



February 22, 2017

Tim English  
Regional Administrator  
USDA-FNS-MWRO  
77 West Jackson Blvd., 20th Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Mr. English:

RE: Lead Testing in East Chicago and Hammond WIC clinics

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) is renewing its request to U.S. Department of Agriculture for authorization to use WIC funds to pay for staff time to conduct blood lead screening of clients in the East Chicago and Hammond WIC clinics in accordance with the emergency declaration issued February 9, 2017, by Indiana Governor Eric J. Holcomb.

Both of these clinics serve children and pregnant women living in Zones 1, 2 and 3 (hereinafter "Affected Area") of the USS Lead federal Superfund site, where elevated levels of lead have been found in the soil and tests by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have indicated lead in some drinking water.

Since July, ISDH has offered more than 30 lead testing clinics in cooperation with the East Chicago Health Department. However, these testing blitzes have reached only a portion of the vulnerable population. The WIC clinics in East Chicago and Hammond are in a unique position to help increase lead testing because they serve thousands of affected residents in the most vulnerable age groups each month.

ISDH originally requested WIC assistance with lead testing on September 12, 2016. The State has continued to work with partners to deal with the situation in East Chicago, and now that Governor Holcomb has declared an emergency declaration for the Superfund Site, this declaration is needed. As stated previously, ISDH would provide testing supplies. WIC funds would only be utilized for clinic staff's time conducting the initial testing.

Thank you for your consideration. I respectfully request a timely response given the urgency of the situation.

Sincerely,

JEROME M. ADAMS, MD, MPH  
STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER