

**Biddeford’s Safe & Affordable Homes for Healthy Families (SAHHF) Program
Project Summary Abstract**

1. Applicant Table

Applicant Type	Renewing
Type of Jurisdiction	≤ 3,500 occupied rental housing units
Complete Target Area	Downtown Census Tracts 252.03, 252.04, 252.05, 252.06
Lead Funding Request	\$3,192,210
Healthy Homes Funding Request	\$361,875.00
Match Commitment	\$467,127
Total Lead-Safe Units Proposed	95
Total Healthy Homes Interventions Proposed	70

2. Program Summary:

The City of Biddeford, Maine will continue the *Safe & Affordable Homes for Healthy Families* (SAHHF) program to make an additional 95 low-income rental units lead safe and conduct an additional 95 lead and Healthy Homes risk assessments in the city’s downtown census tracts. SAHHF builds upon the foundational successes of its previous Lead Hazard Reduction and Healthy Homes Grant (#MELHB0717-19). The new grant includes 2.9 100%-funded FTEs to help Biddeford better address the needs of at-risk and lead-poisoned low-income households while also fine-tuning a coordinated approach with the city’s Multifamily Life Safety Inspection Program to improve both public health and housing conditions within the oldest inventory of rental housing. SAHHF will continue to address needs identified in the city’s HUD CDBG 5-Year Consolidated Plan and the 2022 Action Plan by providing funding to qualified multifamily rental properties with identified lead-based paint hazards and critical life safety concerns.

Biddeford now ranks 3rd in the state as a High-Risk Area designated by the Maine Center for Disease Control (CDC) for having the greatest burden of children with lead poisoning. In 2020, approximately 535 children under age 6 were living in the target area, where 78% of occupied rental housing was built before 1978, nearly 40% of multifamily rental units were built prior to 1940, and 74% of the population is low income. Among residents under the age of 3 who were screened between 2016 and 2020, an estimated 51 (or 4.6%) tested positive for lead poisoning (blood lead level ≥ 5 ug/dL). The condition of the city’s 663 multifamily housing structures with 3 or more units remains a contributing factor: Only 79 (or 12%) of these structures are in full code compliance.

For its second OLHCHH grant, Biddeford requests \$3,192,210 in lead hazard reduction grant dollars and \$361,875 in Healthy Homes funding, for a total of \$3,554,085.69. The City will commit \$467,127 (15%) of in-kind operations expense and CDBG and local housing rehabilitation funding as grant match. SAHHF will further its partnership with Coastal Healthy Communities Coalition (CHCC) at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine for public health outreach. Additional SAHHF partners include: the Maine CDC’s Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, Maine’s Department of Environmental Protection, the Biddeford Ready! coalition (with leadership from the United Way, Biddeford

School Department, Women Infants and Children, Head Start, Child Development Services, healthcare providers, and other child-serving agencies), the Chamber of Commerce, the local Realtors Association, the area Property Owners Association, individual property owners, and other interested community members.

Program Goals: In its new 4-year period of performance SAHHF will:

- Conduct lead and Healthy Homes risk assessments in 95 multifamily units;
- Perform grant-funded lead hazard reduction work in 75 multifamily units, with an additional 20 units made lead-safe using City CDBG and local housing rehab match funding;
- Perform Healthy Homes interventions in 70 program units;
- Deliver 95 Lead-Safe Cleaning Kits to affected households to prevent re/exposure to new lead hazards over time;
- Continue its public health outreach and education events targeting City residents;
- Increase the pool of certified Maine lead professionals by an additional 45 individuals; and
- Increase the supply of State-licensed lead abatement firms by 4 via free training & mentorship programs for new lead-certified contractors.

Community Outreach & 1:1 Household Support: In partnership with CHCC and other community stakeholders, SAHHF will continue to promote its lead hazard-reduction services, inform at-risk households about the dangers of deteriorated lead paint, and engage the public in how to best create, access, and maintain healthy, lead-safe housing. A new grant-funded 1.0 FTE Community Liaison position will work directly with at-risk & child-poisoned households to assure they: understand the benefits of the LHR program; receive support to complete program applications and the income-eligibility phase; obtain needed referrals to health, social, and emotional supports; enjoy a stress-free temporary relocation; and help their children avoid re/exposure to lead hazards while the household awaits the start of the lead abatement work.

Job Development and Economic Opportunity: In addition to improving the condition of its aging downtown housing stock, SAHHF is committed to Section 3 compliance via investments in the lives and futures of our residents. The new grant will fund free Lead Worker training and certification courses to create career opportunities for an additional 45 individuals and increase local lead contractor capacity by delivering free business training to 4 individuals/contractors who wish to become State-licensed lead abatement firms. SAHHF will additionally link trainees to job development programs through the State of Maine Workforce Development Program.

Closer Collaboration with Code Enforcement: SAHHF is committed to integrating its lead hazard reduction and Healthy Homes interventions on the City's code enforcement efforts in multifamily complexes of 3 or more units. A new fully grant-paid 1.0 FTE Lead Program Assistant will focus, among other things, on using code inspection data to help engage property owners in a discussion about how SAHHF funding can help them achieve life safety compliance while also reducing or preventing childhood lead poisoning.

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