

Ohio cities have implemented various strategies to address lead poisoning in rental housing, focusing on prevention, remediation, and enforcement. Here's an overview of initiatives in Cleveland, Columbus, and Toledo:

## **Cleveland**

### **Lead Safe Certification Ordinance**

Cleveland mandates that all residential rental units built before 1978 obtain a Lead Safe Certification. This requires property owners to pass a lead clearance conducted by an independent, certified lead-safe worker. The certification is valid for two years and is part of a phased implementation based on zip codes. Financial assistance is available to help property owners obtain their certification.

### **Enforcement Measures**

The city has taken legal action against property owners who fail to comply with lead-hazard control orders. In 2023, Cleveland charged 50 property owners with 75 counts each of failure to comply with lead-hazard control orders. These actions aim to combat widespread lead poisoning in the city.

Cleveland, Ohio, offers several grant programs aimed at mitigating lead hazards in homes, particularly those built before 1978. These initiatives are designed to assist homeowners, landlords, and child care providers in creating lead-safe environments.

### **City of Cleveland Lead Hazard Control Grant Program**

Administered by the Department of Community Development, this program provides grants for lead risk assessments and remediation of lead-based paint hazards. Eligible activities include interior and exterior lead hazard control, determined by city staff during an onsite inspection. Priority is given to homes with children under six years old and households meeting specific income guidelines. Landlords may be required to contribute to the project costs, depending on funding availability and project scope.

### **Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition – Financial Assistance**

The Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition offers financial assistance to both owner-occupied and rental property owners through the Lead Safe Home Fund. Grants are available to eligible Cleveland homeowners and rental property owners. Additionally, rental property owners can receive incentives of \$1,000 per 20-year lead-free exemption or \$750 for each Lead Safe Certification, with specific limits per property and zip code.

### **CHN Housing Partners – Lead Safe Loans and Grants**

CHN Housing Partners administers funds providing grants and loans to complete lead-safe work. All owners current on their taxes can obtain grants of \$4,500 per unit, regardless of

income. Income-qualified owners may receive grants averaging \$20,000 per unit. CHN offers turn-key services, including specification writing, contractor hiring, project management, and final clearance exams.

### **Lead Safe Child Care Pilot Program**

In collaboration with the Cleveland Clinic, Starting Point, and the Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition, the city launched a pilot program to remediate lead hazards in child care centers and home-based providers. Participating providers receive grants and free services, including support from EPA-certified experts to identify and eliminate lead hazards, business assistance, and lead screenings for enrolled children.

### **State-Level Support – Ohio Lead Abatement Tax Credit**

The Ohio Department of Health offers a Lead Abatement Tax Credit Program, providing state income tax credits to property owners for lead abatement expenses incurred in eligible dwellings. This program aims to incentivize the removal of lead hazards across the state.

For more information or to apply for these programs, you can contact:

- **City of Cleveland Lead Hazard Control Program:** (216) 664-2929
- **Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition:** Call the hotline at 833-601-5323
- **CHN Housing Partners:** Call 844-614-5323

These programs are part of Cleveland's comprehensive effort to eliminate lead hazards and ensure safe living environments for all residents.

## **Columbus**

Columbus, Ohio, offers several grant programs to assist homeowners, landlords, and contractors in identifying and mitigating lead hazards. These initiatives aim to create safer living environments, especially for children under six years old.

### **Lead Safe Columbus Program**

Administered by the City of Columbus, this program provides grants for lead-based paint hazard control, healthy home repairs, and radon testing/mitigation.

- An average of \$22,000 for lead hazard control
- Up to \$4,200 for healthy home repairs
- Up to \$1,600 for radon testing and mitigation

**Eligibility Criteria:**

- Properties must be within Columbus city limits and built before 1978
- Owner-occupied homes must have children under six living in or frequently visiting the property
- Occupants must have household incomes at or below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI)
- Rental properties can be tenant-occupied or vacant

**Lead Abatement Contractor Capacity-Building Grant**

This program, funded by the Ohio Department of Health, aims to increase the number of licensed lead abatement contractors in Columbus. It offers financial assistance for training and certification of lead workers and supervisors.

**Eligibility Criteria:**

- Contractors must be licensed in Ohio or interested in becoming licensed
- Commitment to perform lead abatement services in Columbus

For more information, contact the Lead Safe Columbus Program Manager at (614) 645-9612

**Ohio Department of Health Lead Hazard Control Grant**

This statewide program assists low to moderate-income families with children under six years old in making their homes lead-safe. Services include lead testing and removal of lead-based paint hazards.

**Eligibility Criteria:**

- Families with children under six years of age
- Income at or below specified limits
- Homes built before 1978

**Lead Safe Ohio Workforce Development Program**

In partnership with the Ohio Department of Development, the Finance Fund administers this program to support workforce development in lead abatement services. Grants up to \$100,000 are available to construction companies for training and increasing the number of lead contractors and workers.

**Eligibility Criteria:**

- Ohio-based construction companies

- Commitment to workforce development in lead abatement

### **Healthy Homes Production Grant**

The City of Columbus offers this grant to address various housing-based health and safety hazards, including mold, moisture, pests, and injury risks. The program takes a holistic approach to improve overall home safety and health.

#### **Eligibility Criteria:**

- Properties within Columbus city limits
- Homes with identified health and safety hazards
- 

These programs collectively aim to reduce lead exposure and improve housing conditions in Columbus. For assistance or to apply, contact the respective program offices or visit their websites for application forms and detailed guidelines.

### **Cincinnati**

Cincinnati has enacted several ordinances to address lead hazards in housing and water infrastructure, aiming to protect residents, especially children, from lead exposure.

#### **Lead Paint and Housing Safety Regulations**

Cincinnati's Municipal Code includes provisions that hold landlords accountable for maintaining lead-safe rental properties:

**Landlord Obligations (Chapter 871):** Landlords are required to maintain rental units in compliance with health and safety codes, including addressing lead hazards. Failure to do so can result in enforcement actions, such as orders to vacate unsafe properties.

**Tenant Relocation Assistance:** Under the Landlord Responsibility Ordinance, if tenants are ordered to vacate due to lead hazards that landlords fail to address, landlords may be responsible for the costs associated with relocating tenants.

#### **Lead Service Line Disclosure and Replacement**

To combat lead in drinking water, Cincinnati has implemented specific ordinances:

- **Lead Service Line Notification (Section 871-12):** Landlords must inform prospective tenants in writing if a rental unit is served by a lead service line before the lease is signed.

- **Prohibition of Lead Service Lines:** As of June 28, 2017, the city banned the use of lead service lines. Property owners are required to replace existing lead service lines when notified by the city.

### **Additional Lead Safety Measures**

Cincinnati offers resources to help residents manage lead hazards:

- **HEPA Vacuum Loan Program:** Residents can borrow HEPA vacuums to safely clean lead dust from their homes.
- **Paint Chip Testing:** The Cincinnati Health Department provides testing services for paint chips to determine lead content.
- **Lead Hazard Reduction Program:** Hamilton County Public Health offers services like paint and soil testing, HEPA vacuum loans, and maintains a list of properties with open lead hazard control orders.
- These ordinances and programs reflect Cincinnati's commitment to reducing lead exposure risks and promoting healthier living environments for its residents.