



The United States Conference of Mayors

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PHILADELPHIA AWARDED \$250,000 FOR LEAD SAFETY EFFORTS

Dayton and Kettering, Durham, Lynwood, Manchester, and New Orleans Receive \$100,000 Each for Their Effective Solutions to Help Make Neighborhoods Lead-Safe

June 7, 2002, Denver – Seven U.S. cities were awarded grants totaling \$750,000 today by the U.S. Conference of Mayors and DuPont Cities United for Science Progress (CUSP) partnership's Lead Safe...For Kids' Sake Grant Program. Philadelphia Mayor John Street received the top honors and \$250,000. Five awards for distinction in the amount of \$100,000 were given to Dayton (OH) Mayor Rhine McLin and Kettering (OH) Mayor Marilou Smith (jointly); Durham Mayor William Bell; Lynwood (CA) Mayor Fernando Pedroza; Manchester Mayor Robert Baines; and New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin.

CUSP's Lead-Safe...For Kid's Sake grants are awarded for mayors' proposals to create new and effective solutions to help make city neighborhoods lead-safe. Eighty-five cities submitted applications this year. Grant recipients are able to use their award funds to help implement critically needed lead-safe practices.

Hempstead (NY) Mayor and Conference Vice President James Garner joined DuPont Senior Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer and General Counsel Stacey J. Mobley to announce the winners at the U.S. Conference of Mayors 71st Annual Meeting here.

“As with last year, we are highly encouraged by the actions cities are taking to create lead-safe communities,” noted Mobley. “We at DuPont are honored to be able to assist in the admirable lead-safety efforts of cities. All these winners demonstrate a true commitment to a bright and safe future for cities nationwide.”

USCM Executive Director J. Thomas Cochran added, “We praise the winning cities for implementing lead-safety initiatives that will help make cities safer and improve the quality of life for children. We are also pleased to stand with our partner DuPont to assist cities in developing safe environments.”

CUSP, a partnership of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and DuPont, visits cities across the country and teams up with mayors to assist them in creating healthier, safer and more innovative and economically vibrant cities through science-based solutions. The partnership sponsors Science in the Schools days during which DuPont scientists visits local schools to promote science education.

\$250,000 Award for Excellence

Philadelphia, PA

In 2002, over 4500 (14.5%) additional children were found to have elevated blood lead levels – nearly three times the national average of 4.4%. The City, Philadelphia Department of Public Housing, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program and the National Nursing Centers Consortium will expand the “Lead Safe Babies” (LSB) program, a prevention initiative created to educate pregnant women on the risks of lead exposure to their unborn child. LSB clients will receive home visits to provide mothers with educational materials, cleaning supplies, demonstrations on how to properly clean surfaces to remove lead dust and a pre-test of the home to determine lead status. Clients will also receive a follow-up visit eight months after the child is born to conduct a second lead test of the home and to encourage testing of the child. Grant funds will be used to fund the lead hazard control crews, Pennsylvania-certified lead abatement workers and supervisors, who will be conducting the home visits.

\$100,000 Awards for Distinction

Dayton and Kettering, OH

Dayton-Kettering officials believes that with the majority of housing stock build before 1950, coupled with a high concentration of poverty, there is a significant threat of lead poisoning to local children. Roughly 9,805 grandparents are currently living in households with their own grandchildren. To combat lead poisoning, these two cities will have housing inspectors identify housing occupied by grandparents who are the primary caregivers of grandchildren under the age of six. Once the children have been identified, grant money will allow these cities to test indoor and outdoor play areas for lead, and these areas will also be cleaned and cleared of lead by licensed lead-based paint contractors. Additionally, the cities will provide testing services for the housing units and blood screening for children.

Durham, NC

Durham had the highest number of children testing positive for lead poisoning in North Carolina in 2002. In 2001, five percent of children were found to have elevated blood levels, meaning one child in every kindergarten class may have learning disabilities from lead exposure. Durham’s Housing and Community Development Department, Duke University’s Children’s Environmental Initiative, Durham County Health Department and the Durham Affordable Housing Coalition propose to utilize a revolutionary GIS technology program called “Mapping Prevention” to identify predictive home lead health risks citywide. GIS model results will assist the city in determining where to direct door-to-door interviewing, on-site blood lead testing, environmental sampling of residences, educational programming and lead abatement.

Lynwood, CA

Lynwood officials believe that a significantly high number of children affected by potential lead poisoning based upon the age of the current housing stock. Many families are unaware of lead-paint in their homes, and the danger that it poses. Lynwood will combat lead poisoning through a Lead Safety Awareness Fair, setting up a mobile lab for lead poison testing and production/presentation of bilingual education materials for Latino residents. These bilingual educational materials on lead safety awareness will be developed for distribution through schools

and for expectant mothers at St. Francis Hospital. Presentations will also be scheduled to explain lead safety procedures at all 13 schools within the Lynwood Unified School District.

Manchester, NH

In Manchester, 24% of children have elevated blood lead levels. In 2000, Manchester saw its first reported death of a child from lead poisoning in a decade. The City will conduct lead hazard reduction activities for a minimum of 15 units, institute a home visiting program to reach 400 newborns and young children residing in high-risk housing in order to prevent lead-poisoning, and initiate a high-intensity targeted screening program for childhood lead poisoning to reach 100 children. To augment these programs, Manchester will develop a marketing and educational outreach campaign for minorities.

New Orleans, LA

With 80% of its housing stock built before 1978, New Orleans recognizes the risks posed by environmental exposure to lead. In 2000, New Orleans Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program data found that only 15.3% of city children under 6 years old had been screened; of those children, nearly 25% had elevated blood levels. To address this pressing issue, the city will provide a “Lead Safe House” for families whose homes have levels of lead requiring full abatement measures. The “Lead Safe House” will allow for an at-risk family to be relocated during the abatement procedures, reducing the risk of lead-exposure to young children. The Mayor’s Division of Housing and Neighborhood Development, Department of Safety & Permits, the Health Department, and the Mayor’s Office of Environmental Affairs will collaborate in the creation and maintenance of the “Lead Safe House.” *Lead-Safe...For Kids’ Sake* grant funds will be directed to the partial acquisition and maintenance of the “Lead Safe House.”

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