

# Leading Against Lead: How Home Visitors Can Fight Lead Poisoning in Children



Shawana Mitchell, AA

Patient Engagement Specialist, HHS

National Nurse-Led Care Consortium

267-765-2320, Shawana@phmc.org

Saumya Ayyagari, MSN, MPH

Public Health Nurse Home Visitor

Philadelphia Nurse-Family Partnership

National Nurse-Led Care Consortium

267-665-6519, Sayyagari @phmc.org



**NATIONAL  
NURSE-LED CARE  
CONSORTIUM**  
a PHMC affiliate

**children  
FIRST**  
THE ADVOCATE FOR KIDS  
FORMERLY PCCY





Thank you  
for taking  
care of  
PA's kids!



# Today's Agenda

- 1) How to talk with families about lead.
- 2) Lead poisoning is a public health problem and environmental justice issue.
- 3) Lead poisoning resources for you and for parents!
- 4) How to engage at the policy level.

# Prevention:

-  Lead poisoning is 100% preventable
-  Your child does not have to get sick from lead
-  If you do some of the things I talk about with your child today, you can help prevent your child from getting sick
-  You have the power to protect your child!

# Lead Dust is Everywhere!



# Lead Dust Can Get Into Your From:



**Old lead paint that has cracked or peeled off and breaks down into dust**



**Outside dirt that comes in through windows or doors that has lead in it from gasoline or from buildings that have been torn down**







**Blowing wind, on the bottom of shoes, or from pets**

# How can lead hurt your child?



# Lead poisoning can hurt your child by causing:

-  Learning problems with reading or writing
-  Brain damage or problems with the brain growing and developing
-  Behavior problems or problems with listening to directions or misbehaving
-  Eye-hand coordination problems, or problems holding or seeing things, playing with toys, or walking and talking at the same time

Note: Children under age 6 are affected the most because their brains are still developing



# Some ways to tell if your child has been poisoned



# How can you tell if your child has been poisoned?



It is not always easy to tell if your child has been poisoned by lead. Your child may not have any symptoms or signs at all.



A blood lead test for your child is the only way to really tell if he/she has too much lead in his/her body.

# Lead is a heavy metal like copper or iron



# Lead is a metal

- ➡ Lead is a metal like copper or iron, but heavier.
- ➡ When it becomes a dust or too small to see, it can enter into your child's body.
- ➡ But you can take steps to prevent your child from ever getting poisoned from lead!

# Lead enters your child's body through their mouth!



**(Some toys have been found to contain lead paint  
even from big toy companies.)**






# Lead enters your child's body when:

- ➡ **Puts dirty fingers inside their mouth**
- ➡ **Sucks on toys or pacifiers that have fallen on the floor or ground, where lead dust may be**
- ➡ **Touches dirty/dusty window sills and ledges with their hands, mouths, or tongues**
- ➡ **Chews on surfaces like banisters, window sills, or porch rails that have lead paint on them**

