

CLEARCORPS ANNOUNCES METRO HEALTH FOUNDATION GRANT FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER TRAINING TO PREVENT LEAD POISONING

- Lead poisoning in children 6 and under can cause lifetime health effects
- Minority and low-income families are unduly burdened by exposure to lead
- 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

DETROIT, MI, November 4, 2020... CLEARCorps announces receipt of a grant from the Metro Health Foundation to support training and certification of staff as community health workers through the Michigan Community Health Workers Alliance (MiCHWA). This certification will increase the ability of the organization to reach and support families with children at risk of lead poisoning.

“With more time spent at home since the COVID onset, many children have increased exposure to lead hazards,” says Diane McCloskey, Executive Director, CLEARCorps Detroit. McCloskey continues, “It is more important than ever to increase our ability to raise awareness about the danger of lead exposure and poisoning and educate parents on how to reduce exposure to lead in their environment, prevent its serious health effects, and learn about the importance of testing children for lead.”

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 lead dust (especially 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.

About Metro Health Foundation

Metro Health Foundation is a private Detroit grant-making foundation supporting Michigan organizations in health care and health-related fields.

About CLEARCorps Detroit

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