



COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

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Burlington Lead Program (802) 865-LEAD

Dear Property Owner:

Lead-based paint is a serious health concern and we have a local program that addresses the issues.

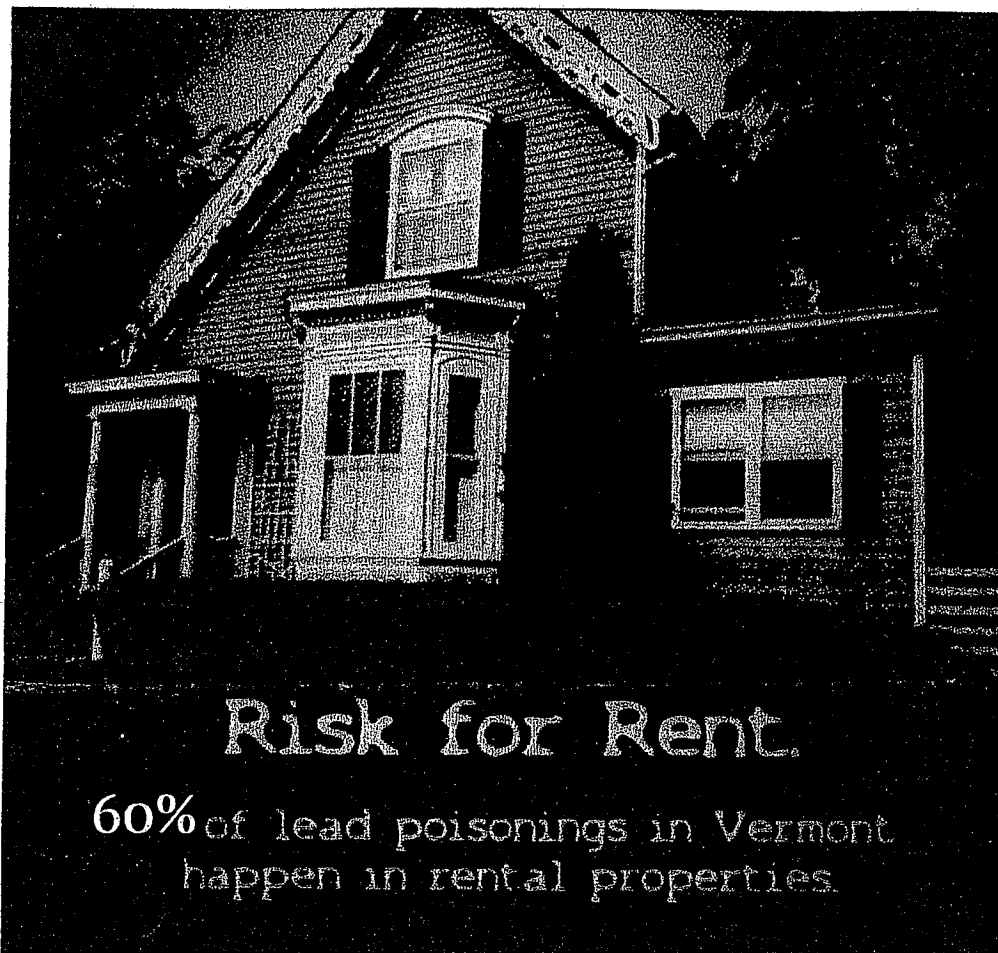
The City of Burlington's Community and Economic Development Office (CEDO) has recently been awarded a \$ 2.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to continue the Burlington Lead Program (BLP). BLP seeks to reduce lead-based paint hazards in the homes of Burlington's low-income residents. Lead poisoning is the number one environmental health threat facing children today. Children exposed to lead-based paint hazards in the early stages of development face lifelong impacts including permanently reduce intelligence, brain damage, learning disabilities, attention disorders, hyperactivity, stunted growth, social and behavior problems along with other health problems. The hazards posed by lead-based paint are found throughout Vermont and are not confined to low-income families or neighborhoods.

This grant will enable CEDO to:

- Reduce lead hazards in at least 180 units of low-income housing over a period of 3 years
- Provide lead safety education and technical assistance
- Conduct public education to raise awareness of lead-based paint hazards
- Sponsor programs to train construction workers, maintenance personnel, and property owners in lead safe work practices
- Provide lead paint safety guides to properly maintain and renovate properties with lead-based paint

Funds are available for Burlington property owners to replace windows and reduce lead-based paint hazards in qualified housing units through grants and interest-free deferred loans.

Typical lead hazard reduction work includes replacement of window sashes, treatment of doors and doorjamb, treatment of window jambs, wells and sills, and paint stabilization of other deteriorated interior and exterior surfaces. To be eligible for the program, tenants must be below 80% median income. The work is paid for by grants and loans provided by BLP. The loans are 0% interest and payment is deferred until sale or transfer of the property. In many instances, 50% of the loan amount can be forgiven.



Free EMP Classes

60% of Vermont's lead poisoning cases occur in rental properties. In response, the Vermont legislature passed Act 165, the "Essential Maintenance Practices" (EMP law) also known as Vermont's Lead Law. The Vermont Lead Law requires that landlords of rental properties and day care facilities built before 1978 take steps to prevent tenants and children from being exposed to lead. The law requires that owners/landlords inspect the condition of paint on their properties and perform Essential Maintenance Practices (EMPs) annually. Landlords/owners and day care providers should pay close attention to this law. It will help to protect you from potential liability but most importantly protect your tenants' health and safety.

The Vermont Legislature and the City of Burlington are in the process of updating the current laws that deal with lead-based paint hazards. The changes being considered to state and local laws are intended to reduce the incidence of childhood lead poisoning. The Burlington Lead Program can help property owners' deal with lead-based paint hazards in their properties before the new laws go into effect.

BLP offers **free** Essential Maintenance Practice classes throughout the year at City Hall. These classes cover the requirements of Vermont's lead-based paint law and related federal regulations as well as the health effects of lead and lead-safe work practices which include maintenance procedures and specialized cleaning techniques.

If you would like an application, to sign up for an EMP class or more information about the Burlington Lead Program please contact Margaret at 865-LEAD (5323), or visit our website www.cedoburlington.org.