

Lead Agency: Health Department

Program Contact: Lila Wickham

Program Offer Type: Existing Operating

Related Programs:

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 impact 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. In addition, environmental investigations, case management, and advocacy for services and community education/outreach are provided by the program.

Program Description

Children who have lead poisoning can develop significant brain damage and learning disabilities, impacting normal growth and development and reducing 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 house children 6 years old and younger. The Lead Poisoning Prevention Program identifies and helps residents reduce exposure to the environmental hazards of lead, and promote safe housing conditions.

Multnomah County Environmental Health Services works collaboratively with the City of Portland lead partners and OHA to ensure continuity of care and early intervention for children at risk of lead poisoning. 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 and pregnant women for high blood lead levels; 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; 8) Educates contractors and residents about new EPA lead-based paint rules, and 9) Provides education and 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. This program offer relies almost exclusively on grants and contracts. An electronic newsletter is distributed to community and providers quarterly.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY11-12)	Current Year Purchased (FY12-13)	Current Year Estimate (FY12-13)	Next Year Offer (FY13-14)
Output	Total # of children screened by MCHD primary care and immunization providers	3,259	3,000	3,192	3,500
Outcome	Total # of successfully identified children with EBLLs*	22	25	46	40
Output	Number of Community Members receiving information on lead prevention*	10,816	7,000	10,659	10,000
Quality	Percentage of home investigations where lead exposure risk hazards/ factors are identified for	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) Medtox and Leadcare2 laboratory tests combined

*Community Information: Measure to quantify reach of program through phone counseling, referral, educational materials, website and community events

**Children with EBLL: Elevated Blood Lead Levels (EBLL) found during screening by a health care providers 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. Intervening at a lower lead level should prevent more severe cases. Since the lead action level has lowered we have had increased EBLL referrals and investigations

***Percentage of home investigations with identified contributing factors for lead exposure. Lead hazards have been identified and/or the house has been deemed to be free from lead hazards as demonstrated by a reduction in blood lead levels. 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	2013	2013	2014	2014
Personnel	\$0	\$112,688	\$9,598	\$139,490
Contracts	\$2,370	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$6,943	\$0	\$217	\$17,205
Internal Services	\$11,788	\$24,312	\$37,602	\$23,305
Total GF/non-GF:	\$21,101	\$137,000	\$47,417	\$180,000
Program Total:	\$158,101		\$227,417	
Program FTE	0.00	0.90	0.10	1.20
Program Revenues				
Indirect for dep't Admin	\$8,497	\$0	\$11,543	\$0
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$137,000	\$0	\$180,000
Total Revenue:	\$8,497	\$137,000	\$11,543	\$180,000

Explanation of Revenues

City of Portland Leadline grant: \$175,000
State Leadline grant: \$5,000
County General Fund: \$47,417

Significant Program Changes

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

The scope and reach of the Lead Poisoning Prevention Program has increased due to new contracts. FTE is increased by 0.40 FTE to respond to contractual requirements. The Lead Poisoning Prevention program expects to increase the number of investigations to 40 a year.

In 2012, the Multnomah County Leadline program began investigating children with lead levels at 5 in order 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, the CDC Lead Poisoning advisory committee has recommended the action level be lowered to 5 because this level is deemed as dangerous for children 6 and under as well as the unborn.

There is a significant increase in the education and outreach associated with this change in action level. This increased workload is reflected in the output measure of community members receiving information about lead poisoning prevention. Partnering with WIC and various Head Starts to target at-risk populations has generated more interest and screening.

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

The Josiah Hill Clinic (JHC), a community based partner organization, redefined their priorities and are no longer performing lead testing. The JHC Portland Water Bureau contract was transferred to Multnomah County. Increased community based testing will occur.