# Lead is found in:

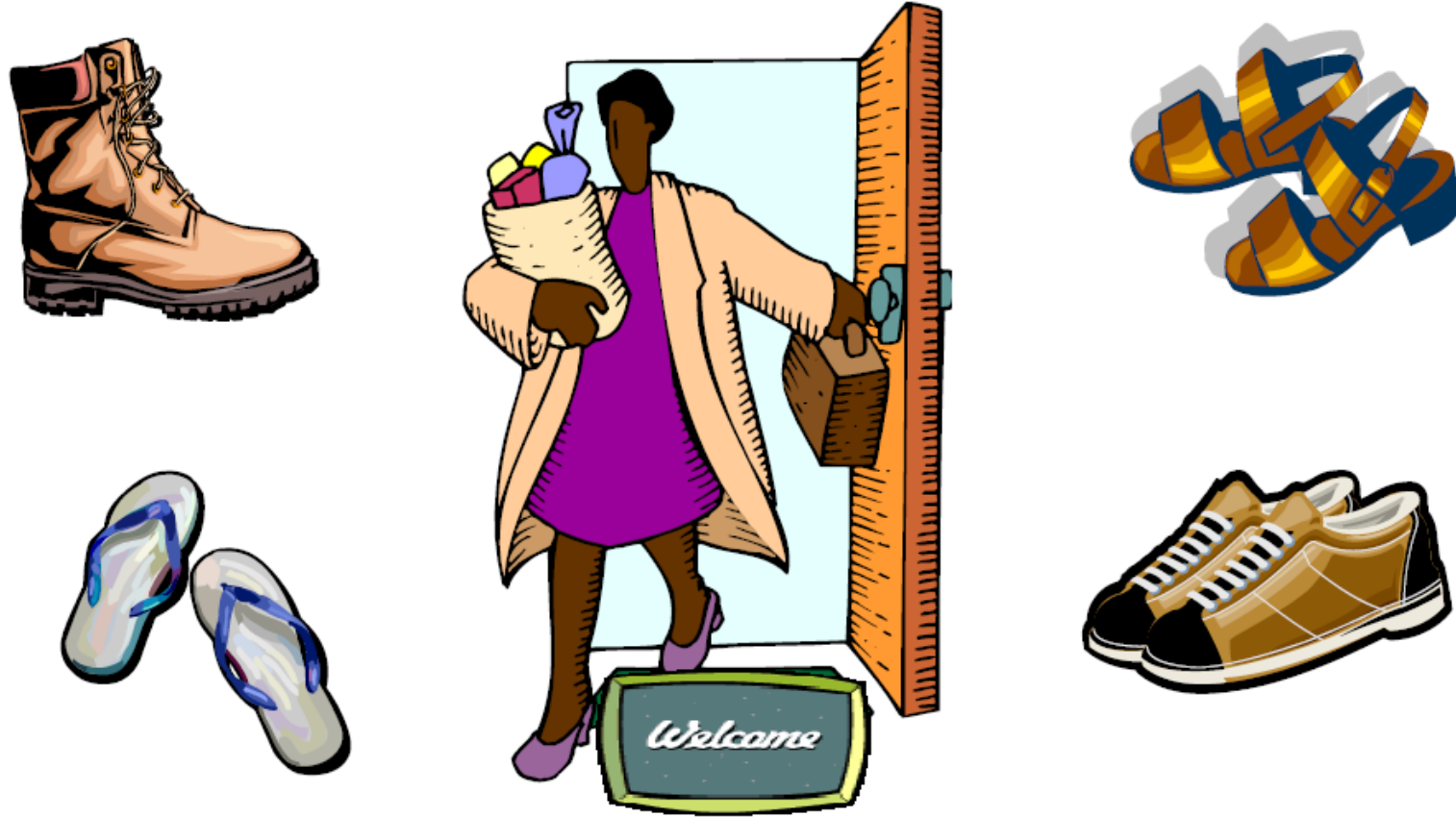


# Lead is found in:

-  Lead dust found on shoes, floors, window sills, and/or porches
-  Paint chips from peeling paint
-  Machines or on work clothes and uniforms Dirt fields
-  and soil
-  Water pipes



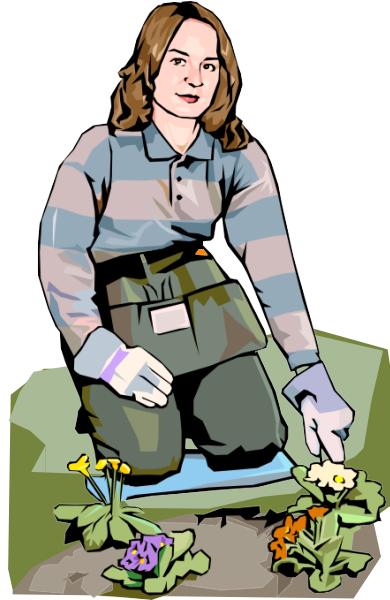
# How can you keep lead out of your home?



