



OFFICE OF HEALTHY HOMES AND
LEAD HAZARD CONTROL

Status Report Big Buy Reimbursement Program

- Congress set aside \$2 million of the OHHLHC's FY 2008 lead technical studies funds for the Big Buy program.
- *most that need assessments* → Of the ~4,400 properties that requested Big Buy risk assessments, ~4,000 were eligible, and ~2,200 had risk assessments or withdrew the request, leaving 1,765 properties identified as eligible in September 2008. Doing all of them would exceed the funding, so the OHHLHC, in partnership with the Office of Multifamily Housing, developed a strategy to cover the costs of risk assessments in high-priority properties
- Strategy:
 - Properties are selected on the basis of the exposure risk, with priority for older housing with low REAC physical assessment inspection scores.
 - Owners of other properties will be advised to pay for the risk assessments, such as from their housing assistance payments, as required by the Rule.
- Implementation approach:
 - The OHHLHC contracted competitively with two environmental contractors for this program.
 - One will conduct a quality assurance review of the reports.
 - The other will reimburse the owners.
 - Owners of properties selected will have until September 30, 2009, to have a certified lead risk assessor perform the risk assessment and submit the report for reimbursement. The OHHLHC, through its quality assurance contractor, will verify the quality of the risk assessment reports, and then reimburse owners of properties. Unacceptable reports will be returned to the owners, who will be given two opportunities to have the reports revised.
- Status:
 - Property prioritization, based on Multifamily's March 11, 2009, list, has been completed. The September list was filtered to remove properties which were built after 1977, had been assessed, are exempt, receive less than \$5000 assistance per unit per year, or are inactive. This yields 309 remaining eligible properties.
 - Invitations to 75 properties were mailed March 24, 2009. This included all 59 pre-1960 properties and 16 1960-1969 properties with REAC scores below 80.
 - Based on owner responses, 29 properties have been sent information on completing the risk assessment, the report submittal process and how to be reimbursed.
 - Invitations went out to 46 additional owners on May 11, 2009. This included the remaining 29 1960-1969 properties and 17 1970-1977 properties with REAC scores below 64 *(June 11 deadline)*
- Next Steps:
 - Mail letters to owners who have not been invited, with their instructions for action.
 - Review second-wave responses, including verifying eligibility and providing property information to the OHHLHC's contractors.
 - Mail information letters to all additional owners who accept the invitations.
 - Mail out additional invitations, if funds are still available after reviewing responses.