

OUR ASK IS SIMPLE

Invest in the Lead Safe Home Fund to protect Cleveland's children.

CLEVELAND HAS A LEAD POISONING CRISIS.

Yet, this crisis has a clear fix, a proven and effective solution: remediate our homes. We know what needs to be done. We need the collective will to do it.

LEAD POISONING AND THE HOUSING SOLUTION

Lead exposure, at even low levels, can damage a developing brain and cause lifelong, often irreversible, problems affecting education, behavior, and health. There is no safe blood level of lead, yet over 25% of Cleveland children test positive for lead prior to kindergarten.

Lead-based paint and leaded dust are the primary causes of lead poisoning in Ohio. In Cleveland, more than 90% of the housing stock was built before 1978, the year residential lead-based paint was outlawed.

Lead poisoning is a public health crisis with a housing solution. If we create lead safe homes, we can prevent lead poisoning from ever happening. It has been done in other communities – it is time for Cleveland to act.

OHIO'S FIRST LEAD SAFE HOME FUND

The Fund is a first-of-its-kind public-private partnership. The Fund supports effective, enforceable, and equitable solutions to lead poisoning by providing necessary support for eligible property owners and families. It achieves these solutions through two critical, interrelated functions. The first is a spectrum of lead safe home loans and grants. The second is a resource center that provides system navigation, workforce development, and resident services.

ABOUT THE LEAD SAFE HOME FUND

- **Focus on Prevention**
The Fund proactively improve housing conditions, so children do not ingest or inhale lead hazards in or around the home.
- **Strategic**
Loans are available to eligible property owners with varying levels of need. Grants are available as an incentive for compliance with preventive measures.
- **Coordinating Services and Public Education**
The Fund supports a one-stop-shop Lead Safe Resource Center to serve families, property owners, and the broader community on all things related to lead poisoning prevention.
- **Training and Developing the Workforce**
The Fund offers training courses and certifications to build a workforce of lead safety professionals.
- **Flexible and Responsive**
The Fund appropriately targets and maximizes resources through an expert, third-party administrator.
- **Supporting Implementation of Lead Safe Certification**
The City of Cleveland adopted a groundbreaking policy to require pre-1978 residential rental units to proactively ensure lead safety. The Fund is completing a carrot-and-stick approach that not only holds property owners accountable but provides the resources to make compliance feasible.
- **Leveraging Investments from All Sectors**
Lead poisoning affects everyone, so we all— the private sector, philanthropy, corporate partners, health systems, the public sector, and more — need to take responsibility for addressing it.



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WE NEED TO ACT NOW. THERE IS NO TIME TO SPARE.

Every day that we delay making smart investments puts our children at risk of lead poisoning.

IMPACT OF YOUR INVESTMENT

No one thrives when Cleveland's children cannot reach their potential. No one thrives if businesses are ready to leave or are reluctant to come to Cleveland because our housing stock is unhealthy and growing worse.

Creating lead safe homes is effective AND cost efficient. After Rochester, NY implemented a similar lead safe certificate system and encouraged the use of interim controls, lead poisoning rates decreased by nearly 85% within 10 years.

Lead poisoning prevention promises benefits that far exceed its cost. Much of this return-on-investment results from the avoidance of the long-term consequences of lead poisoning over the course of childhood, adolescent

development, and adulthood. For children born this year alone, lead exposure will cost Ohio nearly \$3 billion in reduced productivity, premature mortality, added healthcare, education, criminal justice, and social assistance costs.

A recent Case Western Reserve University study found that Cleveland children with elevated blood-lead levels had a 27% lower chance of being on-track for kindergarten than children who do not have elevated lead levels. Children with elevated lead levels were 25-30% more likely to enter the juvenile justice system and 34% more likely to be incarcerated as adults. By age 23, those with elevated lead levels were more likely to have relied on public assistance programs.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Fund enables Lead Safe Certification implementation by supporting two administrators and by providing resources to property owners. The Fund operates throughout two, two-year Compliance Cycles during which property owners must ensure that their units are lead safe. The Coalition anticipates that grant, debt and equity investments into the Fund will come from a broad range of sectors including Corporate, Public, Philanthropic, Banks, CDFIs, and Healthcare.

ELEMENTS OF THE LEAD SAFE HOME FUND	TYPE OF INVESTMENT	FIVE-YEAR BUDGET
Environmental Health Watch – Lead Safe Resource Center Administrator	Grant	\$5.4 million
Workforce Development	Grant	\$1 million
CHN Housing Partners – Lead Safe Loans and Grants Administrator	Grant	\$8 million
Property Owner Incentives	Grant	\$5 million
Grants to Property Owners	Grant	\$40 million
Loans To Property Owners	Investment	\$40 million

TOTAL ESTIMATED FIVE-YEAR BUDGET: \$99.4 MILLION

ABOUT THE LEAD SAFE CLEVELAND COALITION

The Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition is an inclusive public-private partnership founded to address lead poisoning through a comprehensive, preventive, and long-term approach. This approach protects Cleveland's children by merging smart, adaptable public policies; knowledgeable agencies willing to collaborate; proven community programs; and public and private sector accountability. Today, the Coalition has over 400 participants and seven working committees, and continues to grow. Join us!

CONTACT US

Marcia Egbert

The George Gund Foundation
MEgbert@gundfdn.org

Daniel Cohn

Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation
daniel.cohn@mtsinaifoundation.org

August Napoli

United Way of Greater Cleveland
anapoli@unitedwaycleveland.org

Mark McDermott

Enterprise Community Partners
mmcdermott@enterprisecommunity.org

 info@leadsafecle.org

 @LeadSafeCLE

 www.leadsafecle.org