



**HUD and Metro Health Foundation
Support Prevention of Childhood Lead Poisoning**

CLEARCorps Detroit helps create healthy homes for children and families at the intersection of housing, health, and environmental justice with specific focus on reducing the percentage of Detroit children with lead poisoning through a variety of services, programs, and recommendations.

IT'S EASIER THAN YOU THINK

Children can get lead into their bodies by breathing lead dust (often during home renovations, repair, or painting), by swallowing lead dust that settles on surfaces, eating paint chips or soil that contain lead, and by drinking water delivered through lead pipes.

Lead poisoning in children six and under can cause lifetime health effects and minority and low-income families are unduly burdened by exposure to lead

Detroit is home to nine of the top eleven zip codes in the state for the highest rates of elevated blood lead levels in tested children under the age of six

It is an understatement to say that this year has been a year like no other. While daily life has changed for most of us as we adapt to new ways of business and family life, one thing that has not changed at CLEARCorps is our commitment to reducing the percentage of children in Detroit with lead poisoning.

We continue to be thankful for the foundation of our past work and the many partners who have worked alongside us during the past twenty years. We are excited to share some of what is on the horizon for 2021: our Relocation Program and our community outreach and support of families.

Relocation Program



Recently, HUD awarded \$9.4 million to 13 universities and public health organizations to improve understanding of the long-term impact of housing interventions targeting lead and other residential hazards and improve methods to identify and control residential health hazards. These grants, issued by HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes, are particularly important for improving the ability to protect vulnerable populations, such as children, from exposure to these hazards.

In Michigan, Wayne State University will be awarded \$699,171 to partner with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, CLEARCorps Detroit, and the Detroit Health Department to study the cost-effectiveness of protecting children from lead exposure through improved temporary emergency relocations and new permanent voluntary relocations. The objective of this study is first to establish whether the policies are effective in reducing blood lead levels in children, and then to compare the costs of relocation to the costs of current approaches. We expect this work to launch in January.

Community Outreach and Support of Families



With more time spent at home since the onset of COVID, many children have experienced an increased exposure to lead hazards. It is more important than ever to increase our ability to raise awareness about the danger of lead exposure and educate parents on how to reduce exposure in their environment, prevent its serious health effects, and learn about the importance of testing children for lead. We are excited to share that the Metro Health Foundation is supporting training and certification of staff through the Michigan Community Health Workers Alliance (MiCHWA). This will increase our ability to reach and support families with children at risk of lead poisoning and other environmental hazards. The Metro Health Foundation is a private Detroit grant-making foundation supporting Michigan organizations in health care and health-related fields.

We continue to use a person-centered and home-focused approach to reduce the health risks 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.

Please take a moment to learn more about resources for families at www.clearcorpsdetroit.org and follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/clearcorpsdetroit.

If you are interested in helping us reach more families with children at risk of lead poisoning through the work of your organization please contact me at dm@clearcorpsdetroit.org

As always, we are thankful for the work that you do in our community

and we look forward to the future

Diane McCloskey, Executive Director

Find more resources at our website

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