

# Lead-Safe Ordinances River



**REACTIVE/  
REMEDIATION**  
*(outreach-based,  
easier to implement)*

This river worksheet is designed to display policy and funding options that you can utilize for your municipality...

... consider where you are in the river from **remediation** to **prevention** and use it to gain ideas to implement in your community!

## Lead Exposure

- Throughout the 1900s, lead was used because of its cheap cost, versatility, and ability to help colors stay bright
- This led to widespread cases of **lead poisoning**
- Eventually, there was a ban on **leaded gasoline**, the manufacturing of **lead service water lines**, and the manufacturing of **lead-based paint**
- Lead can be found in water, air, soil, and our homes
- Lead exposure *disproportionately affects* low-income communities and communities of color

### CREATION OF A HOUSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Review housing codes and promote changes to protect health, accessibility, and tenants' rights
- Recommend updates since they are not updated often
- Requires government authorization
- No funding needed

*Ex: Get the Lead Out, Pittsburgh*

### PROVIDE ACCESS TO UNCERTIFIED TESTING

- Provide residents with free lead testing kits upon request
- Can detect the presence of lead via water testing kits or surface swabs
- These kits can result in false positives and negatives
- The tests are fast and cheap but are not certified so action is not required

*Ex: Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority*

### CREATE A HEPA VACUUM LOAN PROGRAM

- Educate community members that regular vacuums do not capture lead dust adequately
- Provides a High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) vacuum to combat lead dust

*Ex: several Health Departments across Ohio*

### CASE MANAGEMENT AND SERVICES

- Ease the burdens on those with lead exposure by providing government and community services
  - Relocation assistance; childcare development access; food access; assistance navigating healthcare costs; translation services; legal services

*Ex: City of Dayton and Montgomery County*

### CREATE A PROGRAM TO MAXIMIZE FUNDING SOURCES

- Leverage federal, state, and local funds for lead abatement and remediation
  - Identify at-risk housing stock; quantify specific un-met needs; combine funding sources; finance projects

*Ex: Lead Safe Cuyahoga with Cleveland Heights*

### ESTABLISH LEAD AS A NUISANCE

- Acknowledge that unsafe demolition practices can increase lead exposure and create a public nuisance
- The safest method is the wet-wet-wet method
  - It captures lead dust to prevent it from spreading
- This ordinance simply establishes lead as a public nuisance

*Ex: City of Cleveland*

### MOBILE CLINIC

- Allocate funding to purchase mobile health units to be used by the Department of Health or partners
- Can offer blood lead tests and similar services
- Can meet at-risk populations where they are
- Would be a long-term investment

*Ex: City of Cleveland*

### Ordinance Type Key

Targeted Outreach and Education = red

Increase Abatement of Lead Hazards = orange

Proactively Identify Potential Lead Hazards = yellow

Affirmative Marketing of Lead Safe Properties = green



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## CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMS

- Increase the number of lead risk assessors and lead risk abatement contractors in your area
- A third party may assist in providing these services
  - Can recruit diverse contractors

*Ex: City of Pittsburgh, Women for a Healthier Environment*

## TAX INCENTIVES

- Consider financial barriers to developers in your region which could be modified
- No up-front investment
- Not a long-term solution to workforce development concern

*Ex: Ohio Lead Abatement Tax Credit*

## PROVIDE ACCESS TO CERTIFIED TESTING

- Train municipal staff or community organizations to become lead risk assessors
  - Provide a clear point of contact
- Purchase XRF machines
- Can generate revenue that could be reinvested in lead safety programs
- State and federal grants are available to pay for certification and equipment

**See what works best for your community!**



Potential funding sources



Complete municipal ordinances overview

## RELOCATION AND RELEVANT COORDINATION

- Focus on funding the relocation of persons who have lead control orders
  - Can front money for alternative housing; require landlord to repay
  - Can create partnerships with homeowners to provide leases to families in need
- Can be supplemented with Case Management and Services policies

*Ex: City of Cincinnati and Cleveland Heights*

## PROACTIVE TESTING AND FILTRATION IN SCHOOLS

- Can require all schools and child-care centers to certify that they have:
  - Tested water sources for lead
  - Are providing NSF filters at water stations
  - Allow the municipality or contractor to conduct a lead risk assessment
- Without proper funding, costs could be shifted onto the parents, especially at child-care centers

*Ex: Philadelphia and State of Michigan*

## VOLUNTARY RENTAL REGISTRY WITH LEAD-SAFE CERTIFICATION

- Certifying a rental lead-safe can decrease liability for the homeowner
- No financial incentive so voluntary registration may be low
- Does not address bad or absentee landlords

*Ex: City of Cleveland, City of Cleveland Heights*

## MANDATORY RENTAL REGISTRY WITH LEAD-SAFE CERTIFICATION

- Would create a municipal rental registry
  - Require lead-safe certification prior to being listed or receiving occupancy permit
  - OR require homeowners to comply with scheduled inspections
- Requires substantial investment and training of municipal staff

*Ex: City of Toledo, City of Maumee*

## Lead Abatement vs. Repair

- **Lead Abatement Activities:** for known hazards
  - *Purpose:* permanently eliminate existing lead-based paint hazards
  - Initiated by tribal, state, or local government OR requested by property owner
- **Renovation, Repair, and Painting (RRP):** for suspected hazards
  - *Purpose:* conduct renovations, repairs, or painting to reduce lead-based paint hazards
  - Voluntary request by property owner

**PREVENTATIVE**  
*(marketing incentives, more intensive)*