

2015-2019  
Consolidated Plan  
2015 Annual Action Plan  
For the Department of Housing and Urban Development

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CITY OF MANCHESTER PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT



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## **Excerpt from the City of Manchester, NH 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan**

### **SP-65 Lead Based Paint Hazards**

#### **Actions to address LBP hazards and increase access to housing without LBP hazards.**

While the manufacture of lead paint for residential use has been banned for over thirty-five years, lead-based paint still poisons, sometimes with significant long-term effects, nearly 100 New Hampshire children every year, with 286 total poisonings between 2010 and 2012. When compared to the rest of the state, the City of Manchester experiences about three times as many cases of lead poisoning for every child under the age of 6 years, and 33% of the state's total number of cases of lead poisoning. Between 2010 and 2012, about 1.1% children screened under the age of 6 had an elevated Blood Lead Level (BLL). The determinants and risk factors for lead poisoning specific to Manchester, include the following:

- Approximately 34% of all dwellings were built prior to 1940, with several city tracts containing 75% or more pre-1940 dwellings. HUD estimates that 90% of all pre 1940 homes in the city contain Lead Paint Hazards, which amounts to about 13,500.
- Manchester children are almost twice more likely to live in poverty than children in the state. According to the 2009-2013 ACS 5-year estimates, approximately 14.2% of the total Manchester population and 22.3% of children live in poverty.
- In 2012, only 75.2% of 1 year old children and 47.3% of 2 year old children received lead screenings. Since 2009 rates have decreased, despite the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendation that all 1 and 2 year olds residing in Manchester be tested.
- The majority of newly resettled families are placed in the area of the City with the highest concentration of pre-1978 housing units. The Manchester Health Department reported in FY13 that among the 69 children with lead poisoning 16 (23%) were refugees or U.S. born children of refugees.

In response to these risks and health hazards, the City of Manchester has been actively involved in preventing childhood lead poisoning since the 1970's when the Manchester Health Department (MHD) began studying the extent and nature of Lead-Paint Poisoning in the city. Manchester was identified as a high risk community for lead poisoning by the NH Department of Health and Human Services in 1997, since then, the City has implemented a comprehensive approach designed to eliminate the hazards of lead based paint through a community process of planning, education and action to protect children.

MHD has recently spearheaded two separate initiatives to reduce the hazards and risks of Lead-Paint poisoning. First, they are coordinating and working together with property owners by sending notifications about children living in their properties who have elevated blood lead levels. Second, MHD also has someone who provides clinical case management services to city families and is incorporating the city's Lead program into its Healthy Homes model.

The basis of the City's comprehensive lead hazard control plan which was developed during 2002 by the GMPALP when it completed a 2002-2010 strategic planning document: Preventing Childhood Lead Poisoning in Manchester, New Hampshire, Recommendations for the Community.

1. **Develop systems to assist owners with financing and to reduce costs of lead abatement**
2. **Increase the availability of qualified work crews to make housing lead-safe**
3. **Promote regulatory / financial incentives for owners to certify their housing is lead-safe.**
4. **Update state legislation and local ordinances to prevent poisoning**
5. **Improve lead-screening rates among 1 and 2 year old children in greater Manchester**
6. **Outreach and promotion for Greater awareness of the Lead Hazard Program**

**How are the actions listed above related to the extent of lead poisoning and hazards?**

Below is a how Manchester is currently implementing the city's comprehensive lead hazard control plan and the six actions set forth by the GMPALP.

**1. Develop systems to assist owners with financing and to reduce costs of lead abatement**

Between 2002-2009, Manchester was able to achieve the following results as a result of its first two grants:

- 4,500 individual families were able to protect their children with the help of in-home education, use of HEPA vacuums and lead-dust cleaning supplies, referrals for screening and supportive services of transportation and Spanish translation.
- Lead prevention information was distributed to the homes of over 3,000 Manchester households.
- 2,524 young children screened for LBP poisoning.
- Lead case management services were provided to an average of 500 children and their families.
- Lead hazards were remediated in over 400 LMI apartments and homes.
- Prevention and intervention in-services were established for 4 primary health care practices.
- Community stakeholders were convened through the GMPALP.
- At least 120 property owners and tenants were matched with community resources to reduce exposure to lead hazards.
- Education and public awareness on lead poisoning prevention was provided through workshops, information displays and public television broadcasts.

