

# Heather Gable Storey

Program and Community Organizing Manager



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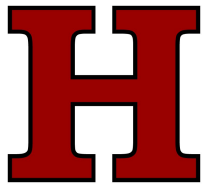
# My "Why"



**"I am more than my scars"**  
- *Andrew Davidson*



“Do not go where the path may lead ,  
go instead where there is no path and  
leave a trail.” —*Ralph Waldo Emerson*



Holland Township School District



# Who We Are

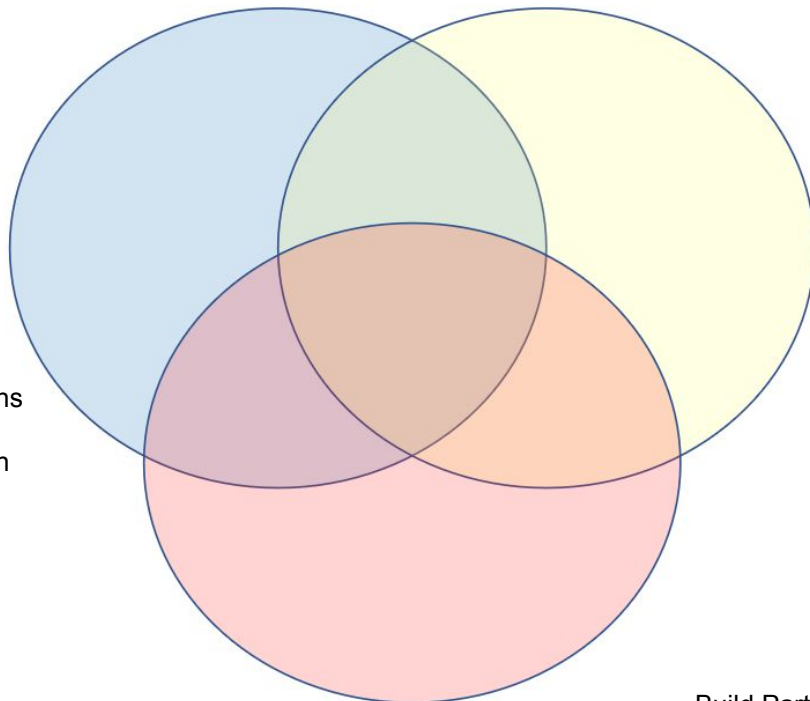
New Jersey Future is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization working to build **sustainable, thriving communities** across New Jersey. We advance **smart, equitable growth** that **prioritizes redevelopment, strategic infrastructure, inclusive and affordable neighborhoods, protected natural lands, and transportation choices beyond cars**. Through **research, policy, advocacy, coalition-building, and hands-on support**, we turn ideas into real-world solutions.

[NJFUTURE.ORG](https://NJFUTURE.ORG)



NEW JERSEY  
FUTURE

# New Jersey Future - Sustainable and Equitable Change



## Policy & Advocacy

Research Current Challenges  
Create Policy Recommendations  
Implement Through Advocacy  
Feed Results Back to Research

## Local Assistance

Provide Community Guidance  
Develop Practical Plans  
Support Implementation  
Strengthen Partnerships

## Collective Impact

Build Partnerships  
Coordinate Activities  
Achieve Large-Scale Change  
Drive Policy Improvements



# Our Purpose

To ensure that New Jersey's children are free from lead poisoning and that our environment is lead-safe by advocating for changes to state and local policy.

The collaborative seeks to eliminate racial and economic inequities by focusing on legacy lead hazards in low-income communities and/or communities of color while also creating the conditions for children to be free from lead poisoning statewide.



# Lead-Free NJ: an Equitable and Inclusive Collaborative



**Lead disproportionately affects young children,** causing serious medical and behavioral issues into adulthood.



**Low-income communities and/or communities of color are most at risk** due to systemic inequities. Fortunately, these issues are preventable when we target the sources of lead.



**We can address this complex problem on a larger scale than any individual or organization can alone.**

Working together as Lead-Free NJ, an inclusive and equitable collaborative focused on removing lead from New Jersey's environment.

