

# Lead Watch

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A Publication of the Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning  
Committed to Ending Childhood Lead Poisoning by 2010  
January, 2005

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*LeadWatch* is the CPLP newsletter, designed to share news and information about the prevention of childhood lead poisoning.

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News to share with CPLP members and friends?

Suggestions for the newsletter?

Send information to:  
[jhill@leadsafeby2010.org](mailto:jhill@leadsafeby2010.org)

## Coalition Meets February 1

Get all the latest details on the County pilot program, the changes in the HUD grants, and the status of the city ordinance at the General Membership meeting of the Coalition. The meeting is noon to 1:30 in the United Way building at 75 College Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607. Bring a lunch...we provide beverages and the nourishment of a community in action!

## County Executive Delivers

County Executive Maggie Brooks used the occasion of her first State of the County speech to announce that the County is delivering on the second commitment made at the June Community Lead Summit. At that event, County Executive Brooks promised to conduct a pilot program to determine the most effective way to ensure that homes of families receiving county assistance are lead safe. That promise is being fulfilled with a project that will start in February.

The project will identify properties that have passed a Quality Home Inspection and house a child under the age of six. These properties will be inspected, and if lead hazards are found they will have to be fixed. Owners will be encouraged to participate in the County HUD grant, which has been enhanced to offer as much as \$3,500 (see related story).

The pilot will run for three months. The County will use this effort to determine to what degree properties that pass the Quality Home Inspection nevertheless have lead hazards, what the average cost of lead hazard control work is, and how attractive the HUD grant program is to affected property owners. At the end of the three months, the pilot will be assessed to de-

termine its value in protecting children from lead poisoning.

The County had previously kept its commitment to change the protocols for environmental assessments. The County Executive remarked that:

“Monroe County committed to changing the standard we use to investigate properties suspected to contain lead hazards from the New York State standard to the more stringent HUD standard, a commitment which we have fulfilled. In addition, we initiated a free eight-hour Lead Safe Work Practices training program, which 572 people successfully completed in 2004. In 2005, the County will continue to offer this course free of charge to homeowners and landlords.” □

## HUD Grant Program Changes

The Monroe County Department of Public Health has announced changes in its HUD lead hazard control grant program. The maximum grant amount is now \$3,500 rather than \$1000 as it had been. The grant is available to both investor and owner-occupied units as long as the occupant documents family income at below 80% of median. A free 8-hour

*More...*

Lead Safe Work Practices class is offered for the property owner and his/her workers. Other terms and conditions apply.

For more information on this grant or to obtain a [“Grant Application”](#) please contact: Monroe County Public Health Department

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, HUD Grant Office

(585) 274- 8026

Applications can also be downloaded from “Lead Program” web page (See [“Grant Application”](#) @ [www.monroecounty.gov](http://www.monroecounty.gov))



## CPLP Speaks to Council

Nearly two dozen people, most of them members of the Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning, spoke about the need for a comprehensive city lead law at the Rochester City Council meeting on Tuesday January 18.

Most speakers applauded the fact that some action to have legislation preventing childhood lead poisoning is in the works - the issue is no longer whether the city will act, but only how it will act. Some notable comments:

✚ Dr. Richard Kennedy who has been in the Rochester medical vanguard while working at the Orchard Street Health Center said, “Rochester’s kids need a head start, not a lead start.”

✚ Glenn Williams implored the council to “give every child in Rochester a full

shot, not special education or jails.”

✚ “Now the stage has been set” said Ray Samson of the United Way. He asked the Council to act with “haste and urgency” because every month 83 children in Rochester are lead poisoned.

## City Proposal

City Council is considering a proposed law from Mayor Bill Johnson as well as one introduced by Councilmember Tim Mains, who is also Principal of School 50.

How does the Mayor’s proposal compare to some of the key criteria established by the Coalition?

### Targeted Roll Out

*CPLP Position:* Childhood lead poisoning is heavily concentrated in certain high risk neighborhoods in the city. We know where lead hazards are likely to be found and we should go there first in order to protect the greatest number of children fastest and most efficiently.

*City Proposal:* Inspection for lead hazards is to be included in the Certificate of Occupancy process, an essentially random process by which affected properties come up for inspection every five years.

