



Lead Update

RI Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

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Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
www.health.ri.gov/lead

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Rhode Island Healthy Housing Conference

The Rhode Island Department of Health is pleased to announce its Healthy Housing Conference, which will take place on May 1st, 2008 at the Quidnessett Country Club in North Kingstown, RI from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm.

The theme of the conference, "Linking Partners to Healthy Housing," illustrates the goal of this annual meeting: to connect agencies working on health and housing issues and encouraging them to share knowledge and collaborate. This year, we are pleased to have Patrick MacRoy, Executive Director of the Alliance for Healthy Homes as the keynote speaker. Mr. MacRoy will talk about lessons learned from lead poisoning prevention and how we can expand our partnerships to promote healthy housing.

The Director of the RI Department of Health, Dr. David Gifford, is expected to present his vision for healthy housing. He will invite the audience to enhance their efforts towards healthy housing and strengthen their partnerships towards this important goal.

A number of experts have also been invited to participate in a panel discussion about other environmental hazards. A few of the panelists include: June Tourangeau from St. Joseph's Lead Center, who will discuss lead poisoning; Jim Celenza from RICOSH (RI Committee on Occupational Safety and Health), who will talk about carbon monoxide; Lynne Palmisciano, MD, from the Injury Prevention Center at Rhode Island Hospital will present information about injury prevention; Tony DeJesus from RI Pest Control will discuss common household pests, and Fred Aleguas, PharmD, DABT from the Regional Center for Poison Control and Prevention will talk about poisonings and other housing hazards.

An additional segment of the conference is dedicated to engaging attendees in a networking conversation aimed to formulate new partnerships that can promote healthy housing in the future.

Patrick MacRoy from the Alliance for Healthy Homes has also been invited to participate in the Power of Place Summit organized by GrowSmartRI. That event will take place at the RI Convention Center in Providence, on May 2nd, 2008, where Mr. MacRoy will speak about the connection between public health and the built environment. Many supporters and partners of the RI Department of Health's healthy housing initiative have been invited to attend and learn more about the overarching efforts done by the variety of participants in the Power of Place Summit. For more information, please visit the GrowSmartRI website at www.growsmatri.com.

2008 Healthy Housing Awards

At the Healthy Housing Conference on May 1st, seventeen different entities and individuals will be presented with the 2008 Healthy Housing Award in recognition of their efforts in several projects that have promoted healthy housing in Rhode Island. The list of the 2008 awardees is below. Congratulations and thank you for your partnerships!

- Ellen Tohn, in recognition of outstanding work promoting healthy housing practices in RI
- Jim Reed, in recognition of your dedication to improving the health of the Newport Housing Authority residents
- Injury Prevention Center - Julie Bromberg, MPH, in recognition of outstanding work educating nursing students about injury prevention
- Duncan Speel - Woonsocket Housing Authority, in recognition of promoting awareness of the importance of pest control in public housing
- Saint Raphael Academy, in recognition of moving toward healthy housing through "Building Out Radon"
- Providence Housing Authority - Richard Goodison, in recognition of ongoing upgrades of residential units, including the replacement of asbestos
- Regional Center for Poison Control and Prevention Serving Massachusetts and Rhode Island - Children's Hospital Boston, in recognition of promoting awareness of exposure to carbon monoxide
- Marie Padilla, in recognition of outstanding work bringing cultural competence to case management of lead poisoned children
- Rhode Island Legal Services, Brown University Medical School, Roger Williams University/School of Law, Project HEALTH, Hasbro Children's Hospital, in recognition of outstanding work helping families through the Rhode Island Medical - Legal Partnership for Children

Rhode Island Housing and the RI Department of Health will jointly present awards to entities that have promoted green construction practices in two specific projects, as detailed below.

- Pawtucket Citizens Development Corporation and Ed Wojcik Architect Ltd. in recognition of Green, New Building Construction of Callaghan Gardens
- Greater Elmwood Neighborhood Services, Inc., and Donald Powers Architects, Inc., in recognition of Green, Rehabilitation Construction of the Parkis North Elmwood Revitalization Project

Newly released data!

The RI Department of Health has just released the first edition of the *Healthy Housing Databook*, which contains information about some of the environmental hazards in the home for which we have data. The following environmental hazards are included in this report: asbestos, carbon monoxide, contaminated drinking water, lead, mold and radon. Other topics covered in the report include asthma and unintentional injuries. This report also provides steps that the medical and housing communities can take to address healthy housing concerns, as well as steps that individuals can take to make their homes safer and healthier.

Copies of the *Healthy Housing Databook* can be requested by contacting Tammie Smith at 401-222-5945 or tammie.smith@health.ri.gov. This report is also available online at www.health.ri.gov/healthyhousing.

Childhood Lead Poisoning in Rhode Island: The Numbers 2008 Edition is also available online, at www.health.ri.gov/lead.