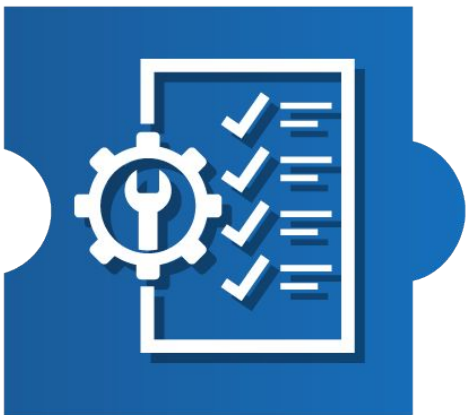


**The time is now to demand action** and organize for statewide lead remediation in every home, childcare facility, school, and water system.

**LEAD-FREE**



# Our Goals



## Holistic Lead Remediation

Eliminate childhood lead hazards in New Jersey within 10 years.



## Equitable Policy Change

Achieve adoption of proactive, equitable state and local policies that ensure that our environment is lead-safe and our children are unburdened by lead.



## Empowered Communities

Build the capacity and power of grassroots groups and affected communities.

**LEAD-FREE**





# Know

Ensure that every family moving into a new home knows whether there is a risk of lead exposure.

Ensure the passage of legislation that requires disclosure of lead in paint, water, and/or soil based on official records or an inspection at the point of sale or rental turnover.

Educate high risk families about how to access tools for testing, treatment, and remediation.

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# Identify

Enhance data collection and sharing as it relates to children with elevated blood levels and the presence of lead in homes, schools and child care centers.

State agencies and local bodies must improve data transparency and coordinate not only to provide the public with an accurate picture of the lead issue in NJ, but to prioritize solutions.

For example, data on the general location of the homes of children with elevated blood lead levels could guide remediation.

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# Fix

Develop comprehensive public and private sector funding solutions for the remediation of lead in paint, water, and soil, from homes, schools, and child care centers.

Because low-income communities and communities of color continue to bear a disproportionate burden of exposure due to deteriorating lead-based paint from older housing, lead-contaminated drinking water from old leaded pipes, and legacy lead-polluted soil, funding mechanisms must prioritize environmental justice.

State and local governments should seek designation of American Rescue Plan funds to remediate lead in homes.

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# Our Model

*Uniting communities with policy-oriented organizations to effect change*



All of Lead-Free NJ's actions reflect the needs of community members.

“To me, teamwork is a lot like being part of a family. It comes with obligations, entanglements, headaches, and quarrels. But the rewards are worth the cost.” - *Pat Summit*

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garden foundation tcnj  
victoria princeton paint humanity clinton  
shipyard convention municipalities center huub black  
network testing child hcdnnj gnhcc briggs etc southern  
issues policy ffnj ohhn blood isles njea social wic acnj unleded bergen  
connection camden coalition association  
team jersey families healthy advocacy jones waterspirit  
njit passaic childcare health water ingt college  
together environmental maternal njf schools nwc alliance  
rutgers greater education lcw neighborhoods ebll njf prac wec habitat  
trenton gmphp paterson law kids ghhi hill children environment  
league soil action free parent newark njea  
state transformation hfan hsn etc span bay new  
campaign fund cwa naacp northern

