



October 1, 2009

Mayor John Dickert
And Common Council
Racine, WI 53403

Your Honor and Aldermen:

On behalf of the City of Racine Health Department, I respectfully request to appear before the appropriate committee to discuss our request to apply for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 2009 Healthy Homes Demonstration Program. The grant control number is 2009-065.

The grant is for \$875,000 with a project period of three years. The purpose of the grant is to develop, demonstrate, and evaluate cost-effective, preventive measures to correct multiple residential safety and health hazards that produce diseases and injuries in children and other sensitive sub-groups such as elderly, with a particular focus on low income households. The major objectives of the program are to: Identify and remediate priority health hazards in high risk target housing where environmental conditions may contribute to a child's illness or risk of injury; develop a professional workforce that is trained in healthy homes assessment and remediation principles; support public education and outreach that further the goal of protecting children and other vulnerable populations from environmentally induced illnesses; and further the principles of environmental justice and fair housing by increasing the availability of safe, low-income housing. This program addresses the "Healthy People 2010" focus areas of environmental health, public health infrastructure, and education and community-based programs. The City of Racine Health Department is proposing a Racine Healthy Homes Collaboration dedicated to reducing the burden that asthma places on families and individuals living in the City of Racine's "Towerview" area located within Census Tracts 1-5 through coordinated health, housing and social service responses. The collaborative includes the Housing Coalition, local health and social service providers, Racine Unified School District, health organizations, and Racine/Kenosha Community Action Agency. Goals include:



1. Research, inventory, and implement best practices related to healthy housing interventions and opportunities for linking health outcomes to unhealthy housing conditions.
2. Improve surveillance of health hazards inside the home by various public health professionals, such as case managers, inspectors and others whose work involves entry into the home.
3. Increase awareness of and knowledge about healthy housing issues and their impacts on health among the general public, legislatures, and key agencies in the state.
4. Support efforts to ensure that state and federal housing financial programs support healthy housing.
5. Assist the City in the development and rehabilitation of “healthier” housing.

There is no match requirement for this grant.

Sincerely,

Deborah L. Embry, MBA
Grants Facilitator