

Agenda Item Report



Winnebago County
The Wave of the Future

DATE: June 16, 2023

FROM: Doug Gieryn, Public Health Director

RE: Budget Transfer \$421,600 – Public Health Lead Abatement Grant (increase in funding)

General Description:

The State Department of Health Services has awarded the health department additional grant funding to increase the number of homes that may be funded for lead abatement projects through 2023.

Action Requested:

Approval of the budget transfer.

Procedural Steps:

Committee of Jurisdiction: Public Health
Action taken: Budget transfer approval

Meeting date: 6/16/2023
Vote: 7-0

Personnel & Finance Committee
Action taken: Budget transfer approval

Meeting date: 8/3/2023
Vote: 4-0

County Board

Meeting date: 8/15/2023

Background:

In the fall of 2022, the health department launched a new lead abatement program to improve county housing stock to help reduce childhood lead poisoning. This is primarily funded by the State and HUD. We've been able to enroll more homes in the program than originally projected and the State was able to allocate additional funding to accommodate. To date nearly two dozen homes have been approved or are in the approval process for funding.

Policy Discussion:

Safe, affordable, and accessible housing is a significant determinant of health and ability to be an engaged citizen. This program increases the number of lead safe housing units and prioritizes homes that children with elevated blood lead levels reside in or visit. The program covers 85-100% of the costs of abatement and program participants agree to prioritize housing for families with children under six years old. The program also reduces the number of homes that are known lead hazards and may otherwise remain vacant if the costs are beyond the means of the owner.

Attachments:

Budget Transfer