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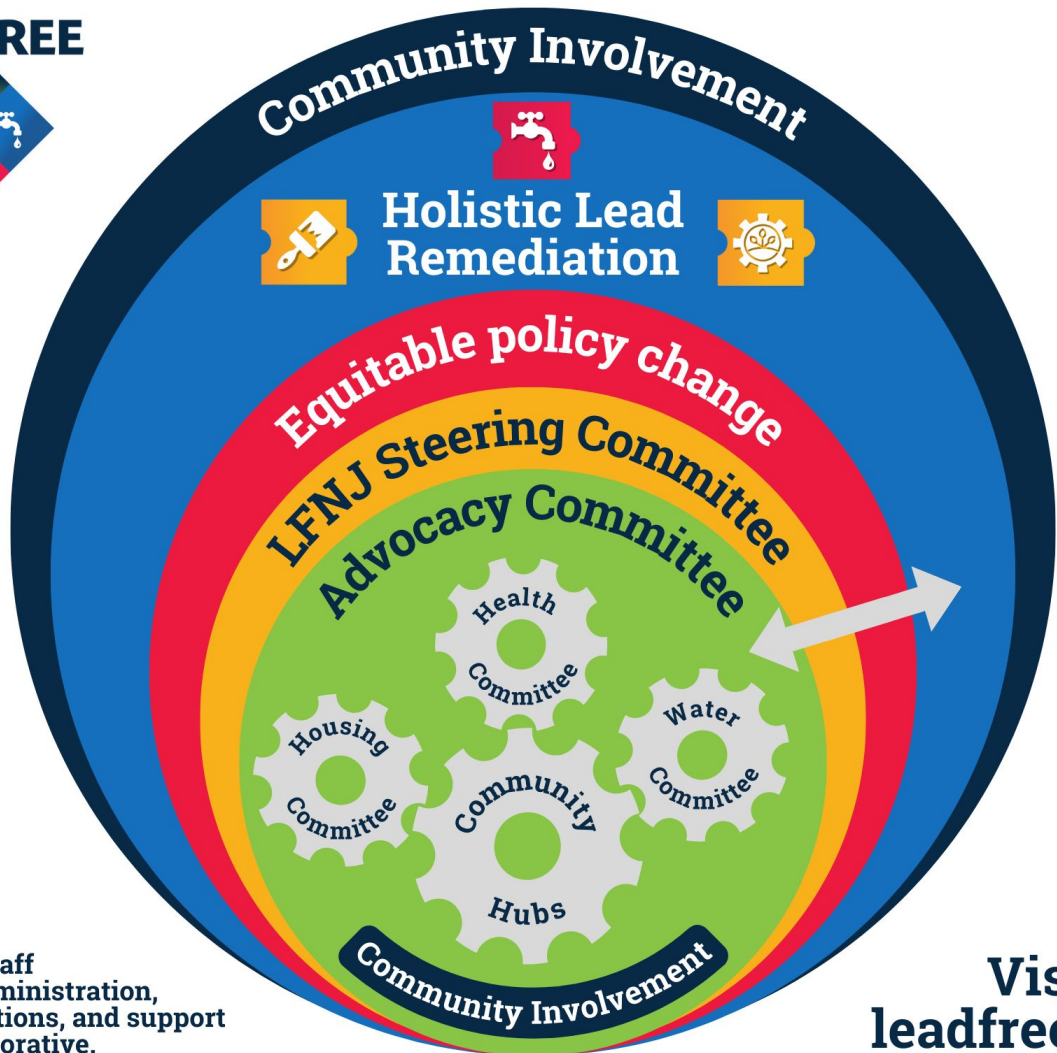


*It Takes a Village...*

# Our LFNJ Committees

- **Housing Policy Table** - identify policies that support the elimination of housing-related lead hazards, including lead-contaminated paint, soil, and internal plumbing
- **Water Policy Table** - identify policies that support the elimination of lead hazards in drinking water. (LDW Advisory Committee & Water Advocacy Committee)
- **Health Committee:** Connect the healthcare sector to lead poisoning prevention and better serve children impacted by lead poisoning
- **Advocacy Coordinating Committee** - identify advocacy strategies and coordinate individual advocacy activities.
- **Backbone Staff to support these efforts.**

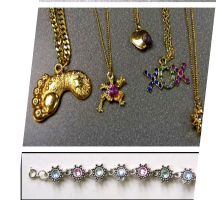
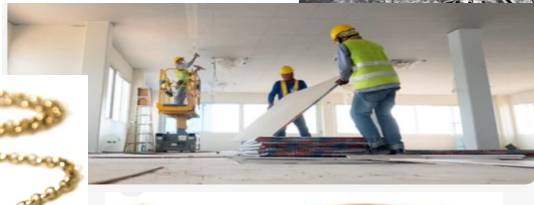
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Backbone staff provides administration, communications, and support to the collaborative.

Visit [leadfreenj.org](http://leadfreenj.org)

# WHY ARE WE STILL TALKING ABOUT LEAD?



# NYT Quote of the Day



“If you were going to put something in a population to keep them down for generations to come, it would be lead.”

(NYT January 30, 2016)

Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, of Flint MI, who has studied lead poisoning and the effects of lead exposure, for which there is no cure.



# Legacy Sources

**Dutch Boy White-Lead**



**WHEN** you paint your buildings with Dutch Boy lead-and-oil, you apply the kind of paint that any good painter prefers and recommends.

