Media Release

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For Immediate Release

Health Department Receives $5.6M for Lead Hazard Control

**Peoria County** - The Peoria City/County Health Department has been awarded $5.6 million in Lead Hazard Control grant funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The 42-month funding will reduce the rates of lead-poisoning to children and protect families by targeting health hazards in 380 low-income homes that have significant lead or other home safety hazards.

The HUD grant application cited zip codes in Peoria County with child lead poisoning levels higher than those of state and national action levels. Exposure to lead paint can have many harmful effects on pregnant women and children. Lead paint can be found in older homes on windows, siding, and doors.

Monica Hendrickson, Administrator at Peoria City/County Health Department, states, "Our Health Department has a history of success in filling critical needs in all areas of Peoria County. Since 2007, we have utilized over $12 million in federal, state and local funds to mitigate lead and home health hazards in 889 properties, benefitting more than 800 children under the age of 6. This new HUD grant will allow us to continue our goal to eliminate lead paint as well as other home safety hazards to children and families."

Other grant activities will include a community-based approach to build capacity to address home hazards, as well as provide linkages and referrals for healthy homes services. Qualified contractors will receive lead-safe work practices training. Sponsored events will feature outreach and education. Linkages and referrals will include community partners and local agencies.

Hendrickson adds, "In addition to the health benefits of lead mitigation in homes, the award will help promote cost-effective lead hazard control methods that can be replicated and sustained. By integrating the lead hazard control measures with other home safety interventions, the grant will complement housing rehabilitation, property maintenance, weatherization, and energy conservation efforts."

For more information on public health issues, visit the Peoria City/County Health Department website at www.pcchd.org.

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Nationally accredited, Peoria City/County Health Department continues efforts to improve community health in Peoria County with the overarching goal
"to increase the number of people who are healthy at every stage of life."

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