**2. Increase the availability of qualified work crews to make housing lead-safe**

As result of HUD funding, the number of pre-qualified Lead Abatement Contractors bidding on Manchester projects has ranged from 8-12. Currently, there are 4 pre-qualified, licensed Risk Assessors. The City also has a pool of qualified contractors to do necessary work.

**3. Promote regulatory / financial incentives for owners to certify their housing is lead-safe.**

The ongoing effort to create a *Lead-Safe Registry* for Manchester continues in order to provide free marketing for proactive property owners, and information for families in the community looking for safe housing. The City plans to continue working on the development of a *Lead-Safe Registry* that will meet the needs of all parties involved.

The Manchester Health Department and the Code Enforcement Division of the Planning and Community Development in concert with the Manchester Housing Initiatives Program all collaborate on Manchester properties to provide a full net of services to distressed properties. While the CED and the MHI staff do not possess the full knowledge of Healthy Homes inspections, they are trained to identify signals that will cause future issues. In those cases, the MHD's trained Healthy Homes Specialists will inspect the property and address healthy homes issues.

**4. Update state legislation and local ordinances to prevent poisoning**

- a. As of Jan 2008, when a child is poisoned in a property, and the State Environmental Inspector finds lead hazards in the unit, they are allowed to inspect all units in the building, and if hazards are found in those units, to place them under an order of lead hazard reduction, as well.
- b. Rehab projects on properties built before 1978 are required to be renovated by RRP Certified Firms. Lead hazard reduction projects are being performed by licensed lead abatement workers and supervisors.

**5. Improve lead-screening rates among 1 and 2 year old children in greater Manchester**

Working with our partners at the City and State level, Manchester Housing Initiatives and HUD are working steadily to increase Manchester screening rates, identify target areas, and remediate these lead hazards as quickly and permanently as funds allow.

**6. Outreach and promotion for Greater awareness of the Lead Hazard Program**

- a. Repeat news articles and notices in the Union Leader and Hippo Press.
- b. WMUR News story
- c. Distributed over 3000 Program Brochures with direct mailings.
- d. Public TV show regarding program
- e. Landlord mailing to over 600 landlords
- f. Distribution of over 800 Program Brochures to Section 8 owners through the Manchester Housing Authority.

**How are the actions listed above integrated into housing policies and procedures?**

The City is fortunate to have an active Health Department and experienced agencies working together in close cooperation offering a strong health and human services network for Manchester residents. The City's Community Improvement Program manages the HUD Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Program grant, monitors compliance with regulations, and insures consistency with the City's Consolidated Plans, Annual Action Plans and Impediments to Fair Housing Plan. The Manchester Health Department provides community health nurse services and helps monitor project outcomes related to child and environmental health risk factors.

To maximize impact, the City has increased its designated target area from eleven to fifteen contiguous census tracts. These census tracts contain the City's highest concentration of pre1940 housing, housing with deteriorating lead paint, low income families with young children, lead poisoned children & children with elevated blood lead levels and at-risk minority and refugee families. The City was unsuccessful in securing funding through the 2014 application, but are hopeful they will receive funding in 2015. Some of the goals identified in the 2015 application are:

- Focused lead hazard control activities in a target area identified with high lead hazard risk factors. Paint inspections/risk assessments in about 175 units exhibiting high lead hazard risk factors.
- Training for at least 170 individuals, with 160 being low-income, in 4 lead-safe renovator classes and 3 lead abatement worker/contractor courses.
- Improved blood lead level screening of children in the designated high-risk neighborhoods.
- Outreach/education to at least 100,000 community members including concentrated efforts within the target communities.

Depending upon the eligibility requirements of HUD, the City plans to apply to HUD in the summer of 2015 for additional Lead Hazard Control Grant funds to continue measures that will result in the mitigation of lead based paint hazards. In the absence of Lead Hazard Control grant funds the City will utilize CDBG and Affordable Housing Trust funds to continue to work toward these goals.