

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

Date: February 14, 2025

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, Department of Health and Human Services

Subject: A report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization for Housing Services to retroactively accept U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes grant funds in the amount of \$7.75 million to create a Lead Hazard Control Reduction Program

File Type: Action Report

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**REQUEST**

A report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization for Housing Services to retroactively accept U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH) grant funds in the amount of \$7.75 million to create a Lead Hazard Control Reduction program to reduce lead-based paint hazards in owner occupied homes within suburban Milwaukee County.

**POLICY**

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Chapter 56.06 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances, Review and Approval of Federal and State Grant and Funding Applications, requires Milwaukee County department heads to receive approval from the County Board to accept a grant with a match requirement.

Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances	56.06
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**BACKGROUND**

The proposed MCHS Lead Hazard Control Program (LHCP) will be under the umbrella of the current MCHS Home Repair Program (HRP) that has been in existence since the late 1970s. The HRP provides financial assistance to low-income, owner-occupants of single-family homes to make necessary home repairs (including lead remediation). The HRP is currently funded

through HOME, CDBG, and County Levy funds. The program provides zero-interest loans to eligible property owners within our jurisdiction.

HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes awarded Milwaukee County Housing Services \$7 million in Lead Hazard Control funds and a Healthy Homes Supplement of \$750,000 to expand the lead remediation work as part the current Home Repair Program. The program will focus on owner-occupied homes within suburban Milwaukee County where there are children with an elevated blood level. Program staff will work with public health officials, non-profits and other community agencies to assist with outreach activities and education on the rehab process. Inspection staff within the Home Repair program are all licensed Lead Risk Assessors who will provide an assessment of the property to identify lead-based paint hazards within the home, create a scope of work to identify work needed, monitor work in progress, and complete a Lead Clearance upon the completion of the work. Based on an estimate of common lead components, it is anticipated that remediation work will be completed for up to 200 properties.

The term of the grant is March 1, 2025 through March 1, 2029. During this time period, MCHS's Home Repair program will work with local contractors to provide bids for the remediation work required following OLHCHH and Milwaukee County Procurement Procedures.

As a requirement of the grant, Milwaukee County is required to match 10% of the Lead Hazard Control funds awarded. The total match amount is \$700,000 which will be covered by MCHS's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocation. CDBG funding is an eligible source of match as it is specifically designated for the activities and costs under this grant.

### **ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

This action item aligns with strategic plan objectives 2A (Determine what, where, and how we deliver services to advance health equity) and 3A (Invest upstream to address root causes of health disparities).

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, or her designee, to retroactively accept HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes funds in the amount of \$7.75 million with a required grant match of \$700,000 in CDBG allocated funds to provide lead remediation to residents within Milwaukee County's urban county jurisdiction.

### **FISCAL EFFECT**

There is no fiscal effect as the match funds are covered by Milwaukee County's Community Development Block Grant Entitlement funds.

**TERMS**

This contract runs from March 1, 2025 through March 1, 2029.

**VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES**

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Director  
James Mathy, Housing Administrator  
Diane Tsounis, Housing Program Manager

**PREPARED BY:**

James Mathy, Housing Administrator, Department of Health and Human Services

**APPROVED BY:**

*Shakita LaGrant-McClain*

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, Department of Health and Human Services

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None

cc: County Executive David Crowley  
Sup. Willie Johnson, Jr., Chair, Finance Committee  
Shawn Rolland, Chair, Health Equity, Human Needs, and Strategic Planning  
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office  
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County  
Steve Cady, Research Director, Comptroller's Office  
Madeline Fruehe, Budget and Management Analyst, SBP