



Tarrant County Housing Partnership, Inc.

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National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week is Oct. 20-26, 2013

Lead Safe Kids Community Celebration:

Sat. Oct. 26 at Carroll Peak Elementary School, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Applications are still open for City of Fort Worth's Lead Safe Program, providing free abatement and assistance for at-risk households

Low-income families living in older Fort Worth homes can still apply for assistance through the City of Fort Worth's [Lead Safe Program](#), but are encouraged to do so soon since funding for the HUD grant-supported program will end by 2015. The funding provides income-eligible households with free home inspections, risk assessments and lead hazard reduction services.

Launched earlier this year, the **Lead Safe Program** is managed by the **City of Fort Worth** in collaboration with **Tarrant County Housing Partnership**. The organizations have teamed up to help families living in homes built before 1978 with lead-based paint hazards, and to increase awareness of the importance of lead-safe living environments.

In conjunction with [National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week](#) (Oct. 20-26), TCHP, the City and **Morningside Children's Partnership** are hosting a Lead Safe Kids Community Celebration in Fort Worth's Morningside/Hillside neighborhood (at Carroll Peak Elementary School) on **Sat., Oct. 26, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

The event will feature free flu shots and lead paint screening information for kids, community resource booths, hot dogs and family-friendly activities. [Learn more.](#)

"This is a wonderful opportunity for families to enjoy themselves at an outdoor event and gain free health services and information," said Donna Van Ness, TCHP's president.

"We're especially excited about the chance to conduct outreach to families who are living in one of Fort Worth's oldest neighborhoods, where most of the homes were built in the 1920's," she continued. "Many of them may be at risk for lead paint contamination, which is extremely dangerous for younger children. So it's important that they are aware of the city's free program before the funding deadline."

“The application, inspection and abatement process can be somewhat lengthy, so we’re hoping that families who think they might be at risk will begin to apply as soon as possible,” she added.

Lead Paint Poisoning Facts:

Lead is a metal that’s highly toxic when it enters the human body through breathing, eating or drinking. It’s especially dangerous to children aged five and under because their bodies tend to absorb lead more easily than adults and older children.

Because lead was commonly used in house paint, until it was banned for residential use in 1978, many older homes in our community are still contaminated. Lead-based paint becomes a hazard when old paint flakes, chips or turns to dust, or is shaken loose through home renovation activities, leading to the presence of contaminated dust on surfaces throughout a home. Potential outcomes of lead poisoning in children include speech, language and behavior problems, reduced IQ development, slower growth and hearing loss.

Fort Worth’s [Lead-Safe Program](#) free services include:

- Lead-based paint home inspections/risk assessments.
- Blood testing of children under six for lead levels.
- Repainting of interior and exterior services.
- Specialized cleaning techniques to address lead dust.
- Replacement, repair, stabilization of hazardous lead-contaminated doors, windows and siding, etc.
- Treatment of contaminated dirt around the home.

To qualify for the program, the home must have been built before 1978 and be located within Fort Worth city limits; a child under six must live in the home or spend significant time there; and the household income cannot exceed set limits (\$55,350 for a family of four, for example).

To apply for assistance:

Fort Worth residents who live in a home built before 1978 are encouraged to contact Tarrant County Housing Partnership at 817.924.5091 or at www.tchp.net to learn more about income eligibility and other program requirements.

About Tarrant County Housing Partnership:

Tarrant County Housing Partnership, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to making the American dream of homeownership a reality for low and moderate income families. Our mission is to revitalize distressed neighborhoods and increase the amount of quality, affordable housing for low to moderate income families and people with special housing needs.