



## Lead-Safe Housing Registry; New Lead Hazard Abatement Funding Through CHIP

### Budget Proposal Summary

- *Provides greater opportunity for Ohio families to identify lead-safe homes when looking for a place to live.*
- *Requires lead-safe maintenance practices to be performed in residential rental units before inclusion in a new Lead-Safe Housing Registry.*
- *Leverages up to \$5 million a year in new funding through the Children's Health Insurance Program for lead abatement in homes where children live.*

**ODH is proposing in the SFY18-19 budget a voluntary mechanism for landlords to register lead-safe housing. The statutory language would allow property owners of pre-1978 rental residential units who comply with lead-safe maintenance practices and dust sampling to register their property with ODH for entry into a voluntary Lead-Safe Housing Registry available online to the public.**

**During the SFY18-19 biennium, ODH and the Ohio Department of Medicaid will work together to leverage up to \$5 million per year over the next biennium in Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) funding to abate lead hazards in residential units where children live.**

### Background

- Lead is a serious environmental public health threat to children, particularly those who are exposed to deteriorating lead-based paint while living in an older house or apartment.
- The ODH Ohio Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program oversees local health departments with delegated authority to conduct public health lead investigations, provides lead investigation and case management assistance, and conducts data collection and analysis as well as public and professional education.

### **Lead-Safe Housing Registry**

- A new Lead-Safe Housing Registry will be developed in partnership with the Ohio Housing Finance Agency, which currently maintains a self-listing statewide rental housing locator. The locator provides a filtered search for rental housing available based on elderly-friendly, accessibility, and smoke-free. Lead-safe can be added to the existing filter criteria based on compliance with lead-safe maintenance practices and dust sampling.

## *SFY 2018-19 Executive Budget Proposal*

- Under ODH's proposal, residential rental unit lead-safe maintenance practices must be performed by an individual who has successfully completed a training program approved by ODH.
- ODH's proposal does not impose a fee in order for a property owner to register a residential rental unit in the Lead-Safe Housing Registry.
- Property owners who want to participate in the Lead-Safe Housing Registry must maintain records of lead-safe maintenance practices.

### **Lead Abatement Funding for Residential Rental Units Through CHIP**

- Currently, the main source of funding to assist Ohio property owners with lead abatement is federal lead hazard control funding provided through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- HUD funding is available to local and state units of government through a competitive grant program. ODH and nine localities have been awarded HUD funding.
- ODH and the Ohio Department of Medicaid are proposing a similar eligibility model used by HUD be used to distribute CHIP funds for lead abatement. Properties owners and families are eligible for participation in the program if the occupants are at or below 250% FPL, as a guideline, and priority will be given to properties that are the primary residence for at least one child under six years of age or for a pregnant woman, and properties contributing to any child's elevated blood lead level.
- Properties must meet conditions of enrollment such as compliance with all local and state building codes before lead hazard control work starts, property taxes must be paid in full, and the cost of lead hazard abatement may not exceed the appraised value of the property.
- Approximately \$4.8 million of the funding each year will be used for remediation and associated testing services for homes under lead hazard orders. The remaining \$200,000 each year will be used to develop, support, and market a Registry of Lead Safe Housing for non-owner occupied rental housing by leveraging the resource administered by the Ohio Housing Finance Agency.

### **Existing Efforts to Address Lead in Older Homes with Deteriorating Lead-Based Paint**

- Children are especially at risk for lead poisoning if they live in an old house that may have deteriorating lead paint – which is the cause of most cases of elevated blood lead levels in children.
- Ohio law requires doctors and other providers to order a blood lead screening test for any child under six years old who's determined to be at risk of lead exposure. ODH is working to increase the number of kids tested in high-risk areas by engaging doctors, local health departments, other partners and parents.
- Those blood tests have to be submitted to ODH, and when children with elevated blood levels are identified, public health staff conduct lead investigations, working with the affected family.
- If an investigation finds a lead hazard in a residential home, ODH has the legal authority to issue a lead hazard control order to the property owner to abate the hazard. If the property owner refuses, the Director of Health may issue an order to vacate the property and declare it unsafe for human occupation, especially for children under six years old and pregnant women, until the lead hazard is abated.