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Housing Authority of New Haven

Elm City Communities Awarded \$3.7 million to Reduce Lead-Based Paint Hazards through U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Grant

Efforts Will Target Units Housing Families with Young Children

New Haven, CT (May 19, 2021) - Elm City Communities (ECC) announced today they were awarded \$3.7 million for the abatement of lead paint throughout their properties. The grant, administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), is part of a larger \$51 million program to address lead-based paint in public housing across the country and prioritizes clean up in housing units where families with small children reside.

“Protecting the wellbeing and health of our residents must always be paramount in the work that we do,” **said Shenae Draughn, Interim President of Elm City Communities.** “This award allows us the opportunity to address and formulate actions to focus on the health and safety of our families, especially those with younger children. We are excited to use this funding to solidify our dedication to both our work and the families we serve.”

ECC plans to begin remediation work sometime in the next three months following several requests issued for proposals to hire contractors to do that lead paint hazard abatement work at Scattered Site, roughly 150 units of public housing homes across the city.

“In order to be healthy, it’s important to have a healthy home,” **said HUD Secretary Marcia L. Fudge.** “Protecting families with young children from lead and other health hazards is an important part of HUD’s mission, and we don’t take it lightly. It is also a matter of environmental justice, and HUD is committed to President Biden’s directive to prioritize environmental justice and equity for disadvantaged communities.”

Lead exposure can have many negative effects on young children, including reduced IQ, learning disabilities, developmental delays, reduced height, and impaired hearing. At higher levels, lead can damage a child's kidneys and central nervous system, and can even be deadly. Despite being banned from residential usage in 1978, HUD estimates that about 24 million older homes still have significant

lead-based paint hazards today. In this third round of grants, HUD has awarded \$46.1 million to 51 grantees, to make approximately 4,610 units lead safe.

Housing authorities in Connecticut received a total grant amount of \$5.6 million. Along with Elm City Communities, the housing authority of Bristol also was awarded funding. Since 1993, HUD has awarded more than \$1.58 billion in grants to communities for identification and control of lead-based paint hazards in over 190,000 low-income privately-owned housing units.

To learn more about ECC/HANH visit www.elmcitycommunities.org.

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Elm City Communities/Housing Authority of New Haven (ECC/HANH) is the public housing agency serving the City of New Haven. We serve over 6,100 families and over 14,000 individuals through our public housing, housing choice voucher and low-income housing tax credit programs. Through our affordable housing programs, residents pay no more than 30% of their income toward their housing expenses. Families are supported in reaching their life goals through a full array of supportive services that lead to the increased income, entrepreneurship, education attainment, homeownership and more. Elm City Communities is committed to expanding access to affordable housing services and to ensuring that these services are available in every community.