

Protect Kids. Create Jobs.

Invest in the Ohio Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund



ACTION

Capitalize the Ohio Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund with \$4 million in GRF over the biennium to create a foundation for a stable, dedicated and flexible resource for lead safe housing.

Why the concern?

Most of Ohio's housing stock was built prior to 1980 (3.5 million homes) and is likely to have lead hazards. Of those homes with likely lead hazards, 425,235 are occupied by young children who the most vulnerable to lead. How do we protect young children from lead, given the scale of the problem? A big part of the solution is to add more resources to Ohio's fight against lead poisoning and to secure a long-term revenue source for property owners and businesses to take on lead abatement.

What is the Ohio Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund?

The Ohio Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund was established in 2003 to be used "...solely for the purposes of the child lead poisoning prevention program established under section 3742.31 of the Revised Code." However, the Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund never received an appropriation.

Why State Seed Funding for the Ohio Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund Makes Fiscal Sense

Get Serious about Protecting Ohio's Children

At current funding levels for lead hazard control and lead abatement in Ohio, it would take over 141 years to make the portion of our older housing occupied by young children safe from lead hazards.¹ Dedicating additional, flexible resources to making homes lead safe will shorten the wait for Ohio's kids.

Prioritize Ohio-Specific Needs and Local Businesses in Lead Removal

With its own Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund, Ohio would have the flexibility to meet Ohio's unique needs and create jobs. For example, window replacement has been shown to be highly effective in reducing lead dust but is discouraged in federal lead grants. Other benefits of investing in window replacement for Ohio taxpayers include lowering energy bills and increasing home value. The Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund could provide funding for window replacement in targeted areas, thus creating local construction and

manufacturing jobs. The Fund could also provide grants to local governments and nonprofit organizations to pilot innovative strategies and address local priorities.

Enlist Partners in Building a Lead-Free Future in Ohio

A major advantage of having an Ohio Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund is the ability to leverage state funds with private sector investments. The City of Cleveland's Lead Safe Home Fund, for example, has demonstrated that public-private partnerships can be very effective in attracting new private resources towards making housing lead safe. Efforts to grow the fund could focus on incentivizing public-private sector partnerships and identifying a non-GRF, sustainable revenue resource for the long-term. One example: the Maine Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund was created in 2005 through a \$.25/gallon fee on all paint sold in the state. The fund generates \$650,000 annually. Uses include assistance to rental property owners with lead hazard control and maintenance.

¹An estimated 3,000 lead safe units will result from current funding from federal and state sources over the next 3 years. See HUD Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes, Program Division for a listing of HUD grantees in Ohio.