



At a Glance

Why We Did This Review

In November 2012, we received a hotline complaint on funds utilization for work done by Region 8 Senior Environmental Employment (SEE) program grantees to address lead-based paint programs. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 8 office jointly implements lead-based paint programs in two program offices, each with SEE assistance. After preliminary fact finding on the merits of the complaint, we opened an assignment to determine the extent to which the two offices have work plans on agreed-to SEE activities and a methodology for SEE funding.

This report addresses the following EPA themes:

- *Taking action on toxics and chemical safety.*
- *Embracing EPA as a high performing organization.*

For further information, contact our public affairs office at (202) 566-2391.

The full report is at:
www.epa.gov/oig/reports/2013/20130924-13-P-0430.pdf

Implementation Plan With Cost Sharing Methodology Needed for Region 8 Senior Environmental Employee Work on Lead Risk Reduction

What We Found

The two Region 8 program offices that jointly implement the Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting Program do not have methodology or agreement for sharing SEE funding, which has led to confusion about respective roles and tasks. Additionally, most of the funding has gone to the office that does not have a finalized work plan and, as a result, the other office cut its SEEs to part-time. Because of our inquiry, the region has redistributed funds. However, even though the two offices have recently discussed the importance of joint strategic planning, they have yet to reach a long-term agreement on SEE activities and related funding.

A prior situation in Region 8 between two offices jointly implementing a Clean Air Act program provides a sound approach to improving management of Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting Program SEE activities.

Recommendations and Planned Corrective Actions

We recommend that the Region 8 regional administrator develop a strategy for implementing the Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting Program that defines program goals, performance measures, organizational responsibilities, and a methodology for allocating SEE funding. We also recommend that the regional administrator develop an oversight process to evaluate the region's success in implementing the strategy. Region 8 agreed with our recommendations and has initiated efforts to address them.