary relocation is necessary, units will pass clearance prior to re-occupancy. Tenants will return to their original unit and will not be required to move permanently because of the work.

A final inspection and clearance examination will be performed by contracted lead inspectors or Environmental Health staff to ensure that the scope of work is completed, and quality meets specifications.

Applications received from potential program participants will be reviewed by Public Health staff to confirm meeting the eligibility requirements. Upon receipt of the eligible application, Environmental Health will contact the applicant to schedule an inspection to determine if a lead hazard exists within the structure at or above the actionable lead level.

The database will maintain all information regarding the eligible applications and will be accessible to Environmental Health staff to manage abatement activities with contracted parties.