



FACT SHEET

The Biden-Harris Administration's Record on Lead Poisoning Prevention

The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to ensuring all Americans have access to a safe, healthy, affordable home. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has committed to promoting lead-safe and healthy housing and has dedicated resources to lead poisoning education, awareness, and prevention so that America's next generation can live without the threat and fear of contamination in their homes.

Direct Investments in Healthy Homes

- On March 2, 2021, HUD announced the availability of \$30 million in healthy homes funding to assist nonprofit organizations, state and local governments, and public housing authorities in undertaking comprehensive programs that make safety and functional home modifications and limited repairs to meet the needs of low-income elderly homeowners.
- On May 20, 2021, HUD announced the availability of \$7 million in healthy homes funding to develop new and improved methods to identify and control residential health hazards including lead-based paint, mold, radon and pest infestations. These grants are particularly important to protect vulnerable populations, such as children, seniors, and people with chronic illnesses such as asthma, from exposure to these hazards.
- On May 28, 2021, HUD announced the availability of \$375 million in lead hazard control and lead hazard reduction demonstration funding to help eliminate dangerous lead-based paint hazards from the homes of lower income families for the Lead Hazard Control and Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration grant programs, combined into one "Lead Hazard Reduction Grant Program" Notice of Funding Opportunity.
- On June 14, 2021, HUD announced the availability of \$5 million in healthy homes funding to provide housing interventions in lower-income households that are conducted jointly through the coordination of HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH)-funded Lead Hazard Reduction Healthy Homes programs and programs funded by the U.S. Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program to determine whether this coordinated delivery of services achieves cost-effectiveness and better outcomes in improving the safety and energy efficiency of homes.

- On August 4, 2021, HUD announced the availability of \$40 million in healthy homes funding to address multiple childhood diseases and injuries in the home by focusing on housing-related hazards in a coordinated fashion, rather than addressing a single hazard at a time.

Creating Grant Programs Through HUD’s Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes

HUD’s Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH) provides funding to state, local and tribal governments (rural, suburban, and urban), and to nonprofit organizations, for treating communities with high rates of older, substandard housing for identifying and controlling lead-based paint hazards and other housing-related health and safety hazards in privately owned homes of low-income rental or owner-occupants. The OLHCHH has developed beneficial public-private partnerships focused on making homes safer for children and families to live in by using established assessment methods that result in proven cost-savings, for example:

- **National League of Cities Institute:** A nationwide effort to encourage and expand our applicant pool by working directly with municipal leadership on our grant funding, and to demonstrate best practices for improving housing conditions for residents by addressing exposures to lead hazards, and other housing-related health hazards.
- **Lowe’s:** Lowe’s hardware stores will participate in local grantee events as well as assist OLHCHH lead hazard control grantees with providing discounts on supplies needed to remediate lead-based paint and other housing related health hazards.
- **Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition:** HUD has worked closely with the Coalition – whose members include the City government, the Mt. Sinai Health Foundation, and the Cleveland Clinic – to develop and implement the local pre-occupancy rental inspection ordinance the City passed last year. Cleveland’s Lead Safe Certification law creates, for the first time, a proactive rental inspection system to certify properties as lead safe.

Surveying HUD-Assisted Housing and Lead Hazards:

Today, about 3.3 million U.S. families with a child under age 6 years live in a home with one or more conditions that can expose their child to lead-based paint hazards. Of these homes with a child under age 6, about 2.1 million house families with low income.

- Of the approximately 4.5 million homes assisted by HUD’s major assisted housing programs (public housing, and Section 8 project-based and tenant-based assistance), about 500,000 are target housing with a child under age 6.
- Based on HUD’s American Healthy Homes Survey II (conducted by the OLHCHH), if the HUD-assisted housing had the same prevalence of lead-based paint hazards as the national housing stock, about 100,000 of these housing units would have such hazards.
- The survey found that HUD-assisted housing is an estimated 55,000 or 56% of the nationally expected number of units with lead-based paint hazards.

- Research conducted jointly by HUD and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention determined that children under age 6 in HUD-assisted had blood lead levels 20% lower than comparable children in unassisted units, after controlling for a range of confounding factors.
- While HUD’s goal is that none of its assisted housing units have lead-based paint hazards, addressing lead safety as part of its housing assistance programs, through the Lead Safe Housing Rule, is both feasible and critical for improving the lead safety of the Department’s assisted-housing stock.

Reducing Lead Exposure in Communities of Color

- HUD’s Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes’ Lead Program (OLHCHH) was chosen by the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as a pilot program for the Administration’s Justice40 Initiative, which aims to ensure at least 40% of benefits from federal sustainability and climate investments flow to disadvantaged communities.
- A recent study demonstrated significant progress in HUD's efforts to reduce exposure to lead-based paint and are directly related to our nationwide lead reduction efforts. Overall, the data demonstrated that:
 - The fraction of overall housing units with lead-based paint was reduced;
 - The fraction with lead-based paint among assisted households was reduced;
 - The fraction of African American households with lead-based paint hazards was reduced;
 - The fraction households in poverty lead-based paint and with lead-based paint hazards was reduced; and
 - The fraction of households earning less than \$35,000 per year with a lead-based paint hazard was reduced.

Developing Curricula for Lead Disciplines in Older Pre-1978 “Target” Housing

- Most HUD-assisted target homes are housing choice voucher units (about 1.5 million), public housing (about 700,000), or project-based rental assisted units (about 700,000), for a total of about 2.8 million units.
- Under EPA rules, in target housing, lead paint inspections; risk assessments (to identify lead-based paint hazards); renovation, repair, and painting that disturbs lead paint, and abatement of lead paint or lead-based paint hazards, all have to be done by appropriately certified firms, supervisors, and personnel.
- HUD collaborated with EPA on developing the course curricula for these lead disciplines.
- While EPA’s focus is on protection of health, HUD’s focus includes both protection of health and availability of housing for low-income families:

- Standards that are too high are unhealthful.
- Standards that are too low deter housing owners, particularly owners of target housing units for which families want to use a housing choice voucher, from participating in the voucher program if the costs of making the unit lead safe is too high because of the stringency of the standards.

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