



Wednesday

June 11, 2003

50 cents

The Herald-Sun

Final edition

Durham, North Carolina

WWW.HERALDSUN.COM

Established 1847

City wins \$100,000 grant to test 5,900 homes for lead

Partnership to identify children exposed to threat

BY VIRGINIA BRIDGES

vbridges@heraldsun.com; 419-664-48

The city of Durham has won a \$100,000 grant that will pay for people to knock on doors to help test 5,900 Durham homes for lead poisoning.

Durham was among five cities out of a field of 85 to win a

\$100,000 grant from the "Lead Safe ... For Kid's Sake Grant Program" run by Cities United for Science Progress. The city of Philadelphia won a sixth grant of \$250,000.

Cities United for Science Progress, a partnership between the U.S. Conference of Mayors and DuPont, promotes making communities safer through science-based solutions.

Durham's grant will contribute to a public-private partnership among the city's Department of Housing and Communi-

ty Development, Duke University's Children's Environmental Health Initiative, the Durham Affordable Housing Coalition and the Durham County Health Department.

The grant will help the partnership carry out a new approach for identifying children who have been exposed to lead. Currently, lead hazards in homes often aren't abated until children already have tested for high levels of lead. Under the new approach being used by the partnership, information and

U.S. Census data will lead health officials to high-risk neighborhoods before individual testing has occurred, possibly reducing the amount of exposure.

The new testing model utilizes a satellite-based, GIS analysis program called "Mapping for Prevention," which identifies and weighs a combination of lead risk factors, such as age of housing and whether the property is owner or renter occupied. The program already has identified 5,900 properties in Durham that are likely to contain lead-

based paint.

The new funding will provide manpower to visit those homes and conduct interviews, on-site blood lead testing and an environmental sampling. The \$100,000 grant will supplement a \$2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Community Development that will be used to clean the houses of the high lead sources, said Stacey Poston, a city housing inspector, who wrote the grant

see **LEAD** | page C6

LEAD

FROM PAGE C1

application.

The program was created by the Duke University Children's Environmental Health Initiative, led by Marie Lynn Miran-

da, professor at Duke's Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences, who directs the health initiative.

Miranda said she is excited about the program's connection to the community and the potential to help people who might not normally benefit from a cutting-edge model that cities and health

officials across the nation are considering.

Lead can affect everyone, but children age 6 and younger face particular danger from the exposure because their bodies are developing rapidly. Lead-based paint is commonly found in homes built before 1978. It is unclear what level of lead

affects each individual, but the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that levels of 10 micrograms per deciliter can significantly impair children's behavioral, cognitive and physical functioning.

Dayton Daily News

DaytonDailyNews.com

MAYORS GET GRANTS FOR LEAD REMOVAL

DENVER — Dayton Mayor Rhine McLin and Kettering Mayor Marilou Smith received one of five \$100,000 awards for distinction Saturday for their proposal to rid their cities' neighborhoods of lead.

The awards, given at the 71st annual U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting in Denver, were co-sponsored by the mayors organization and DuPont Cities United for Science Progress partnership's Lead Safe . . . For Kids' Sake grant program.

Philadelphia received the \$250,000 Award for Excellence.

Dayton and Kettering were joined by mayors from Durham, N.C.; Lynwood, Calif.; Manchester, N.H.; and New Orleans in receiving \$100,000 awards of distinction.

The cities were chosen from 85 proposals submitted by mayors to

help make their city neighborhoods lead-free.

Mayors receiving the grants can use the money to help implement lead-safe practices.

Dayton and Kettering officials said children there are threatened by lead poisoning because of housing stock built before 1950 and a high concentration of poverty.

Their proposal will let housing inspectors identify housing occupied by grandparents who are primary caregivers of children under 6, with the grant money used to test indoor and outdoor play areas for lead.

If inspectors find lead, licensed lead-based paint contractors will remove it.

The grant also will be used to test housing units and screen children's blood.