

HARTFORD AWARDED \$3 MILLION DOLLAR FEDERAL GRANT

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HARTFORD AWARDED \$3 MILLION DOLLAR FEDERAL GRANT WASHINGTON—U.S. Congressman John B. Larson (CT-01) today announced that the City of Hartford has been awarded a \$2,944,932 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development under the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Grant Program. The program is designed to help state and local governments eliminate lead-based paint hazards in all housing. Hartford has a high volume of "at-risk" housing, which was built before 1978, a problem that is compounded by the high number of children under the age of six who live in these residences.

"This grant goes a long way in helping to eliminate the serious danger that lead paint poisoning represents to the people of Hartford, and will be especially effective in protecting children, who are effected the most by the problem," said Larson. "I applaud the City of Hartford for their leadership and foresight in applying for this grant, which will be a great asset to the City. I am thrilled that HUD has offered a powerful helping hand in the effort to make housing in Hartford as safe as possible."

"I am delighted by the support HUD has given Hartford to help us meet our goal of eliminating childhood lead poisoning in the city," said Mayor Peters. "With HUD's assistance we will be able to enhance our current program, provide job training to help Hartford residents secure jobs in the lead hazard control field, provide a Lead Poisoning Prevention Courses to city homeowners and renters and undertake an aggressive public awareness campaign."

The Mayor noted that "this was one of the projects I discussed with the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development and our Congressional delegation in July when the City Manager and I visited Washington, DC. It's rewarding to know that HUD and our Congressional delegation are listening to the city's needs and helping to provide the resources needed to move Hartford forward."

The goal of the lead-based grant program is to build an infrastructure that will help government, in partnership with private resources, build effective, cost-effective methods for identifying and controlling lead-based paint hazards. The program also seeks to promote job-training and economic opportunities for low-income city residents and businesses that are involved with lead-paint abatement programs.

On May 3, 2000, Congressman Larson sent a letter in support of the City's grant application to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Andrew Cuomo. In the letter, Larson said that it is estimated that over 80 percent of the homes in Hartford contain lead-based paint. He also stated that the program would provide loans to homeowners for lead hazard control, provide a job training to help Hartford residents secure jobs in the lead hazard control field, to develop partnerships with existing programs, promote training programs for owners and renters, and develop an aggressive public awareness campaign.

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