

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 20, 2016

The Honorable Julian Castro
Secretary
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street SW
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Secretary Castro:

As members of the Arizona Congressional delegation we write to urge your full and fair consideration of the City of Tucson's Lead Based Paint Hazard Control (LBPHC) and Healthy Home Grant Application.

The City of Tucson is requesting \$2.9 million from the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Lead Hazard Control to implement a \$2.5 million Lead Based Paint Hazard Control (LBPHC) Program and a \$400,000 Healthy Homes Program within Tucson City limits.

Based on national and statewide statistics, Tucson has a well-documented and disproportionate burden for eliminating childhood lead poisoning as a major public health problem. Tucson is the fifth poorest city of the nation's largest metropolitan areas. Poverty is a major risk factor in lead poisoning; therefore lead poisoning is a significant health threat. The Arizona Department of Health Services (AHS) has identified 21 zip codes in the Tucson area where children are at high risk of lead poisoning. Approximately 70 percent of Tucson lies within a high-risk zip code. There are, 40,668 children under the age of six in the City of Tucson, 13,768 of who live in low-to moderate income areas in homes constructed prior to 1978. Prevention, control, abatement and remediation of lead based paint hazards in areas of high risk such as Tucson is essential to reducing the occurrence of childhood lead poisoning.

This proposal builds off of previous experience administering two 3-year LBPHC programs, existing partnerships with community-based non-profits, certified contractors and local health organizations; and the in-house expertise of six (6) EPA certified Lead Inspectors/Risk Assessors on staff with the City of Tucson Housing and Community Development Department (HCD).

The City of Tucson's proposed LBPHC Program incorporates multi-faceted, bilingual outreach with an emphasis on areas of poverty and minority concentration and prioritization of eligible households already on the City's existing Housing Rehabilitation Program waiting list. Tucson's proposed program will cost-effectively and comprehensively address the issue of childhood lead poisoning through a balanced, integrated strategy that combines intervention and prevention.

The cost-effective and comprehensive community benefit of the program will be demonstrated by three major activities. Direct assistance will be provided to an estimated 180 vulnerable households including intervention, stabilization, abatement, healthy housing repairs, and post

intervention follow-up. The grant will lead to a coordinated inter-agency referral system for testing and lead hazard controls. Finally, the partnership will launch; a community-wide education campaign that builds capacity and relationships among residents and agencies for an overall beneficiary impact on health.

A secondary benefit that will be realized with the implementation of the program is the inclusion of data generated through the program to further refine the Southwest Fair Housing Council (SWFHC) "local opportunity index" database, a tool for focusing future planning and investment to address identified needs related to housing and health.

We strongly believe that this proposal has significant merit and deserves your fullest attention. Please let us know if you have any questions.

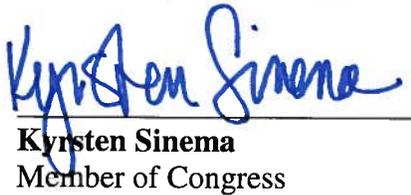
Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress