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CITY'S LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM HONORED FOR REACHING OUT TO CHILDREN WITH CHRONIC LEAD LEVELS *Public Health Program is One of 29 Nationwide to Receive "Model Practices Award"*

Milwaukee –The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) honored the City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) today for implementing a program that demonstrates exemplary and replicable qualities in response to a local public health need. The *Chronic Lead Poisoning Team Intervention Program* is one of 29 local public health programs selected from across the nation to receive NACCHO's Model Practices Award.

The focus of the *Chronic Lead Poisoning Team Intervention Program* is to target a subset of children with chronically elevated blood lead levels. That is, children whose lead levels remained elevated for months and in some cases years despite the multi-faceted and comprehensive interventions provided by the MHD's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.

"The Team Intervention was developed to provide special, intensive services to these highest risk families. Preliminary research results show that these children's lead levels are decreasing at a significant rate compared to children with similar risk factors who are not part of the special services," said, Amy Murphy, Home Environmental Health Manager.

A committee of peers selected the winners from a group of 79 local public health agency applicants. The Model Practices Awards program honors initiatives – including programs, resources and tools – that demonstrate how local public health agencies and their community partners can effectively collaborate to address local public health concerns. The *Chronic Lead Poisoning Team Intervention Program* will become part of an online database of successful public health practices in areas ranging from immunization and maternal and child health to infectious diseases and emergency preparedness. The database will allow NACCHO to share information about what is working across the country in local public health.

"We are proud to receive NACCHO's Model Practices Award. The award is evidence of our commitment to develop responsive and innovative public health programs which improve the health of Milwaukee citizens," said, Bevan K. Baker, CHE, Acting Health Commissioner.

For more information on the MHD's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program visit www.milwaukee.gov/health. For more information about the NACCHO Model Practices Awards, visit www.naccho.org.