

Wisconsin - Impact Statement

In FY2012, the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s lack of funding support for lead poisoning prevention threatens WI children with a drastic reduction in quality of basic services. Specifically, six positions face elimination; capacity to collect and store records, monitor results and provide local assistance will be lost; existing state laws protecting children face rollbacks because there is no capacity to implement the law; education efforts will decline; and data sharing partnerships that provide mutual benefit are in jeopardy. If funding is not restored for the program at CDC in FY2013, there will be no way to treat the existing threat or track a possible resurgence in blood lead levels. The impact of the elimination of CDC's Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program is significant, and WI's children stand to lose significantly. Cuts in funding will severely curtail the successful program WI has worked for over 20 years to build. Now is not the time to dismantle CDC's Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.

- State funding supports 1.4 state positions for the implementation of the statewide program. CDC funds all other positions that conduct the surveillance activities such as importing electronic records, data entry of results not reported electronically, monitoring reporting from laboratories and those using Lead Care II Analyzers, conducting quality assurance processes and data analysis, matching data to assure that high children are identified for testing, and communicating with health care providers, laboratories and other partners.
- WCLPPP has relied on federal funding from CDC to maintain capacity of this comprehensive program. The funding from CDC declined from over \$1.4 million in FY2005 to less than \$600,000 in FY2011. These cuts reduced the amount of funding provided by the State to the high-risk cities of Milwaukee and Racine. Further cuts will reduce WCLPPP's ability to provide support to local communities across the state.
- CDC has funded strategic partnerships to accomplish WI program objectives. WCLPPP helps Medicaid (MA) to ensure compliance with mandated blood lead testing services for MA eligible children. WCLPPP has developed blood lead testing reports for MA providers to determine compliance with the federal mandate for blood lead testing of MA-enrolled children, resulting in an increase in the testing of 20,000 more children annually since 2009. The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program has a very strong partnership with WCLPPP. Of the MA-enrolled children who get a blood lead test, 30% receive their test at the WIC clinic. These children would likely otherwise not receive blood lead testing and without the CDC funding, maintaining these partnerships and sharing data would become much more difficult.
- CDC funds have enabled WI to target scarce resources so communities and property owners can find and fix hazards in high-risk housing before children are severely lead poisoned. CDC supports WI's system to manage and analyze data to provide targeting, mapping and planning for active interventions based on reported data. This system works through strong partnerships developed over more than 20 years. WCLPPP has used these data to help these communities to successfully compete for lead hazard reduction funds from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. DHS has also used these data to identify lead poisoning pockets in smaller cities and local neighborhoods and to target limited HUD resources to fix homes in these high risk smaller communities.

- Over the past 20 years, WI has garnered more than \$40 million in funds from HUD and other agencies for lead hazard reduction. Without the surveillance data provided through this CDC program, the ability to compete for federal funds, track trends in lead poisoning across the state and to identify new high risk areas is greatly hampered.
- CDC funded staff that prevent lead poisoning create other benefits for WI taxpayers. Children protected from lead exposure are less likely to need special education or to be arrested for criminal activity, a significant savings to us all.