



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release

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Get the Lead Out: Galveston Initiates Lead Safe Program

Galveston, Texas
July 15, 2009

The City of Galveston is now offering *free* financial assistance to reduce or eliminate lead paint hazards in homeowner or rental properties located on the Island. Last February, the City was awarded \$3 million through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Officials have been working with HUD's Healthy Homes Office to design a program to remediate lead-based paint hazards in 180 homes and provide lead screenings for 3,184 children. The Grants and Housing Department is now accepting applications from eligible homeowners and landlords of single or multi-family properties.

Lead is a highly toxic substance that may be present in dust, paint, soil, and drinking water. When ingested or inhaled as dust, lead poses a serious health risk to young children. The Lead Safe Environment Program aims to create a safer environment for all Galvestonians by reducing the dangers posed by lead-based paint in the Island's housing stock.

Who Is Eligible for the Program?

Homeowners must meet specific requirements to participate in the program:

- Homeowners must meet low-to-moderate income guidelines (per HUD standards).
- Homeowners must have a child under the age of six (6) residing in, or spending a significant amount of time visiting, the unit to be repaired.
- The property must have been built prior to 1978.
- Homeowner or rental property must be located within the City of Galveston's city limits.
- Landlords must agree to rent to low-to-moderate income tenants and maintain fair market rents for a minimum of three (3) years.

For additional information please contact the City's Grants and Housing Department by calling **(409) 797-3820**. Their office, located at 905 25th Street across from Galveston's City Hall, is open to the public. Please note, these funds are available to remediate lead hazards in a home or rental property, not to reconstruct a home damaged by Hurricane Ike.

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