**Economical in Every Way**

Also, you have the satisfaction of knowing that you are using the paint which is most economical.

Dutch Boy White-Lead with Linseed Oil is cheaper today in actual per-gallon cost than any other paint you would think of putting on your buildings. Its great covering capacity makes its cost per square yard very much lower than that of other paints.

**Dutch Boy Durability**

Dutch Boy's durability and resistance to weather mean a still further saving—you do not have to paint so often.

Write to our nearest branch for free "Handy Book on Painting."

**NATIONAL LEAD COMPANY**  
New York    Boston    Buffalo    Chicago    Cincinnati  
Cleveland    St. Louis    San Francisco

JOHN T. LEWIS & BROS.    NATIONAL LEAD & OIL CO.    Philadelphia    Pittsburgh

**Dutch Boy Products**

## When were lead pipes banned?

- In 1986, lead pipes were **banned** from use in new U.S. **plumbing** systems, but they remain throughout much of the country's drinking water infrastructure, which largely pre-dates the **ban**. Until 2014, **plumbing** fixtures with as much as 8% **lead-by-weight** could be legally labelled "**lead free**".

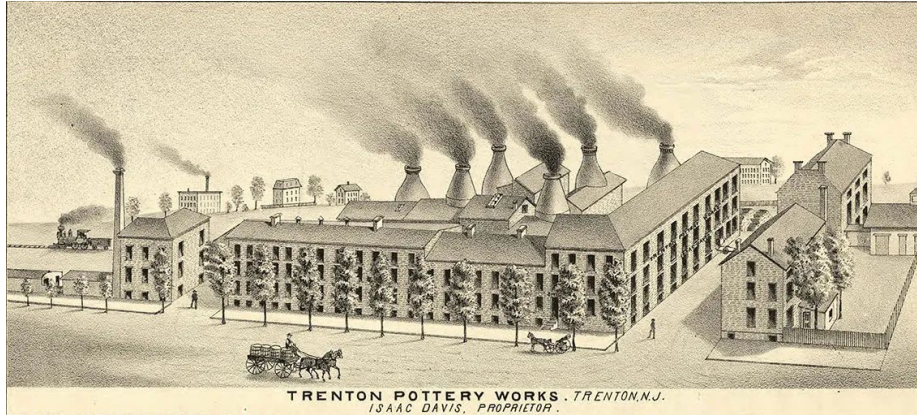
-[www.sciline.com](http://www.sciline.com)



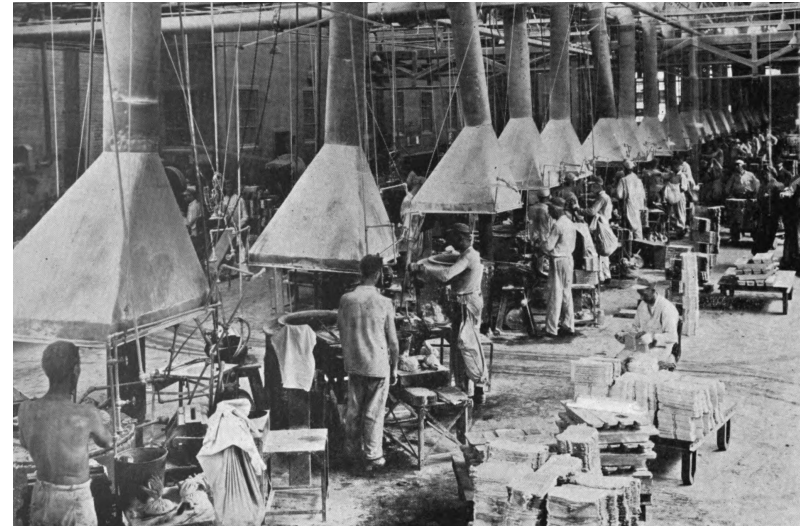
LEAD FREE



# Industrial Contributions



TRENTON POTTERY WORKS - TRENTON, N.J.  
ISAAC DAVIS, PROPRIETOR.



