

Lead Agency: Health Department
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating
Related Programs: 40037A

Program Contact: WICKHAM Lila A

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

This program prevents childhood lead poisoning and is primarily funded with city, state and federal funding. Lead causes brain damage in children resulting in behavior, learning, and health problems that impacts their economic, academic and social future. The program administers a statewide LeadLine, providing information and referral in multiple languages and screens for lead levels in blood, environmental investigations, case management, advocacy for services and community education/outreach.

Program Description

Multnomah County Environmental Health Services works collaboratively with the City of Portland lead partners and the State Health Department to ensure a seamless system of lead prevention and early intervention for children identified with elevated blood lead levels. The Lead Program: 1) Educates parents, landlords, property owners, and contractors about lead exposure causes and effects, screening, and reducing home lead hazards; 2) Tests children for blood lead levels and provides information about free lead screening locations in the county; 3) Promotes lead screening in primary care clinics; 4) Provides investigation of high lead levels by an Environmental Health Specialist by conducting an in home assessment to identify causes and eliminate exposures to lead for children at high to moderate risk; 5) Provides the family with a lead remediation plan; 6) Tracks all lead screening results and all Elevated Blood Lead Levels (EBLL) to detect program trends/risks; 7) Screens for risk of lead exposure of low-income children in support of improving health equity. LeadLine has increased outreach to medical providers and community.

The lead poisoning prevention program continues to increase its focus on outreach and education services targeting the most vulnerable populations that are under-represented in the blood lead level statistics. By combining targeted prevention messaging, advocacy for rigorous policy initiatives and developing community capacity to address lead prevention, this program offer relies almost exclusively on grants and contracts. Electronic newsletter distributed to community and providers quarterly. Children who have lead poisoning develop significant brain damage and learning disabilities, which impacts their normal growth and development and reduces their ability to function in school, at home and develop into a healthy adult. There are an estimated 10,000 older homes with possible exposure risk of leaded paint in Multnomah County that houses children 6 years old and younger. The Lead Poisoning Prevention Program identifies and helps residents reduce exposure to the environmental hazards of lead and promotes safer housing conditions. The program has seen an increased demand for lead screening, education, and referral services. Medicaid reimbursement for Lead Investigations began July 2010.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY09-10)	Current Year Purchased (FY10-11)	Current Year Estimate (FY10-11)	Next Year Offer (FY11-12)
Output	Total # of children screened by MCHD primary care and immunization providers	3,239	4,000	3,939	4,000
Outcome	Total # of successfully identified children with EBLLs*	18	25	68	40
Output	# of community members receiving information on lead prevention**	10,459	7,000	13,591	14,000
Quality	%home investigations where lead exposure risk hazards/factors are identified***	100.0%	95.0%	100.0%	95.0%

Performance Measure - Description

Children screened: Counts lead screening services provided by Multnomah County Health Department care providers, immunization unit and MCHD outreach testing (expanded service)

*Children with EBLL: Elevated Blood Lead Levels (EBLL) found during screening by any health care provider within Multnomah County. EBLL investigation criteria changed from 15 mg/dl to 10 mg/dl. Health Department proactively began investigating children with lead levels over 5 mg/dl in FY 2011.

**Community Information: Measure to quantify reach of program through phone counseling, referral, educational materials, website and community events. The Current Year Estimate and Next Year Offer show an increase because the program has added targeted community event outreach to the prior methodology of primarily answering calls from the community.

***Percentage of home investigations with identified contributing factors for lead source. Program goal is 95%.

Legal/Contractual Obligation

Legal mandates are City of Portland codes 8.20.210 (Maintenance of Health Hazard not Permitted); 8.20.200 (Notice of Unsanitary or Unhealthful Condition of Premises to be Given and Posted – Unlawful to Remove); 29.30.110 (interior Walls, Floors, and Ceilings); 29.30.060 (Exterior Walls and Exposed Surfaces); Some activities under this program offer are subject to contractual obligations under Inter-Governmental Agreement #0607105.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2011	2011	2012	2012
Personnel	\$0	\$121,971	\$0	\$122,751
Contracts	\$2,787	\$5,963	\$0	\$2,370
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$3,390	\$10,101	\$1,243
Internal Services	\$12,535	\$10,676	\$11,289	\$11,436
Total GF/non-GF:	\$15,322	\$142,000	\$21,390	\$137,800
Program Total:	\$157,322		\$159,190	
Program FTE	0.00	1.30	0.00	0.90
Program Revenues				
Indirect for dep't Admin	\$8,444	\$0	\$8,235	\$0
Fees, Permits & Charges	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$800
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$142,000	\$0	\$137,000
Total Revenue:	\$8,444	\$142,000	\$8,235	\$137,800

Explanation of Revenues

Lead Poisoning Prevention has a contract with the City of Portland Water Bureau for \$135,000 that we expect to be renewed at the same rate in FY2011. The program has an additional \$2,000 ongoing contract with the State Lead Program. As a result of the increased outreach, we expect to see an increase in the number of investigations to 25 a year. The State of Oregon will reimburse \$200 for each investigation done on a child with Medicaid.

City of Portland Water Bureau: \$135,000

State Lead Program: \$2,000

Medical fees: \$800

County general fund: \$21,390

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: #40015, Lead Poisoning Prevention

There was a significant increase in education and outreach activities which is reflected in the output measure of community members receiving information about lead poisoning prevention. Partnering with WIC and Head Starts to target at risk populations has generated more interest and screening.

The Leadline program began investigating children with lead levels at five to be proactive and intervene to eliminate sources of lead in the home. Although the official action level for dangerous blood level remains at 10, there is general agreement among lead experts that levels as low as five are dangerous for children six and under as well as the unborn.

Improvements in telephone systems and websites have increased efficiency in responding to calls and generating community interest.