



## ALAMEDA COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM

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### PRESS RELEASE

On Monday, March 1, 2010, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded \$875,000 to the Alameda County Community Development Agency to address housing related health hazards in more than 150 homes of low-income asthmatic children in Alameda County.

“We welcome the tremendous opportunity this grant provides for asthmatic children and their families in Alameda County. This grant will make the homes of at least 150 of our highest risk families free of allergens, mold, pests, and safety hazards. And, it will be used to demonstrate to many more of our residents how low cost interventions can help make their residences safe for children, as well as older adults who are caring for them,” Alameda County Supervisor Alice Lai-Bitker said.

Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson stated that “the award of this grant allows us to address two significant issues facing the County in general, and my district in particular. First, allowing low-income residents to upgrade their homes so they can become more energy and cost efficient, which is crucial in these tough economic times. Second, it allows us curtail the some of the causes of asthma and other illnesses that contribute to the vast health disparities suffered by people of color”.

This is the third competitive Healthy Homes Demonstration grant awarded to the Community Development Agency’s Lead Poisoning Prevention Department. The Department is also implementing its seventh Lead Hazard Control Grant.

The three-year Healthy Homes Demonstration Grant is one of seven awarded nationally, totaling more than \$6.1 million. HUD also announced an additional \$4.8 million in grants for Healthy Homes Technical Studies, and for the first time, HUD awarded \$2.4 million in Green and Healthy Housing Technical Grants. Taken together these grants are designed to demonstrate and quantify the effectiveness of healthy housing interventions, while increasing the knowledge on the effects of green residential construction on indoor environmental quality, and occupant health, particularly as it affects children and other sensitive populations.

“These grants will not only help to clean up lead and other home health hazards,” HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan said, “but will support innovative new approaches to make all our homes healthier places to live.”

The Alameda County Demonstration Project, which will begin May 1, 2010, will utilize numerous partners to improve health status and prevent injuries in low-income children and older adults. It will also work with existing service providers to deliver energy conservation and weatherization services; minor home repair services to improve ventilation, home safety, and disabled access; integrated and safe pest management, and lead poisoning prevention services.

Project partners include Children's Hospital and Research Center Oakland; the Alameda County Senior Injury Prevention Partnership, the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund, Prescott Joseph Center for Community Enhancement, the City of Berkeley Housing and Public Health Departments, the Community Energy Services Corporation, and the Rising Sun Energy Center, among others.

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