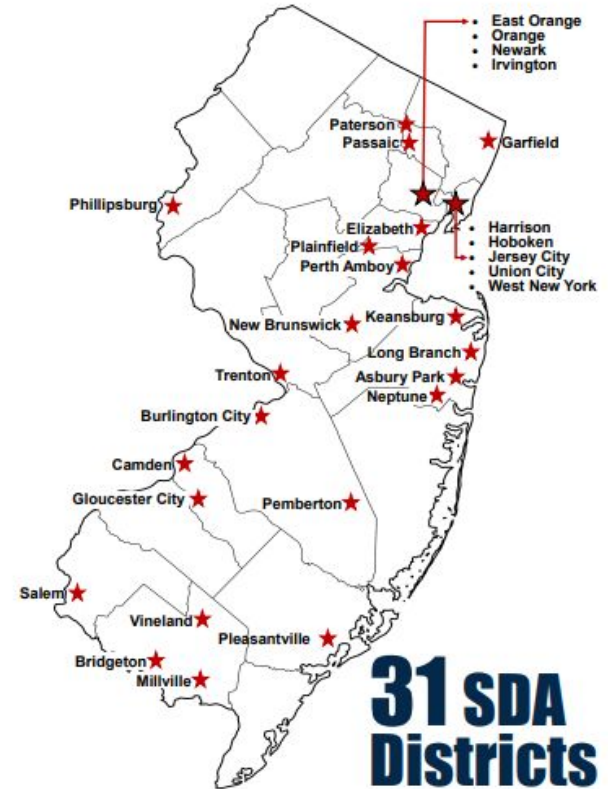
LEAD-FREE



# Lead, Race, and Inequity

58% of children from Black communities had detectable levels of lead, compared to 49% of children in white communities.

*\*2021 study published in JAMA Pediatrics*



**31 SDA  
Districts**



<https://youtu.be/JHMNSW9TTb4?si=Izq-yN5QRkgjMeQR>

# Kisa's Story

## Lead Impact in Trenton, NJ

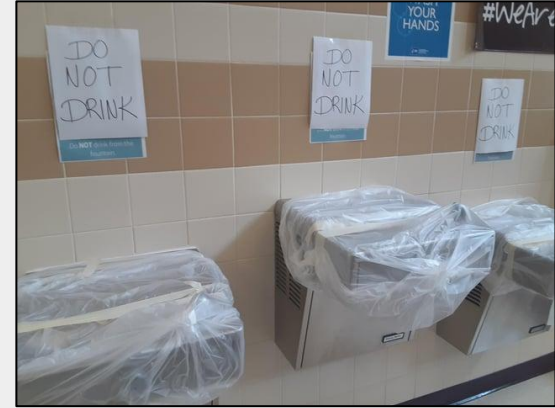


## Highest Percentage of Large Municipalities: Children with Lead Poisoning

- Trenton (5.1%)
- Irvington (4.1%)
- East Orange (3.1%)
- S. Brunswick (2.9%)
- Plainfield (2.5%)



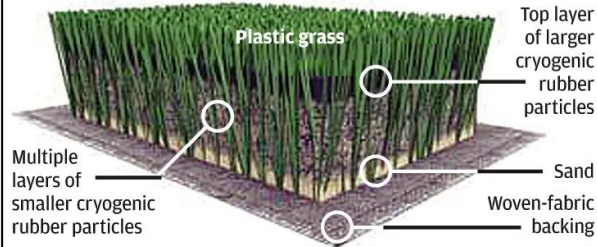
# Lead in Schools & Daycares



# Additional School Hazards

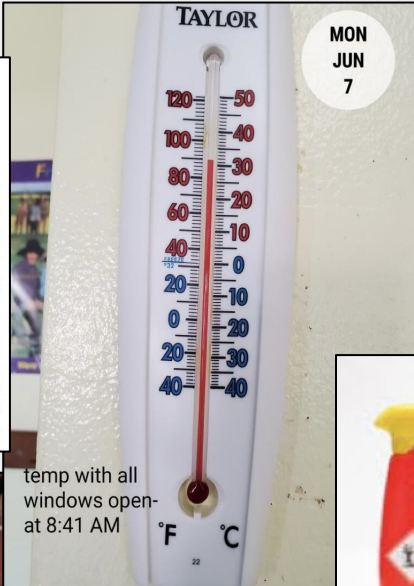
## What's in Field Turf?

