

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COALITION TO END CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING RECEIVES \$1 MILLION FROM HUD TO IMPLEMENT HEALTHY HOMES PROGRAM

BALTIMORE, MD (September 14, 2007) Yesterday, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced the Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning as the recipient of a \$1,000,000 Healthy Homes Demonstration Grant. This grant will fund the Coalition's *Safe at Home* (SAH) program to reduce asthma triggers and asthma attacks by addressing multiple hazards within the home.

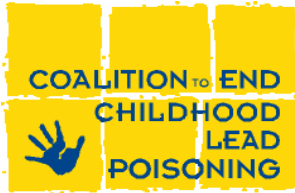
"This grant will allow us to address the *key* environmental health threats in a child's home that can be difference between that child being sick or healthy. This will start us down a path to simultaneously reduce lead and asthma triggers in Baltimore's homes," said Ruth Ann Norton, Executive Director of the Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning.

This funding from HUD will enable the direct intervention into the homes of over 250 Baltimore children already struggling with controlling asthma to provide education, services, and relief. Further, over 5,000 city residents, health-care providers, realtors and housing inspectors will receive education on the benefits of a Healthy Home and ways to maintain their living areas. As a Healthy Homes intervention program, SAH incorporates a holistic approach to remedying home-based environmental hazards. Just as peeling paint increases exposure to lead, indoor allergens and rodent or pest infestation trigger asthma episodes, improper ventilation leads to Carbon Monoxide exposure and so on.

Statewide, Baltimore has the highest rate of asthma related emergency room visits, the highest rate of asthma related hospitalizations, and a shockingly disparate rate of asthma related mortality compared to other areas. This HUD funding will target homes in both East and West Baltimore and create a model for citywide implementation of healthy homes intervention.

Partners for the *Safe at Home* program include: Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene & the Maryland Asthma Control Program, the Baltimore City Health Department's Asthma Program, Coppin State University, Johns Hopkins University, University of Maryland, Baltimore Medical Systems, Total Healthcare and other community focused organizations.

The grant period will begin in October 2007; services will launch in early 2008 and run through 2010. More information about *Safe at Home*, asthma control, and healthy homes intervention will be made available at www.leadSAFE.org.



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Childhood lead poisoning is entirely preventable. Low level exposure may result in learning disabilities, lowered IQ, attention disorders, aggressive and violent behavior, hearing loss, and speech delays. High level lead poisoning can lead to coma, convulsions and even death.

The Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning is a nationally recognized leader, committed to the mission of eliminating childhood lead poisoning by 2010 and creating healthy homes so that children have the opportunity to reach their full potential. Information about the Coalition is available at www.lead-safe.org.

The Coalition's direct services and outreach have provided education to over 3.5 million people and services to thousands of Maryland residents. Innovative programs and landmark policy have been a hallmark of the Coalition's success and continue to drive Maryland's nation-leading push towards elimination. The Coalition recently received a \$2,000,000 grant from HUD's Office of Healthy Homes to support Operation LEAP Baltimore, a program that will make 380 Baltimore properties lead-safe.

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