

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Local CLEARCorps Program to Receive Federal Funds to Make Homes Healthy for Children**

GRAND RAPIDS – The Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan, via the national CLEARCorps USA, will be receiving a share of \$443,000 in AmeriCorps funding to continue its work of making homes safe for children in the Grand Rapids area. To date, national funding has supported four years of CLEARCorps action in Grand Rapids, the past three years hosted by the Healthy Homes Coalition.

The Healthy Homes Coalition has served 811 low-income families with children with its CLEARCorps program since January 2007. Services provided by the local CLEARCorps program include environmental controls for lead hazards and asthma triggers, integrated pest management, radon testing, and the installation of smoke and CO alarms. Controls are designed to be affordable for low-income families and often involve sweat equity and commonsense solutions rather than expensive repairs.

“This renewed federal funding will allow the Healthy Homes Coalition to serve another 100 families during the next 12 months,” said Paul Haan, Healthy Homes Coalition Executive Director. “The more we do this work, the more we see how providing straightforward family support can make the difference between a child being healthy or a child being lead poisoned or missing school because of uncontrollable asthma.”

The federal support, combined with local match dollars, will allow the Healthy Homes Coalition to engage four full-time AmeriCorps workers to conduct community outreach and education and to help deliver services. Federal support will also leverage other program funding and in-kind contributions to conduct activities such as testing homes for radon and installing carbon monoxide alarms and smoke detectors.

For more information on the Healthy Homes Coalition, visit [www.HealthyHomesCoalition.org](http://www.HealthyHomesCoalition.org)

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CLEARCorps USA media release attached.

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## **CLEARCorps USA Awarded New AmeriCorps Funding. Grant Allows Expanded Programs in Lead Abatement and Lead Poisoning**

CLEARCorps USA, a national nonprofit organization committed to preventing childhood lead poisoning and educating families and communities towards healthier housing was awarded an AmeriCorps grant for the 15th consecutive year. CLEARCorps will receive \$443,000 to conduct lead abatement work and to work with families whose children are at risk of lead poisoning in each of the eleven CLEARCorps sites where CLEARCorps partners with community groups.

“The confidence demonstrated in CLEARCorps USA by this generous AmeriCorps grant inspires us to continue this important work that affects the lives of families and children everyday in our country,” said Executive Director Sue Gunderson. “With financial support like this we’ve been able to give children a healthier, safer home and help families confront the risks and impact lead poisoning poses for their children.”

CLEARCorps is a nationwide AmeriCorps program with a national network of 11 Affiliates throughout the country. CLEARCorps corpsmembers work in such diverse areas as Providence, Rhode Island, where they are engaged in the Healthy Kids Collaborative (HKC) program that is making up to 600 units lead safe for children and their families to Seattle, where CLEARCorps corpsmembers work in the international community and conduct in-home environmental health assessments.

In Idaho, one of the nation’s largest superfund sites, CLEARCorps corpsmembers working with the Silver Valley Community Resource Center help to educate the community about environmental dangers on a daily basis for those affected by lead exposure and other environmental hazards. This area, long known for its environmental problems, was recently the focus of a study conducted by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

To learn more about CLEARCorps USA, visit [www.clearcorps.org](http://www.clearcorps.org).

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