# To help keep lead out of your :

- ➡ Always wipe feet and shoes before entering any home because lead may be on shoes
- ➡ Have a “welcome mat” outside door so everyone entering house can wipe feet
- ➡ Or take shoes off when entering home

# Clothing



# Clothing



Change clothes before touching child if work with paint, machines, building construction or dirt and soil



If possible, leave work clothes at work!!



Wash work clothes separately from child's clothes



# Tap Water



# Tap Water



Lead may line the inside of old pipes.



Let tap water run until cold for at least a few minutes. This will help flush out any lead that may be sitting in your pipes.



Never cook with hot tap water. Lead in your pipes can get in the hot water.



Never make baby formula with hot tap water!

# Washing and Cleaning



# Washing and Cleaning

- ➡ Wash children's toys and hands often.
- ➡ Wash children's hands before eating or napping so he/she does not put dirty toys, pacifiers or fingers in their mouth.
- ➡ Wash hard surfaces like floors and windows at least once a week to remove lead dust. Use a bucket of water with an all-purpose cleaner.
- ➡ Flush the dirty water down the toilet, not the bath tub or sink.
- ➡ Always be sure to wash fruits and vegetables because they may contain lead.



# Foods that help to keep your child lead-free



# Foods that help to keep your child lead-free:

- ➡ A healthy diet with foods high in calcium, iron, and vitamin C
- ➡ Foods high in calcium are dairy products: milk, yogurt, cheese, ice cream, leafy green vegetables, broccoli, soybeans, and tofu
- ➡ Foods high in iron: red meat, chicken (dark meat), turkey, egg yolks, healthy breakfast cereals (Cheerios, Trix, Total), oatmeal, dried beans and tofu
- ➡ Foods high in Vitamin C: oranges, tangerines, and 100% fruit juice, not soda or punch

# Some spices (imported) may contain lead

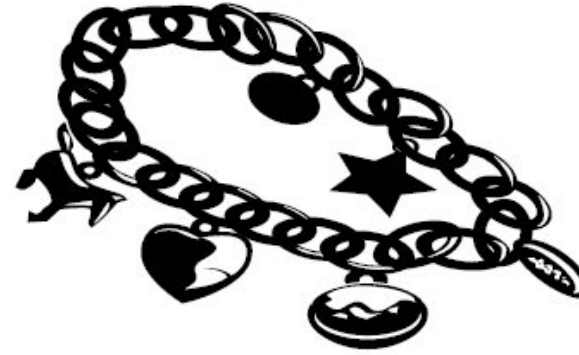




**Some candy (imported)  
may contain lead**



# Some imported charms may contain lead



Only use crayons  
made in the United States



# Crayons



**Crayons made in other countries may contain lead.**



**Check the box or label to see where they were made.**

**Do not eat or drink from  
pottery or glass  
made in other countries**





# Foreign pottery and glass



**Some glass and pottery from other countries are made with lead.**



**Do not store food in glass, crystal, or pottery that are made in other countries.**



**Be careful when using old family, or antique dishes. They may contain lead.**

# Cover up peeling paint



# To cover up peeling paint:



Stop paint chips from falling on the floor, cover only small areas with contact paper



Contact paper has a sticky, plastic backing. You can peel this off and it will stick to the small area to cover the peeling paint



