

## Pest (Bed Bugs) Control Fund Policy

Bed bugs have become a significant problem in Hardin County. The United States Environmental Protection Agency states that bed bugs are a "pest of significant public health importance" that cause "a variety of negative physical health, mental health and economic consequences." The EPA reports that Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is the most effective way to deal with bed bug infestations. The IPM process includes treatment by a licensed pest control operator. Many low income families lack resources to pay for treatment necessary to rid their home of this pest.

To address this health problem the following procedures are established:

- The Board of Supervisors will allocate \$5,000 in county funds to be used for this purpose as a revolving loan fund.
- The funds will be intended to assist low income households to pay for treatment of bed bugs by a professional exterminator.
- The funds will be established in a budget line in the General Assistance Budget (Dept. 25).
- Application for the funds will be made by completing the Hardin County General Assistance application.
- To be eligible, a household must have household gross income of less than 150% of the most recent federal poverty guidelines and have no other funding or resources available to pay.
- The applicant must agree and sign a repayment agreement with Community Services. An exception for repayment may be granted by Community Services Director if the household has no means of repayment.
- A household is eligible for a maximum of \$600. Payment will be made directly to the professional exterminator for an amount not to exceed the maximum.
- Treatment must be completed by a licensed pest control operator approved by Community Services.
- The applicant must agree to participate in the Integrated Pest Management process recommended by the treating professional.
- Funds will be distributed based on a first come-first serve basis to eligible applicants.
- The intent is for repaid funds to sustain the program. Once funds are depleted the program will cease unless additional funds are allocated.

Effective Date: October 26, 2016

Board of Supervisors Approval Signature:  Date: 10/26/2016