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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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County Lead Prevention Program Aids Contractors With New EPA Regulations

Contractors in Oneida County working under new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations concerning lead safe work practices are being offered a free seminar designed to familiarize them with the new requirements and provide them the opportunity to participate in the *Contractors' Connections* program.

“Oneida County, through its Lead Primary Prevention initiative, is pleased to participate in this public-private collaboration providing area contractors free lead training and the opportunity to expand their business opportunities,” Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente, Jr. said. Picente added, “This program provides a critical service when one considers that 13% of all lead poisoning cases reported in Oneida County annually are related to unsafe renovations to houses with lead-based paints. I urge area contractors to participate.”

The program is a collaborative effort between the county's Lead Primary Prevention Program and Environmental Education Associates and will be held on **Wednesday, January 7th from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM** at the Keller Building of the Neighborhood Center at 616 Mary Street in Utica. Among the topics to be discussed are the EPA's regulations introduced in 2008 requiring all contractors receive training and provide customers with informational materials on lead safe work practices prior to beginning renovations on pre-1978 housing in which lead based paints were commonly used.

The Contractors' Connection Program, offered through a LEAP expansion grant, invites participants to take part in a two day business seminar on January 21st and 22nd providing information on expanding their businesses by learning how to apply for lead abatement government contracts, prepare bid specifications and how to set up monitoring and safety programs related to lead abatement. Additionally, contractors who participate are eligible for free lead training for their staff, free lead abatement supervisor training, free risk assessment, free lab sampling and rebates of up to \$5,000 for each lead related job.

To register for the seminar call 266-6147. Contractors may obtain copies of the EPA pamphlet *'Renovate Right'* in English or Spanish by logging onto the county's website at www.ocgov.net and clicking on Lead Recalls and Information.