Do not use contact paper for large areas! May attract roaches



A large area require proper paint removal

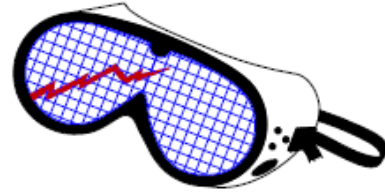


Do not use newspaper or blankets to cover the peeling paint







Keep child's bed, crib, and highchair away from peeling surfaces

# Do not remove paint without proper equipment



# Proper equipment

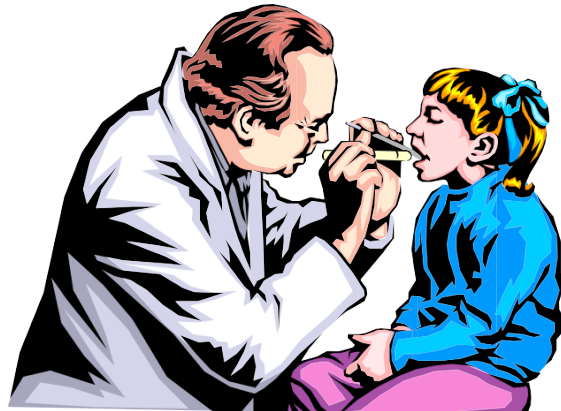
-  Always remove your child from your home when doing paint repairs
-  Never scrape or burn off paint
-  Always “wet mop” or use a wet cloth to “wet dust” loose paint chips. Dry sweeping with a broom or brush will not remove all the lead dust. Wear proper clothes and protection like gloves and masks.
-  Get a “lead expert” to help remove old paint. Contact the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, of the Philadelphia Health Department

**Have your child tested  
for lead every year**



# Testing

- ➡ Even healthy children can have lead poisoning.
- ➡ Have your child tested at about 9 months, six months later, and then again around age 2 or 3.
- ➡ You can have your child tested by his/her health care provider at the closest health center. You can also ask your health care provider for more information about lead poisoning.



# Questions?





# Lead Poisoning is Still a Significant Public Health Problem

PA Children Injured by Lead-Based Paint in Their Homes					
	Housing Built Before 1980	Children Screened	Percent/Rate of Children Poisoned	Rate of Children Poisoned Compared to Flint, MI	Number of Children with EBLs
Pennsylvania	70%	20%	4.62%	2x More	8,000

More info on the PA Fact Sheet at <https://paleadfree.org/#Resources>



# The Number of PA Children Testing Positive for Lead is Expected to Double in 2022

- As of January 2022, it will take less lead in a child's body to identify them as poisoned.
- 3.5 mcg/dL of lead in a child's blood is the new definition of a high blood lead level. The level was reduced from 5 mcg/dL.

# Lead Poisoning is an Environmental Justice Issue

**AFRICAN AMERICAN AND HISPANIC CHILDREN ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY POISONED because they are more likely to live in older properties with deteriorated lead-based paint.**

	Rate of Children Who are Black with EBLLs Compared to Children Who are White	Rate of Children Who are Hispanic with EBLLs Compared to Children Who are White
Bucks	3x	5x
Chester	4.5x	4.5x
Delaware	5.5x	7x
Montgomery	5x	9x
Philadelphia	5x	2x
Pennsylvania	4x	2x

# Lead Poisoning is Entirely Preventable

## GOALS:

- Get lead out of homes.
- Guarantee all children get tested twice for lead at ages one and two.
- Ensure all children with elevated blood lead levels are referred to Early Intervention services.





# When to Screen Children

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## **Kids with Medicaid & CHIP:**

Required to test at ages one and two.

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**Kids with Private Insurance:** There's no requirement, but test them too! The test is covered!

# Most Children Are Poisoned by Lead-Based Paint in Older Homes and Apartments

**70%**  
of homes in  
Pennsylvania were  
built before lead-  
paint was banned  
in 1978

It only takes  
this much  
**lead** →  
to **poison**  
a child.<sup>1</sup>







# Top 3 Treatments for a Child with an EBLL:

1. Remove the child from the lead source.
2. Remove the child from the lead source.
3. Remove the child from the lead source!!



# 10 Main Steps to Manage a Child's Care

## A RESOURCE GUIDE: CARE MANAGEMENT OF A CHILD WITH ELEVATED BLOOD LEAD LEVELS



**PENNSYLVANIA  
TOOLKIT**



Please share this resource guide widely! If you have an electronic medical record, insert the guide's url into your system.

