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Mayor Fulop Announces Additional \$689,000 Awarded to Prevent Lead Exposure for Jersey City Children

The grant will allow for the City's to expand lead testing for children up to the age of 17

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Steven M. Fulop announced today that Jersey City has been awarded a \$689,000 for the Childhood Lead Exposure Prevention (CLEP) Project. This award is in addition to the \$198,000 that the City has received in the past to operate this lead prevention program, representing a 247% increase in funding to the city for this cause.

The grant will allow for the City's to expand lead testing for children up to the age of 17, whereas the original grant only covered up to 5 years old.

“Our ultimate goal is to protect Jersey City residents, which can be accomplished in a variety of ways,” said Mayor Fulop. “This grant will allow us to expand our current lead prevention program, helping us to provide prevention and intervention for lead exposure, in addition to education our communities about the dangers of lead exposure.”

The City has been operating a lead prevention program since 1977. To date, the program has tested over 50,000 children. According to the Childhood Lead Exposure in New Jersey Annual Report for the state fiscal year 2016, 56.6% of the 7,192 Jersey City children ages six months to 26 months were screened for Blood Lead Level (BLL).

A total of 166 children screened were identified as having a Blood Lead Level greater than or equal to 5 µg/dL, about a quarter of whom were identified as having an Elevated Blood Lead Level (EBLL), defined as a BLL greater than or equal to 10 µg/dL.

This additional grant funding will allow for the City to provide nurse-based education in a variety of languages to the families with children of a Blood Lead Level (BLL) of 5 µg/dL, allowing for early prevention and intervention strategies, as opposed to previous threshold that treated children with a BLL of over 14 µg/dL.

The project The funding will come from the NJDOH, Division of Family Health Services (FHS), and Child and Adolescent Health Program (CAHP). The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) is a part of the

Bureau of Healthy Homes within the Jersey City Division of Health. The Bureau consists of five (5) staff members: a nurse supervisor, two registered nurses/case managers, and two Lead Inspector/Risk Assessors (Environmental Specialists).

All media inquiries should be directed to Hannah Peterson at HPeterson@jcnj.org or 732-881-1209.