An artificial turf field like FieldTurf is made up of plastic grass fibers held in place by up to 21 layers of different-sized cryogenic rubber particles and sand.

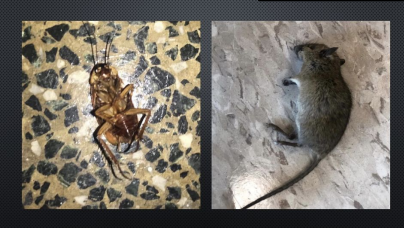


Source: Tarkett Co.

GAZETTE



temp with all windows open at 8:41 AM



# Barriers to Lead Education & Testing

- Language
- Transportation
- Insurance
- Hours & Days of Operation of Services
- Financial Strain & Hierarchy of Needs



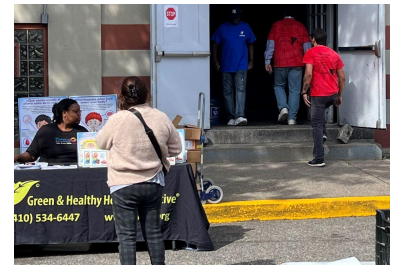
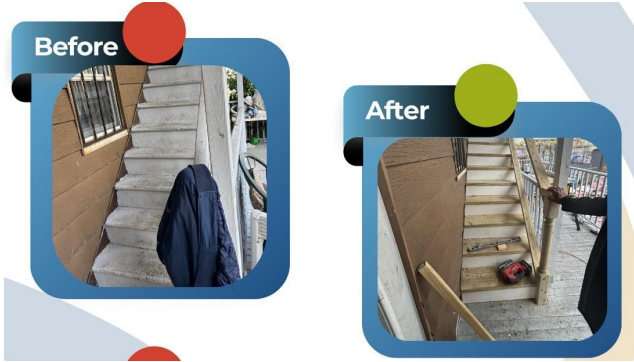
# Canaries in the Coal Mine

"We are conducting a massive toxicological experiment in the world today, and our children and grandchildren are the unknowing, unconsenting subjects."

— *Dr. Herbert L. Needleman*



# Our Community Hubs – Empowered Communities





## East Trenton Collaborative (Trenton, NJ)

### **Priorities:**

Blood Lead Level Testing  
Lead Education

Community BBQ - Trenton DOH, Aetna

East Trenton Collaborative (ETC) partnered with Aetna and Trenton DOH to provide a community education event on lead and on-site Blood Lead Level (BLL) testing. Another event is currently being planned.

Working with Princeton Professors and students. Geo Science class covers lead toxicity, as well as how to test for it in water, paint, soil, and dust. Testing in (24) resident homes soil, dust, paint, and water. Documentary films being made.

Filter Activation + Distribution



## The HUUB (Orange), Orange, NJ

### **Priorities:**

Mapping Daycares

Lead Info Booklet

The HUUB, located in Orange, NJ, has created an educational booklet for Orange residents on lead. They are having the booklet translated into Spanish.

### Filter Activation+ Distribution

Currently, they are mapping private non-reporting daycares (often neighbors) with fewer than 5 children and conducting lead exposure prevention outreach, handing out water pitcher filters throughout April and May.



## Paterson Alliance - Paterson, NJ

### **Priorities:**

BLL, testing (NJDOH, Hackensack Meridian)

Health Workshop

LRAP Program

Paterson Alliance has had tremendous success as an LRAP (Lead Abatement and Remediation) contractor they have distributed 8 water pitcher filters to Children's Aid and Family Services for distribution to foster care families in Northern NJ.

### Filter Activation + Distribution

Filters will be provided to Paterson Alliance clients receiving lead paint remediation services in their homes, and at New Destiny's Family Strengthening Month Event on April 17, which will include on-site blood lead level testing.