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This guide was released June 1, 2021, and will be updated regularly. To report a change or discrepancy, contact Colleen McCauley at [colleenm@pccy.org](mailto:colleenm@pccy.org) or 215-563-5848 x33.

**THE LEAD FREE PROMISE PROJECT IS PART OF THRIVINGPA.ORG**

## STEP #1: Refer for a Home Lead Test or Environmental Lead Inspection (ELI)

- All Medicaid and some CHIP health insurance plans pay for ELIs.
- **A PCP must order this inspection.**



# STEP #2: Refer for Home Lead Hazard Remediation

There are **24 FREE** programs in PA for parents with financial hardship!

**\*CHILDREN DO NOT NEED TO BE POISONED TO QUALIFY!**

**\*FAMILIES WITH SMALL AND MODERATE INCOMES ARE ELIGIBLE! Up to \$68,000 for a family of 4 in Dauphin County.**



# 24 FREE HUD Lead Remediation Programs in these cities and counties!

Allegheny	Allentown	Bedford	Berks Coming Soon!	Bethlehem	Blair
Bucks	Butler	Cambria	Chester	Delaware	Erie
Harrisburg	Johnstown	Lancaster	Lawrence	McKean	Mercer
Montgomery	Northampton	Philadelphia	Reading	Westmoreland	York



# FREE HOME LEAD REMEDIATION PROGRAMS FOR HOME OWNERS AND LANDLORDS WITH LOW INCOMES

## Federal HUD Lead Hazard Control Programs

Location	Contact Information	Website	End Date
Allegheny County	Jennifer Saks, (412) 350-1032 <a href="mailto:alleghenylead@actionhousing.org">alleghenylead@actionhousing.org</a>	<a href="https://www.alleghenycounty.us/economic-development/residents/lead-safe-homes-program.aspx">https://www.alleghenycounty.us/economic-development/residents/lead-safe-homes-program.aspx</a>	December 2023
Bedford County	Stacy Schwartz, (724) 656-0090 x5913 <a href="mailto:sschwartz@lccap.org">sschwartz@lccap.org</a>	<a href="https://lccap.org/programs-services/housing/lead-inspection-education/">https://lccap.org/programs-services/housing/lead-inspection-education/</a>	December 2022
Allentown	Heidi Westerman, 610.439.5997 <a href="mailto:Heidi.Westerman@AllentownPA.gov">Heidi.Westerman@AllentownPA.gov</a>	<a href="https://www.allentownpa.gov/Community-and-Economic-Development/Community-Housing/Current-Programs-Projects">https://www.allentownpa.gov/Community-and-Economic-Development/Community-Housing/Current-Programs-Projects</a>	December 2023
Bethlehem	Tanya Allison, (610) 419-8377 <a href="mailto:Tallison@bethlehem-pa.gov">Tallison@bethlehem-pa.gov</a>	<a href="https://www.bethlehem-pa.gov/Health-Bureau/Environmental/Lead-Healthy-Homes">https://www.bethlehem-pa.gov/Health-Bureau/Environmental/Lead-Healthy-Homes</a>	March 2023
Blair County	Trina Illig, (814) 693-3023 x1489 <a href="mailto:Tillig@blairco.org">Tillig@blairco.org</a>	<a href="http://www.dss.blairco.org/">http://www.dss.blairco.org/</a>	March 2023
Bucks County	Jessica Johnson, 215-491-6800 <a href="mailto:jmjohnson@buckscounty.org">jmjohnson@buckscounty.org</a>	<a href="https://lead-removal-bucksgis.hub.arcgis.com/">https://lead-removal-bucksgis.hub.arcgis.com/</a>	March 2023
Butler County	Danielle Schmidt, 724-287-6797 x289 <a href="mailto:danielle@housingauthority.com">danielle@housingauthority.com</a>	<a href="https://www.housingauthority.com/">https://www.housingauthority.com/</a>	December 2022
Cambria County	Renee Daly, (814) 742-6711 <a href="mailto:Rdaly@co.cambria.pa.us">Rdaly@co.cambria.pa.us</a>	<a href="https://www.cambriacountypa.gov/redevelopment.aspx">https://www.cambriacountypa.gov/redevelopment.aspx</a>	March 2023
Chester County	Jeanne Casner, 610-344-6225 <a href="mailto:jcasner@chesco.org">jcasner@chesco.org</a>	<a href="https://www.chesco.org/929/Childhood-Lead-Poisoning">https://www.chesco.org/929/Childhood-Lead-Poisoning</a>	March 2023
Delaware County	Nasia Hill, (610) 891-5427 <a href="mailto:HillN@co.delaware.pa.us">HillN@co.delaware.pa.us</a>	<a href="https://www.delcopa.gov/hcd/LHRP.html">https://www.delcopa.gov/hcd/LHRP.html</a>	March 2023
Delaware County	John Forte, 610-833-4453 <a href="mailto:jforte@caadc.org">jforte@caadc.org</a>	<a href="https://caadc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Application-for-Lead-Paint-Services.pdf">https://caadc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Application-for-Lead-Paint-Services.pdf</a>	October 2022
Erie City	Scott Henry, (814) 870-1545 <a href="mailto:shenry@redeveloperie.org">shenry@redeveloperie.org</a> or Kelly Neville, (814) 870-1540, <a href="mailto:kneville@redeveloperie.org">kneville@redeveloperie.org</a>	<a href="https://www.redeveloperie.org/lead_hazard_reduction/#:~:text=The%20Erie%20Redvelopment%20Authority%20administers,no%20cost%20to%20the%20occupants.">https://www.redeveloperie.org/lead_hazard_reduction/#:~:text=The%20Erie%20Redvelopment%20Authority%20administers,no%20cost%20to%20the%20occupants.</a>	December 2023

