



Testimony to retain funding for Hartford Regional Lead Treatment Center and the Yale Regional Lead Treatment Center

RE: Governor's proposed Deficit Mitigation Plan

December 9th, 2009

Good afternoon, Co-Chairs Sen. Toni Harp and Rep. John Geragosian and Appropriations Committee Members,

My name is Amy McLean Salls and I am the Project Coordinator of the LAMPP Program and the Executive Director of the Connecticut Citizen Research Group. I am speaking to appeal to the legislature to spare cuts to the two regional lead treatment centers in CT. These programs work hand in hand with the HUD funded LAMPP project. They house the outreach staff that go into the homes and work with the families and landlords who participate in the LAMPP project. They help to house the families who have to relocate during the remediation work to rid the home of lead hazards. This is a HUD requirement and without relocation of occupants the rehab work cannot be completed. LAMPP has received three rounds of HUD funding to the tune of over 18.6 million dollars and has remediated lead paint in over 1,135 housing units to date. The Lead Treatment Centers are main partners of the LAMPP program.

However, there is more, beyond working closely with the LAMPP project the Regional Treatment Centers are also a very good investment because they do community outreach and lead poisoning awareness statewide. While budgets are shrinking in towns and municipalities, so is their ability to do these very basic public health activities. Prevention, in lead poisoning health issue is the only way to stop the neurological damage in children. Information and education is the gateway to the eradication of childhood lead poisoning. To defund these centers would be to squelch the collaboration that has resulted in numerous and measurable victories in the fight against childhood lead poisoning in the state of CT. Results such as universal lead screening, lowering the regulatory action level for health departments to act for the health of the family and the housing unit, creation of a curriculum for the Education of Educators on lead poisoning and make it available to all, thousands of families and communities educated and trained in lead poisoning prevention, and last but not least, the relocation of families to thousands of lead safe housing units. These results cannot and are not achieved by one organization or department alone. These are achieved by the people and organizations that have been working together now for 15 years. We are still there fighting for results and making our children lead safe....forever. Don't send us backward with these cuts....it is just not worth it in the long run. Thanks and please consider this before you make this very important decision.

Thank you,

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LAMPP works in the following communities:

East Haven, Bridgeport, Danbury, Enfield, Hartford, Manchester, Meriden, New Britain, New Haven, Norwalk, Stamford, Torrington, Waterbury West Haven

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