



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

DATE: June 1, 2022
TO: Board of Health
FROM: Doug Gieryn, Public Health Director
RE: Lead Abatement Grants

Background:

Childhood lead poisoning remains to be a preventable condition although much progress has been made over the past few decades. Lead in paint is still the single largest source of exposure to children and the largest barrier to its removal is the cost to the homeowner. With higher burdens of lead poisoning in larger cities it has been difficult to bring in additional funding to address this issue in Winnebago County.

The health department has now successfully partnered with the State DHS on an application to HUD and the State has made available an additional source of lead safe housing funding. These two grant sources combined with a commitment from the City of Oshkosh CDBG funds have provided the opportunity to fully fund a Lead Abatement Program Coordinator to oversee and promote the use of HUD and State funding to pay for lead abatement in homes with lead poisoned children, homes with children in them and homes where property owners will rent to families with children after abatement.

The current grant funding agreement with HUD runs to June 30, 2024 and additional funds are anticipated to be available in a renewal process. Current funds will also be used to train contractors, promote the program to contractors and property owners. Our initial goal is to complete abatement in 15-30 homes in this grant period with access to additional funds if capacity exists to do more. The funds primarily target older homes (pre-1950), lower income owner occupants or tenants, house children under age 6, be assessed under \$200K for two-family or under \$150K for a single family, and be current on taxes and code enforcement issues.

Policy Discussion:

This program is fully grant funded.

Requested Action:

To approve the budget transfer for allocation of the lead abatement grant funds.

Committee Action:

May 20 Board of Health - Voted 7-0 to pass.