# Find and Hire a Lead Remediation Company



[EPA's Directory of Certified  
Inspection, Risk Assessment, and  
Abatement Firms](#)



[Pennsylvania Department of Labor  
& Industry's List of Certified Lead  
Abatement Companies](#)

## STEP #3: Refer to Care Management Services at the Medicaid and CHIP Health Plans

- Care managers can help you with all ten steps of this guide making it easier for you and your families!
- Contact information is in the guide.





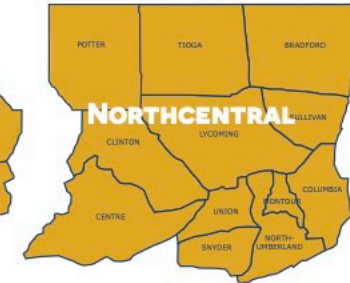
# STEP #3: Refer to Care Management Services – All Kids

Contact your local health department or your regional PA Department of Health office to help ensure children receive follow up blood tests.



## **NORTHWEST DISTRICT**

19 McQuiston Drive  
Jackson Center, PA 16113  
Phone: (724) 662-6068  
Fax: (724) 662-6086



## **NORTHCENTRAL DISTRICT**

Water Tower Square  
1000 Commerce Park Drive Suite 109  
Williamsport, PA 17701  
Phone: (570) 327-3400



## **NORTHEAST DISTRICT**

100 Lackawanna Avenue  
Room 316  
Scranton, PA 18503  
Phone: (570) 892-4080  
Fax: (570) 826-2238



## **SOUTHWEST DISTRICT**

233 West Otterman St  
Greensburg, PA 15601  
Phone: 724-830-2701



## **SOUTHCENTRAL DISTRICT**

30 Kline Plaza  
Harrisburg, PA 17104  
Phone: 717-787-8092



## **SOUTHEAST DISTRICT**

Reading State Office Building  
625 Cherry Street, Rm 442  
Reading, PA 19602  
Phone: 610-378-4352  
Fax: 610-378-4527

STEP #4:

Conduct a Developmental Screen



STEP #5:

Refer to Early Intervention (EI) and Possibly Head Start



STEP #6:

Refer to WIC

STEP #7:

Schedule Follow Up Blood Lead Monitoring & Additional Clinical Care



STEP #8:

Test Other Young Children in the Home

**STEP #9:  
Report ALL  
BLL Results to  
the PA Dept of  
Health**



# STEP #10: Share the \*NEW\* Parent Toolkit with Parents!

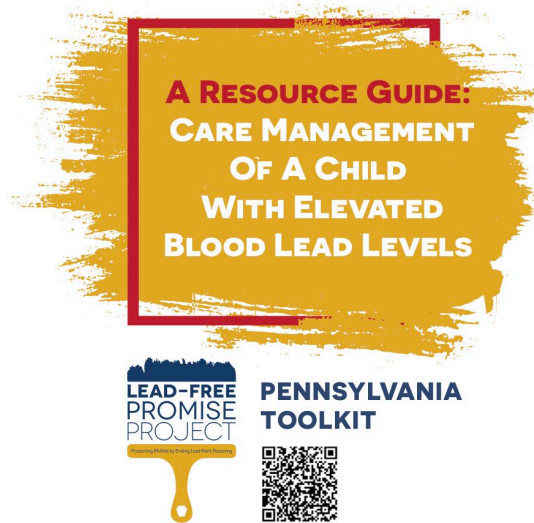


<https://paleadfree.org/prt/>

# Call to Action!

1

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with your colleagues!



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THE LEAD FREE PROMISE PROJECT IS PART OF [THRIVINGPA.ORG](https://thrivingpa.org)

2

Insert the link to the Resource  
Guide and Toolkit into your EMR



3

Join the Lead-Free  
Promise Project!



# Legal Cheat Sheet



Pennsylvania  
Legal Aid  
Network:

<https://palegalaid.net/legal-aid-providers-in-pa>

# Legislative Committee Goals

PA gets \$40 million in federal money.

This money can get the lead out!





# Counties Needing Legislative Advocacy

Allegheny

Blair

Bucks

Bedford

Carbon

Columbia

Crawford

Forest

Franklin

Fulton

Indiana

Juniata

Lancaster

Lehigh

Luzerne

Lycoming

Mifflin

Montour

Northampton

Northumberland

Pike

Susequehanna

Union

Venango

Wayne

Westmoreland

# Advocacy Pathways

Lead Free Promise Project Legislative Committee

Talk with Legislators

Form an Internal Committee

Amplify Voice of Home Visitors and Clients

Share with Pediatric Providers





ALLIES  
FOR CHILDREN



PENNSYLVANIA  
PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR CHILDREN  
A VOICE FOR KIDS SINCE 1992



United Way of Pennsylvania

children  
FIRST  
THE ADVOCATE FOR KIDS  
FORMERLY PCCY



Maternity Care  
Coalition  
*Strengthening families, inspiring change*

**pennaeyc** Pennsylvania Association for the  
Education of Young Children

PRITZKER  
Children's Initiative

Trying  
together

# Pennsylvania Prenatal-to-Three Collaborative

# Prenatal to Three Collaborative

Issue Areas:

Lead	Child Care
Nutrition	Home Visiting
Insurance	Maternal Health

Want to get involved? Contact:

Maggie Livelsberger at PA Partnerships for Children  
717-440-7209 and [mlivelsberger@papartnerships.org](mailto:mlivelsberger@papartnerships.org)

# Connect With Us!

- Contact Colleen McCauley to join the Lead-Free Promise Project at [colleenm@childrenfirstpa.org](mailto:colleenm@childrenfirstpa.org) and (215)-298-2027
- Visit our website and follow us on social media: [paleadfree.org](http://paleadfree.org)



<https://www.facebook.com/PALeadFree>



<https://twitter.com/PALeadFree>



<https://www.instagram.com/paleadfree/>

