

## HOUSING

### MOTION

Lead-based paint hazards are a serious health concern for City residents living in housing built before 1978. The most frequently and severely affected victims of lead poisoning are young children under the age of six. Lead poisoning in children, primarily associated with lead-based paint, causes neurological damage, which can lead to learning disabilities, mental retardation, and other irreversible health conditions.

In response to the serious health threat caused by lead-based paint, the Los Angeles Housing + Community Investment Department (HCIDLA) established a Lead Hazard Remediation Program (LHRP). Since 1998, it has had the equivalent of \$1 million in lead hazard reduction funding annually from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH), via grants applied for and received every three years. With these funds, HCIDLA established a best-in-class lead remediation program that has successfully mitigated lead-based paint hazards in more than 2,330 homes, with a focus on homes occupied by children under six.

Despite a long and successful track record in lead-based paint hazard remediation, HCIDLA was precluded from applying for these grant resources after 2014, due to an ongoing dispute with HUD that was unrelated to the lead program. On August 2, 2019, the city entered into a Voluntary Compliance Agreement (VCA) with HUD that ended the dispute, enabling HCIDLA to once again apply for funding from the HUD OLHCHH. Unfortunately, the deadline to apply for the 2019 Lead Hazard Reduction Grant Program was one week later on August 9, 2019, and confirmation of HUD's VCA approval became known to HCIDLA only on August 5, 2019, four days before the deadline. Due to the time constraint and the need to focus on preparation of the application, the Department was not able to obtain council authority through a motion or a transmittal in advance of the application submission deadline.

On October 2, 2019, HCIDLA was notified by HUD that its application was selected and that the City will be awarded \$5 million for the Lead Hazard Control and \$600,000 for the Healthy Homes Supplement, for a total award of \$5.6 million. The \$5 million award will be used to remediate lead hazards in 240 housing units occupied by low-income households with children under the age of six years. The \$600,000 supplement will allow the LHRP to conduct a wide range of ancillary activities intended to mitigate health and safety hazards in homes – including efforts to prevent trip hazards; control asthma and allergy triggers such as mold, moisture; and pest infestation.

HUD's deadline to begin the negotiations process is October 16, 2019. A fully executed, signed grant agreement must be submitted to their headquarters in Washington, D.C. by November 22, 2019. This aggressive timeline necessitates Council approval via motion.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council AUTHORIZE the General Manager of HCIDLA, or his designee, to apply for the Lead Hazard Reduction Program funding from HUD.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council AUTHORIZE the General Manager of HCIDLA to accept the Lead Hazard Reduction Program grants totaling \$5.6 million, and enter into negotiations to


  
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execute a new grant agreement with HUD, including all certifications and other required documents.

I FURTHER MOVE that HCIDLA report back within 45 days to present the grant agreements and provide details on program design, staffing needs, Controller's instructions, and other relevant information for review and approval.

PRESENTED BY:

  
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GILBERT A. CEDILLO  
Councilmember, 1<sup>st</sup> District

SECONDED BY:

  
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