

CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION STRATEGY

City of Lancaster, PA

September 2021



Childhood lead poisoning remains to be one of the most significant public health and quality of life issues in the City of Lancaster. Lancaster City continues to be among the top ten cities for the highest rates of childhood lead poisoning, despite implementing a comprehensive set of best practice strategies and interventions. We must strengthen our work together to end childhood lead poisoning and promote the health, safety, and wellbeing of Lancaster City families.

Every year, approximately 100 children under age 6 are identified with an elevated blood lead level in Lancaster City, with Black and Latinx children 2 to 3 times more likely to have an elevated blood lead level compared to white children. According to our most recent data, more than 8% of children who were tested for lead poisoning were confirmed to have an elevated blood lead level.

Educating the Community About How to Prevent Lead Poisoning

- Inform residents about the dangers of lead, how to identify potential sources of lead, and how to prevent childhood lead exposure
- Supporting workforce development initiatives to promote lead-safe work practices in residential properties and expand the lead remediation workforce

Housing Revitalization Programs to Mitigate Lead Hazards in the Community

- Lead Hazard Control Program – no cost grants provided to low-to-moderate income homeowners, 10% match required for landlords renting to low-to-moderate income families
- Healthy Homes Program – supplemental grants provided to homeowner participants in the Lead Hazard Control Program to make home improvements that address health and safety issues
- Critical Repair Program – grants/loans (based on eligibility) available to low-to-moderate income homeowners for critical repairs including roofing, plumbing, electrical, and structural issues

Proactive Policy Development

- Expanding Lead-Safe Housing Ordinance to apply to all rental housing in Lancaster City
- Aligning lead-safe certification with rental license schedule to provide better customer service to landlords
- Providing support to Lancaster City Housing Authority in obtaining and maintaining lead-safe certification in public housing properties

Elevated Blood Lead Level (EBLL) Case Response

- Policy and protocol updates to ensure that the City receives notification of every EBLL case and that an environmental investigation is performed
- Hiring a Health and Housing Social Services Case Manager to provide social service and case management support
- Authority given to Health Officer and Housing Inspector to condemn a property for anyone under age 6 and require temporary relocation of a child due to medical necessity until lead hazards are remediated