

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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City of Erie Accepting Applications for Lead Assistance

(ERIE, PA) January 17, 2008 Mayor Joseph E. Sinnott is pleased to announce that the City of Erie is ready to begin accepting applications for the Lead Hazard Control (LHC) program. In the fall of 2007, the City was awarded a \$3,000,000 grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to administer this program important to the City of Erie. Lead poisoning is the number one environmental disease affecting children in the United States. Today it is estimated that 434,000 children between the ages of 1 and 5, have harmful levels of lead in their bodies.

Lead poisoning causes irreversible physical and mental disabilities including: Attention Deficit Disorder, aggressive and violent behavior, learning disabilities, convulsions, hearing loss and even death. Often chipped or peeling lead-based paint on windows, doors, stairs, railing and other areas of the home are to blame, however, lead can also be found in soil as well as drinking water from lead solder in older pipes, candles with leaded wicks, older glazed bath tubs and imported plastic toys.

This program is extremely important to the City of Erie, with such a large number of older homes, and numerous rental properties, this grant makes it possible to help provide lead safe homes and safe environments for families. We will be encouraging families to have their children under the age of six tested. Children testing positive for lead poisoning will be the first priority. Outreach partners, able to provide information about the program include; Saint Martin Center, Martin Luther King Center, Hispanic American Council, Sisters of St. Joseph, Booker T. Washington Center, John F. Kennedy Center and the Erie County Department of Health.

Applications are open to low-to-moderate-income families with children under six years of age and landlords renting to low-to-moderate-income families with children under six years of age. Please contact the Erie Redevelopment Authority at 453-4505, any of our outreach partners or City of Erie Program Manager, Jorge Alvear at 870-1262. You may also go to www.gettheleadouterie.org for more information

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