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Contact: Diane McCloskey, CLEARCorps (313) 231-1108
Melissa Bunker, Campbell Marketing (586) 219-0094

CLEARCORPS ANNOUNCES NATIONAL LEAD POISONING PREVENTION WEEK OCTOBER 25-31

- Lead poisoning in children 6 and under can cause lifetime effects to multiple systems and because it often occurs with no obvious symptoms, is frequently unrecognized
- Partially due to an aged housing stock, Detroit is home to nine of the top 11 ZIP codes in the state for the highest rates of elevated blood level in tested children under the age of 6
- As a result of COVID, missed check-ups and testing, Detroit children are seriously at risk due of delayed diagnosis and treatment

DETROIT, MI, October 19, 2020... CLEARCorps announces National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, October 25-31 to raise local awareness about the danger of lead exposure and poisoning, especially for children 6 and under. Members of the Detroit community, disproportionately affected by lead, are encouraged to take this week to learn how to reduce exposure to lead in their environment, prevent its serious health effects, and learn about the importance of testing children for lead.

National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week is a joint initiative of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

“With increased time spent at home with online learning, and families delaying medical checkups since the COVID onset, we are concerned that many children have increased exposure and are not being tested for elevated blood lead levels,” says Diane McCloskey, Executive Director, CLEARCorps Detroit. The problem of lead poisoning is largely preventable with increased testing and education. McCloskey continues, “Our goals are to teach families about ways to get both their children and homes tested and learn how to prevent getting exposed to lead in the first place.”

About 3.6 million American households have children under 6 years of age who live in homes with lead exposure hazards. According to the CDC, about 500,000 American children between ages of 1 and 5 years have blood lead levels greater than or equal to the level of blood reference value, the level at which CDC recommends public health actions.

Lead can be found inside and outside the home, including in the water that travels through lead pipes or in the soil around the house. However, the most common source of exposure is from lead-based paint, which was used in many homes built before 1978. Adults and children can get lead into their bodies by breathing in the lead dust (especially during activities such as renovations, repairs or painting) or by

swallowing lead dust that settles in food, food preparation surfaces, floors, window sills, and other places, or eating paint chips or soil that contain lead.

Children can also become exposed to lead dust from adults' jobs or hobbies, and from some metal toys or toys painted with lead-based paint. Children are not exposed equally to lead, nor suffer its consequences in the same way. These disparities unduly burden minority families and low-income families and their communities.

About CLEARCorps

CLEARCorps Detroit uses a person-centered and home-focused approach to reduce the health risk of lead poisoning and other environmental hazards in the home. This includes providing materials to create healthy homes, educating parents about health risks, referring children for testing and treatment, referrals to other programs, advocacy for policy change, and when necessary relocation services for families with children with elevated blood lead levels. CLEARCorps Detroit will create healthy homes for children and families at the intersection of housing, health, and environmental justice with specific focus on reducing the percentage of children in Detroit with lead poisoning through a variety of services, programs and recommendations. More information about lead poisoning is available at <https://clearcorpsdetroit.org/lead-faq/>

For more information on the services available to help families, please visit www.clearcorpsdetroit.org and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/clearcorpsdetroit.