



REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF FAYETTE, PENNSYLVANIA

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Removing Lead-Paint Hazards from Fayette County Homes:

Redevelopment Authority offers financial assistance to families to remove dangerous lead toxins

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UNIONTOWN, PA (Fayette County) – The Redevelopment Authority of the County of Fayette is proud to offer its Lead Hazard Control Program. The program provides financial assistance to Fayette County homeowners and renters to remove lead-paint hazards from family homes, in order to prevent and alleviate lead-poising in kids. Applications are now being accepted.

Assistance through the Lead Hazard Control Program is provided as a grant available up to \$8,000 per household, based on income. The program is intended to prevent childhood lead poisoning and alleviate future lead poisoning in children whom already have elevated blood levels. Both homeowners and renters are encouraged to apply. The program is only available to those families with children ages 6 and younger, and excludes those properties in the cities of Uniontown and Connellsville, as they have their own programs. There is no application fee for this program.

Once an applicant is approved for assistance, a Rehabilitation Inspector will conduct an inspection and risk assessment of the home to identify lead hazards. Children may be tested for elevated blood lead levels. Then the work - such as replacement of windows and doors, correction to water infiltration and paint deterioration, and repair of peeling and chipping paint - will be performed by a licensed contractor of the applicant's choice. Once completed, the work will be inspected by the Rehabilitation Inspector to ensure that the lead hazards have been removed. Should the family be displaced due to the scope of the work, the grant can be used to cover the cost of the temporary relocation. Further, should the cost of the repairs exceed the grant maximum, homeowners may apply for the Authority's Homeowner Rehabilitation loan program to obtain additional funding.

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It is especially important for families living in homes built before 1974 to apply, as many of these homes likely contain lead-based paint, and because lead is more dangerous to children than adults. Lead toxins enter the body by simply inhaling lead dust, and symptoms are hard to identify as they often resemble the cold or flu. Lead poisoning can cause brain and nervous system damage, behavior and learning problems, slowed growth, hearing problems, and headaches.

Mr. Daniel Kurtz, a recent program participant stated, “With a young child living in my home, I certainly feel better about her wellbeing after having participated in this program.” Mr Kurtz added that the Redevelopment Authority’s website, which shares before and after photographs of completed projects, made him confident in the quality of the Authority’s programs.

The Redevelopment Authority’s goal is to rehabilitate a minimum of 4 homes per quarter, or 23 homes by the time the program ends in 2015. Since October 2009, the Authority has assisted over 50 Fayette County homes through their Lead Hazard Control Program. Funding for this program is made possible in part by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)’s Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Program and the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH).

For more information on the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Fayette, the Lead Hazard Control Program, or any of the Authority’s other programs and initiatives, please visit their website, racfpa.org, or call 724-437-1547.

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About the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Fayette, PA (RACF) – The Redevelopment Authority of the County of Fayette, PA was established in 1949, and has spent the last 65 years implementing numerous redevelopment projects, rehabilitation activities, and infrastructure improvements in municipalities throughout Fayette County. It is the principle agency responsible for implementing community development and single-family affordable housing initiatives, and has taken on special projects such as the development and continual expansion of the Fayette County Business Park and the Brownsville Borough Targeted Revitalization Initiative. The Redevelopment Authority’s goal is to continue sustaining our communities, helping continue to make Fayette County a wonderful place to call home.