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CHD Awarded Lead Hazard Reduction Grant from HUD

– With this grant, CHD will continue to provide lead hazard reduction for Cincinnatians –

CINCINNATI – January 7, 2026 – The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded the Cincinnati Health Department (CHD) a Lead Hazard Reduction (LHR) grant of \$4,440,000 to make homes safer and healthier for eligible children and their families in Cincinnati.

“The Cincinnati Health Department has a dedicated team that responds to lead poisoning in Cincinnati's children,” said Maryse Amin, Ph.D., MS, Assistant Health Commissioner and Division Director of Community Health and Environmental Health Services with the Cincinnati Health Department. “This grant will allow us to continue to provide this important service in Cincinnati, especially to children who can suffer irreversible health issues when exposed to lead.”

Through the Lead Poisoning Prevention program, as children are tested, elevated blood lead levels are reported to CHD where dedicated nurses work with families to educate and monitor lead levels. For children with high elevations (10µg/dL or above) a risk assessment is conducted to identify possible lead exposures in the home. Funds are available for these eligible families to abate the hazards found in the home. All residents can send in paint chips for lead testing. HEPA vacuums are also made available for residents to remove lead dust.

What Is Lead?

Lead is a naturally occurring element found in small amounts in the earth's crust. While it has some beneficial uses, like its pliability and resistance to leaks, which were useful in plumbing, it can be toxic to humans and animals, if ingested.

Why Is it Dangerous?

Lead is a highly toxic heavy metal that's hazardous to people of all ages. Once absorbed, it accumulates over time, causing serious, irreversible health issues. This can damage vital organ systems, including the kidneys, red blood cells, and the nervous system.

Who Is Most Affected by Lead?

Children, particularly those under the age of six, are the most susceptible to lead poisoning. Even the smallest amounts of lead can interfere with a child's brain development resulting in a permanent reduction in intelligence and may cause behavioral and learning problems, as well as other health problems. There are few obvious signs a child has been lead-poisoned; the only way to know for sure is to have your child tested by his or her physician.

For more information about lead and its impact on people, especially on children, visit the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), the [Ohio Department of Health \(ODH\)](#), and the [Cincinnati Health Department \(CHD\)](#).

About the Cincinnati Health Department

Founded in 1826, the Cincinnati Health Department (CHD) is dedicated to protecting and improving the health of Cincinnati residents. As a nationally recognized leader in public health, CHD advances responsive health and human services, fosters healthy environments, and works to reduce inequities that affect health outcomes.

CHD's clinical division, City of Cincinnati Primary Care (CCPC), is a Federally Qualified Health Center serving more than 45,000 patients annually. CCPC operates six primary care centers providing medical, OB-GYN, pediatrics, behavioral health, and pharmacy services, with most sites also offering dental care. In partnership with Cincinnati Public Schools, CCPC runs 13 full-service school-based health centers that serve over 10,000 students as well as families in the community. Several of these centers provide dental and vision care, and a free-standing dental center in Avondale further expands access to oral health.

Beyond clinical services, CHD delivers a broad range of community health programs, including communicable disease control, environmental health, lead poisoning prevention, maternal and child health (WIC), health education, emergency preparedness, and vital records. Together, these programs safeguard the health and wellbeing of Cincinnati's residents. For more information, visit cincinnati-oh.gov/health.

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