

MODEL LEAD-SAFE CITY AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF THE PUBLIC ADVOCATE
AND THE CITY OF HACKENSACK

WHEREAS lead poisoning can cause irreversible, life-long, serious harm, including neurological and behavioral problems, developmental disabilities, decreased I.Q., growth problems, hearing loss, coma, and even death; and

WHEREAS lead poisoning is preventable; and

WHEREAS a blood lead test is the only method by which to diagnose a child as lead-poisoned; and

WHEREAS lead based paint that is deteriorating leaves children vulnerable to harmful lead exposure; and

WHEREAS lead can be found in lead based paint, in contaminated dust, soil, water or food items and in certain folk remedies; and

WHEREAS the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention currently have identified 10 micrograms per deciliter of whole blood (ug/dl) as the level of concern for lead poisoning and have acknowledged that there is no safe level of lead in blood; and

WHEREAS Governor Jon S. Corzine has issued Executive Order #100 to address the serious issue of childhood lead poisoning; and

WHEREAS the lead poisoning problem in New Jersey is significant and statewide, but falls most heavily on the poor and on minorities in the State's older urban areas; and

WHEREAS there are approximately 2,916 children under the age of six in the City of Hackensack; and

WHEREAS approximately 82% of Hackensack's housing was built before 1978, when the national ban on the sale of lead paint went into effect, and approximately 33% of the of the housing in Hackensack was built before 1950 when the level of lead in paint was at its highest; and

WHEREAS there are exorbitant medical, educational and social costs associated with lead poisoning;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT
THE CITY OF HACKENSACK
SHALL TAKE THE FOLLOWING STEPS REGARDING
EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH, SCREENING, INSPECTION,
ABATEMENT, RELOCATION, AND GRANTS AND
BECOME A MODEL LEAD-SAFE CITY:**

- I. The City of Hackensack's City Manager shall designate one City Official as the Hackensack Model Lead-Safe City Coordinator ("Coordinator") for all efforts related to the prevention of and response to lead poisoning. The Coordinator shall serve as the point person for all intra-City lead efforts and shall be the liaison with municipal, County, and State agencies, including but not limited to, the Hackensack City Department of Health, the Department of the Public Advocate ("DPA"), the Department of Community Affairs ("DCA"), the Department of Health and Senior Services ("DHSS"), the Department of Education ("DOE"), and the Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP"). The Coordinator shall also collaborate with community-based organizations ("CBOs"), and local hospitals and medical associations that deal with the treatment and prevention of lead poisoning. See Appendix A.
- II. The City of Hackensack ("Hackensack" or "City") shall ensure that educational materials concerning the dangers of lead poisoning and the need for blood lead screening are made available to all Parent Teacher Associations ("PTA"), Parent Teacher Organizations ("PTO"), school nurses, and all families with children in Head Start programs; City- or State-sponsored nursery and pre-schools; and public, private, and charter grammar schools.
- III. In collaboration with child care facilities and local pediatricians, Hackensack shall undertake efforts to increase blood screening rates throughout the City and in any areas where, according to UMDNJ mapping results, children are most at-risk of lead poisoning.
- IV. Hackensack shall contact the DHSS and determine the advisability and feasibility of having additional Health Department inspectors trained to become State licensed lead inspector / risk assessors.
- V. When the Hackensack Department of Health inspectors determine that there is a lead hazard in one unit of a multi-unit dwelling in Hackensack, the City shall notify all residents of the multi-unit dwelling of this risk and urge them to get their children blood screened for lead.
- VI. Hackensack shall continue its current practice of ensuring that a lead inspector/risk assessor is dispatched to a child's home within the DHSS recommended time interval from the date and time of the City having received notification of the child's poisoning.
- VII. Hackensack shall institute a practice of having periodic case management meetings to review all currently active cases of lead poisoned children in the City.
- VIII. Hackensack shall continue to participate in and cooperate with the Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative to promote the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Service's "Wipe Out Lead" program.
- IX. When determining which company is the "lowest responsible bidder" on public contracts for abatement services, Hackensack shall consider quality criteria.
- X. Hackensack shall investigate additional ways to increase its stock of lead-free housing to which families can be temporarily re-located while their homes are being abated. The City will contact, negotiate with, and, if appropriate, enter into

agreements with lead-safe hotels to provide a discounted nightly, weekly, and monthly rate for temporary relocation of lead-burdened children and their families. The City will also explore the desirability and feasibility of offering a tax discount or rebate to participating hotels. Finally, Hackensack shall require, as part of any agreement, that the hotel accept a payment voucher from the State of New Jersey.

- XI. Hackensack shall continue its efforts to use tax records, school records, and other public records to locate dilatory landlords who refuse to comply with abatement orders.
- XII. Hackensack shall, as appropriate, collaborate with CBOs, other non-profit agencies, and cooperating landlords to attempt to secure permanent and temporary relocation housing for families with lead poisoned children.
- XIII. Hackensack shall coordinate with the DCA towards developing an up-to-date list of all lead-safe properties in Hackensack. The City shall ensure that this list is consulted when a family with a lead-burdened child is temporarily or permanently relocated.
- XIV. Hackensack shall review and explore the feasibility of applying for lead grants from, among others, DHSS, DCA, DEP, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and private foundations.
- XV. Hackensack shall provide its prosecutors, and judges who handle lead cases, and representatives of the Planning, Property Maintenance, and Health departments with the opportunity to become more familiar with the issues surrounding lead poisoning, relocation, and abatement and to share ideas for solving identified problems.
- XVI. Hackensack will continue to work with the Bergen-Passaic Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Coalition that provides education, screening, and other services to residents of Hackensack.
- XVII. Hackensack will maintain its status with Medicaid as a registered user and shall apply for reimbursement through Medicaid for lead case management of Medicaid eligible children.

**THEREFORE, THE BELOW-REFERENCED PARTIES
HAVE AGREED UPON THE FOREGOING
MODEL LEAD-SAFE CITY PRINCIPLES
FOR THE CITY OF HACKENSACK
ON THIS 24TH DAY OF OCTOBER, TWO THOUSAND AND EIGHT.**

Michael R. Melfi, Mayor
City of Hackensack

Ronald K. Chen
New Jersey Public Advocate

The City of Hackensack agrees to work cooperatively with the following community partners for the purpose of responding to and preventing childhood lead poisoning in East Orange:

- AMERIGROUP Community Care
- CarePlus Healthy Families – TIP
- Health Awareness Regional Program, Hackensack University Medical Center
- Mount Olive Baptist Church
- North Hudson Community Action Corporation, FQHC
- Northern New Jersey Maternal Child Health Consortium
- Prevent Child Abuse NJ
- St. Anthony of Padua Episcopal Church
- University of Medicine and Dentistry in New Jersey (UMDNJ)
- Wipe Out Lead NJ