Eliminating Lead Poisoning in Underserved Rural Communities in the United States
Lead-Safe Work Practices Training

National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH) and Cooperative Extension in:

- Alabama
- Georgia
- Louisiana
- Mississippi
- Montana
National Center for Healthy Housing

- 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation based in Columbia, MD
- Develops practical cost-effective techniques to protect children from residential environmental hazards
- National Healthy Homes Training Center partnership with Cooperative Extension
Environmental Health and Housing Programs

- Family and Consumer Sciences
- HUD-approved Lead Safe Work Practice trainings for contractors and consumers
Why are these trainings important?

- Homes built before 1978 may contain lead-based paint.
- Remodeling and renovation jobs can create dust and paint chips that contain lead.
- Most common cause of lead poisoning is dust from deteriorating paint from older housing
- If a home contains lead paint, it is important to work lead-safe to protect workers and others from lead poisoning.
Who is at risk from lead?

- Lead is a neurotoxin
- Most vulnerable
  - Babies
  - Young children
  - Pregnant women and their unborn babies
How does lead affect health?

- **Children**
  - Brain damage
  - Decreased IQ
  - Lifelong learning and behavior problems
  - Slowed growth
  - Hearing loss

- **Adults**
  - High blood pressure
  - Fatigue
  - Reproductive problems
  - Loss of sex drive
At-risk populations

- Lead paint hazards are especially high in older, low-income housing
- 16% of low-income children living in older housing are lead poisoned
- 80% of children receiving Medicaid have high blood lead levels
What Is Being Done About Lead?

- **Ban in Residential Housing**
  - Lead-based paint was banned from residential use in 1978

- **Pre-Renovation Education Rule**
  - Contractors must distribute a pamphlet

- **Disclosure Rule**
  - Buyers/renters receive information about lead

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**National Center for Healthy Housing**

**Healthy Homes Training Center**
Recent legislation

- Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule (RRP) March, 2008
  - Requires contractor certification in HUD-approved lead safe work practices when working on pre-1978 housing
  - Cooperative Extension working with NCHH to teach these courses
HUD Projects

- HUD has funded lead paint hazard control grants to address reduction of lead in housing stock in the past decade
- Exist in 200 cities across the country
- However, rural areas have not been adequately addressed
- NCHH applied and received EPA grant to reach out to rural areas and partnered with Extension to deliver
Outreach Strategies

- Place articles in county newspapers and newsletters;
- Talk to local community leaders;
- Contact local organizations;
- Appear on local radio and TV shows;
- Put information on state and county websites; and
- Health and civic fairs.
Extension Service Partners

Typical partners:

- Health Department
- Local builders/remodelers
- Community groups
Successful Outreach

**Louisiana**: Partnership with ACORN

**Montana**: Indian Housing Authority and Health Service.

**Alabama**: AU School of Building Sciences
A Model for Success

- Tradition of research-based informal education to all citizens in a state
- Established infrastructure (staff, funding)
- Extensive grassroots relationships
- Frequent partnering with local groups
- Commitment to evaluation
Anticipated Project Results

- Project goes to February 2009
- 2,000 do-it-yourselfers
- 280 contractors
- 50 extension staff trained
- Continued results after grant ends
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