

Trenton receives \$2M federal grant to remove leaded paint from older homes



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TRENTON >> With many Trenton homes being tainted with dangerous lead-based paint, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on Monday awarded the capital city with more than \$2 million in funding that will help eradicate the toxic element from dozens of Trenton households.

The city was awarded a \$1.96 million Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration federal grant and \$194,445 in Healthy Homes Supplemental funding to address lead hazards in 145 low-income housing units where children reside, according to federal officials.

“Under no circumstance should New Jersey families be forced to jeopardize their health or the health of their children due to dangerous levels of lead in their homes,” New Jersey U.S. Sen. Cory Booker said Monday in a statement. “This federal funding is critical to helping cities like Newark and Trenton take the necessary steps to protect New Jersey families.”

New Jersey U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez on Monday expressed similar sentiments in a statement, saying, “We need to do everything we can to protect New Jersey children and families from the dangers of lead exposure in the home.”

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Trenton and 14 other public entities across the nation, including the city of Newark, received federal grant awards Monday to help make older homes lead-free.

“I am grateful to Senators Booker and Menendez and Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman for securing funding to abate lead paint from these homes,” Trenton Mayor Eric Jackson said Monday in a statement. “Lead paint has remained a long-term scourge in older housing stock, causing behavior and learning problems in children who are more susceptible to harm even in small amounts.”

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in a post on its website, said “lead is particularly dangerous to children because their growing bodies absorb more lead than adults do and their brains and nervous systems are more sensitive to the damaging effects of lead.”

The EPA says lead can affect almost every organ and system in the human body and that children 6 and younger are most susceptible to the effects of lead. Low levels of lead in the blood of children can result in behavior and learning problems, lower IQ and hyperactivity, slowed growth, hearing problems and anemia, according to the EPA.

In 1978, the federal government banned consumer uses of lead-containing paint, but [most of the houses in Trenton](#) were built before then.

Now that Trenton has been awarded more than \$2 million to help address the problem, the city and its Division of Health will be working with Isles Inc. and grass roots organizations such as A Better Way and the Neighborhood Improvement Association to ensure lead-based paint gets removed from low-income housing units where children reside.