### Required Inspection and Lead Hazard Control

*CPLP Position:* Properties must be inspected using the full complement of visual, dust, and soil tests; mandated lead hazard control work must be followed

by a clearance test to ensure that hazards do not continue to exist, and interim controls must be re-evaluated and maintained on a prescribed schedule.

*City Proposal:* The proposed amendment includes no description of the inspection that is required; it does require that if deteriorated paint is found it must be addressed and the property must pass a clearance test following the work before the C of O will be issued. No interim maintenance is required.

### Disclosure

*CPLP Position:* It is necessary to extend coverage of existing Federal Disclosure regulations to ensure that all situations are included and to provide local sanctions with private right of enforcement.

*City Proposal:* The City proposal includes no disclosure requirements (except those for lead safe work practices).

The Coalition will monitor the on-going negotiations closely, and plans an aggressive program to ensure that City Council knows that the community demands action that is truly protective of children.

Stay tuned – there will be many opportunities to add your voice!



## Free Training

A new Lead Safe Work Practices training opportunity has been added to the classes that have been provided through the City and County HUD grants.

The one day session will take place in Waterloo, Seneca County, which is just a 40-45

minute drive down Interstate 90 from Rochester, on Wednesday February 2, from 8:15 am to 4:30 pm. The course has been approved by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene (ABIH) for 1.0 Certification Maintenance (CM) points, and is eligible for Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP) Continuance of Certification (COC) Points.

For details, go to:

<http://www.dhcr.state.ny.us/general/training/leadsafe2.htm> or register on-line at [www.leadsafetraining.org](http://www.leadsafetraining.org)

Participants who pass receive a completion certificate from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This meets the requirements for HUD for training in lead-safe practices for work on HUD-funded projects. You are also eligible to be included on the National Lead Listing Web site.

Lead Safe Work Practices training also continues to be available through the County of Monroe and the City of Rochester.

The Monroe County Department of Public Health "Free Lead Safe Work Practices Training" is held twice a month. The next dates are February 10 & 22 and March 10 & 22. To register call the Cornell School of Industrial Labor Relations at 585-262-4440.

The City sponsors free training through the Housing Council for participants in its HUD lead hazard control grant program. Non-participants can take the classes for a nominal \$20 fee. For details and to register, call Joel Kunkler at the Housing Council, 585-546-3700. □

## State Strategic Plan

Last June the New State Department of Health submitted to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) a plan to eliminate childhood lead poisoning in New York by 2010. After carefully reviewing the Health Department's plan, the Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning in Monroe County decided it had to respond to the CDC about the plan's inadequacies.

In December the Coalition sent a letter to the CDC. Neither the Department of Health, nor the Department of Housing and Community Renewal, nor the State Department can solve the problem within their own purview; this plan, created by the Department of Health, predictably works from a medical perspective that is inadequate to a problem created by housing. Below is the Coalition's summary of five failures in the Department of Health's lead prevention plan.

1. The Department of Health makes unfounded assumptions about current trends in the incidence of lead poisoning, roles and efficacy of existing property maintenance codes, local health departments and other community outreach organizations, and the EPA.
2. The plan fails to set any standard requirement for lead safe housing and offers no meaningful primary prevention strategies even after acknowledging that more needs to be done. The burden of getting it done falls without support or guid-

ance to local health departments, social service agencies, and "local coalitions."

3. Enforcement: The plan relies on the State Property Maintenance Code (which has no provisions at all regarding lead hazards), the Department of Housing and Community Renewal (which is not responsible for code enforcement), local property codes (which outside of New York City contain few provisions for lead safety and may even be precluded from enacting more stringent requirements than the State code), and the EPA (which has neither the resources nor a mechanism for rigorous enforcement of federal disclosure requirements, which are themselves inadequate).
4. Evaluation: The plan includes no budget, no timeline, and no performance benchmarks in spite of specific requirements that it do so, making evaluation of the implementation of the plan impossible.
5. Process: Many of the failings of the plan can be explained by the lack of substantive input even from other State departments (Housing and Community Renewal, State) and virtually no input from the public at large, including housing professionals, affected community groups, and even the "local Coalitions" that are charged with actually implementing much of the plan.

Efforts are underway to work with the state to improve the plan. □