



**Pedro E. Segarra**  
**Mayor**

## **HARTFORD RECEIVES ALMOST \$4.5 MILLION TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM LEAD POISONING**

### **---NEWS AND COMMUNITY RELEASE---**

(January 14, 2011) --- Hartford children will be better protected from the dangers of lead-based paint thanks to almost \$4.5 million in grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Lead is a known toxin that can impair children's development and have effects lasting into adulthood. Other materials in the home can trigger allergic responses and asthma.

"Protecting the health and welfare of our youngest and most vulnerable residents is essential," said Hartford Mayor Pedro E. Segarra. "These grants will help protect our families against significant health and safety hazards. A Healthy Hartford starts with healthy and safe homes."

"Making homes safe for Hartford children has always been a top priority of our department. This grant will expand our reach exponentially and make a great difference in the lives of children who deserve nothing less," stated Carlos Rivera, Director of the Hartford Department of Health and Human Services.

The City of Hartford received more assistance than any other Connecticut city. Lead paint is often found in older homes--- those residences built before 1978.

Through these grants, HUD promotes local efforts to eliminate dangerous lead hazards from lower income homes; stimulate private sector investment in lead hazard control; and, educate the public about the dangers of lead-based paint. Lead-contaminated dust is the primary cause of lead exposure and can lead to a variety of health problems in young children, including reduced IQ, learning disabilities, developmental delays, reduced height, and impaired hearing. At higher levels, lead can damage a child's kidneys and central nervous system and cause anemia, coma, convulsions and even death.