## Lead-Free NJ Community Hubs Emeritus



**South  
Jersey**

PRAC of Southern New  
Jersey



**Paterson**

Passaic County Habitat  
for Humanity



**Newark**

Newark Water  
Coalition



**Newark**

Homes For All Newark

# Holistic Lead Remediation



# Projects, Programs & Initiatives

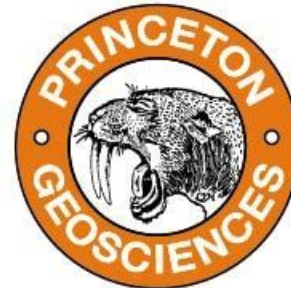
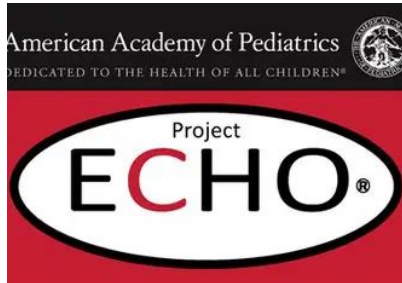


PROTECT•PREVENT•NURTURE



RUTGERS

Environmental and Occupational  
Health Sciences Institute | EOHSI



# Equitable Policy Change



## LEAD-FREE NJ



We asked every candidate running for governor:  
**“As Governor, how would you continue New Jersey’s legacy as a national leader in lead poisoning prevention?”**

### LEAD-FREE NJ

Here are their responses. Candidates are listed alphabetically by last name, and candidates who haven’t yet responded are listed below candidates who have responded.



© Jack Ciattarelli December 2021 (cropped) 2/16/2024

#### Former Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli

The first job of any governor is to provide for the public health and safety. Any lead in any pipe anywhere in New Jersey is unacceptable. As Governor, I will work with our mayors and utility companies to ensure that our drinking water is safe.



#### Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill

New Jersey residents have a right to live in a safe environment free of contamination and pollutants like lead. Our state built this nation, and we have the scars to prove it. Across the state, old housing stock and aging infrastructure are sources of lead pollution, a substance that is unsafe to humans at any level. New Jersey has established itself as a leader in lead remediation, having passed legislation to replace all lead service lines by 2031, in addition to

<https://youtu.be/DqF8I2aPZgo?si=bvdAwY7niU4o5vF>

# Lead Paint Remediation Funding Advocacy



# LFNJ Housing Committee Actionable Priorities

- Support and provide resources to help LFNJ hub leads and community members to know their renters rights and applicable resources.
- Develop relationships within DOH, DCA to advocate for interagency better data sharing and braiding of funding
- Hold presentations, webinars, listening sessions, and disseminate materials regarding the importance of lead paint testing and how to keep families safe from lead exposure from paint and soil
- Identify municipalities excelling in the work and promote best practices.
- Advocate for full funding of the "Lead Hazard Control Assistance Fund" with dedicated sources of revenue, Revenue sources are: \$0.50/can of paint, rental lead inspection surcharges under various state laws. Fully fund cap \$14 million.
- Meet with DCA on a bi-monthly basis to discuss barriers and provide recommendations alongside community and LRAP grantees.

# Housing Committee

**Goal:** Improve relationships with the NJ DCA to improve and expand lead paint remediation and abatement, and secure sustainable funding.

**Top priority:** Spend down ARPA dollars (\$180 million, 4500 homes by 2026)

**Next steps:**

- Meet with LRAP grantees, what's working, what's not (breakdown barriers)
- Meet with NJ DCA, make recommendations to improve LRAP impact
- Identify legislative champions and pursue continued lead paint funding at state and federal levels, provide testimony and make recommendations as necessary

**Wins:**

- DCA the Allowable Cost Per Unit from \$13,000 to \$25,000 for remediations and \$25,000 to \$40,000 for abatement, increased eligible unit cap from 4 to 10 units.
- HUD Lead- Hazard Reduction Grant NJ DCA \$4.4 million, Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control (LBPHC) grants (HUD, Trenton, Plainfield)

# LFNJ Health Committee Actionable Priorities

- Provide support and resources to help LFNJ hub leads and community members navigate relationships with local DOH and encourage collaboration.
- Develop relationships within DOH, DCA to advocate for interagency better data sharing and braiding of funding
- Hold presentations, webinars, listening sessions, and disseminate materials regarding the importance of BLL testing and how to keep families safe from lead exposure
- Identify health care providers and advocates to support the increase of BLL testing (doctors, nurses, AAP, HPAE, school nurses, hospitals, health insurance companies, WIC, DOH, DOE)
- Identify and support efforts that expand and improve point-of-care and mobile testing

# Health Committee

**Goal:** Improve relationships with the NJ health system to improve lead poisoning prevention and offer better services for children affected by lead exposure.

**Top priority:** Improve access to blood lead level screening in NJ

**Next steps:**

- Meet with pediatricians, insurance providers, Medicaid, WIC, labs
- Meet with NJDOH and local health departments
- Pursue legislative solutions

**Wins:**

- Repurposed COVID vans mobile testing through DOH
- Partnerships between DOH/Local DOH, physicians, WIC and hubs
- Maternal testing bill and development of resources (patient/provider)

# Water Advocacy Committee

**Goal:** Reduce lead in Drinking Water Exposure in NJ Water Supply

## **Top priorities:**

- Strengthen NJ's Lead and Copper Rule
- Lead disclosure for Tenants
- Recommend effective distribution of Securing our Children's Future Bond Act Funds.
- Promote filter-first policies in NJ Schools and childcare facilities.
- Promote lead service line efficiency measures for water systems that must replace lead service lines by 2031.
- Pursue proactive filter distribution for the medicaid population through the 1115 Waiver.

## **Next steps:**

- Publish Filter First White Paper
- Filter distribution to Local community Hubs

## **Wins:**

- Lead Disclosure bill for Tenants passed
- Filter [Your Tap Campaign](#)
- NJ legislator to sponsor \$2m budget resolution
- NJ's Lead and Copper Rule proposes 10ppb Action level (down from 15ppb)
- Securing our Children's Future Bond Act Funds Round two applications (121) \$26m

# Collaboration



# New Jersey Policies to Protect the Community



<b>2017</b>	<b>Children ages one and two required to be lead-screened. Children age three and older must be screened at least once before age six, if not already screened.</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>Law requires lead service lines replacement in 10 years.</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>Lead paint inspections in Pre -1978 residential rental properties.</b>

# New Jersey Policies to Protect the Community



<p><b>2025</b> <b>Lead Disclosure</b></p>	<p>Law requires landlords to report the known or potential presence of lead in drinking water to their tenants. Additionally requires public water systems to conduct a lead water test at the request of tenants at no charge, and deters landlords from obstructing the replacement of lead pipes in residential units.</p>
<p><b>2026</b> <b>Lead Screening</b></p>	<p>Mandates providers screen pregnant people in the state for lead exposure risk. If the assessment identifies at least one risk factor in accordance with the most recent recommendations of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the physician or nurse is to perform lead screening in the first and third trimester.</p>

# Lead Paint Remediation Funding Advocacy

Reflecting on 2023 with  
**LEADFREE**  
NJ



**Our Purpose**  
To ensure that New Jersey's children are  
free from lead poisoning and that our  
environment is lead-safe



# Lead-Free NJ: Lessons Learned

1. **Communities must lead this work.**
2. **We don't always get it right all the time.**
3. **There is no one-size fits all model.**
4. **What works today, may not work tomorrow.**
5. **We are stronger together.**



# Best Practices for a Lead-Safe Healthy Home

## How can I prevent my child's exposure to lead?

- Wash your child's hands frequently before eating, after playing outside or on the floor, and before sleeping.
- Wash toys, bottles, pacifiers, and other objects that children handle and put in their mouths.
- Leave shoes at the entrance to your home.
- Keep your child away from bare soil.
- Feed your child healthy foods high in Vitamin C, iron, and calcium.
- Store foods and liquids in lead-free containers.
- Clean floors and windowsills using a damp mop or sponge and detergent.
- Know if your home has lead-based paint before doing renovations or remodeling.
- Use lead-safe work practices or hire a Certified Renovator if your home was built before 1978.
- Use only cold tap water to prepare formula, for drinking and cooking.
- Run water for 15 to 30 seconds before drinking.
- Wash work clothes separately if a job or hobby uses lead.

# What is Your Why??



**“When you know your why, you’ll know your way.”**

– Michael Hyatt



**“He who has a why to live can bear almost any how.”**

– Friedrich Nietzsche

# Connect with Us



@LeadFree\_NJ



@LeadFreeNewJersey



Lead-Free NJ



[www.leadfreenj.org](http://www.leadfreenj.org)

Share with your friends, neighbors, colleagues, and partners!

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