



DOH COMMISSIONER KLEIN: FUNDING IS AVAILABLE TO ELIMINATE LEAD POISONING IN CHILDREN

Residents from 15 Cities Are Eligible to Apply

(HARTFORD, CT) – Today, Department of Housing (DOH) Commissioner Evonne M. Klein is reminding state residents that funding is available to help abate lead contaminants from households in fifteen of Connecticut’s largest cities. The Connecticut Children’s Healthy Homes program—funded by DOH and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)—and operated by the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, targets very-low and low income households who are living with lead contamination in their homes. Lead poisoning is especially dangerous in young children and according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) lead poisoning has been known to cause damage to the brain and nervous system, slowed growth and development, learning and behavioral problems, as well as hearing and speech issues.

Residents from fifteen cities—which includes Bridgeport, Danbury, East Haven, Enfield, Hartford, Manchester, Meriden, New Britain, New Haven, Norwalk, Stamford, Torrington, Waterbury, West Haven, and Winchester—are eligible [to apply to CCMC for funding](#).

“The Connecticut Children’s Healthy Homes program is a valuable and effective tool that we have in our state to eliminate lead poisoning,” said DOH Commissioner Klein. “DOH’s broader work is focused on improving the quality of life of Connecticut residents by ensuring access to quality, safe, and affordable housing. This program is helping us to achieve that vision by ensuring that we can protect our children against the dangers of lead poisoning.”

The Connecticut Children’s Healthy Homes Program improves children’s health by making their homes safer. DOH and the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center are committed to protecting children from lead poisoning and making homes in Connecticut lead safe and healthy. This project is one of fifteen organizations that make up the highly successful Office for Community Child Health (OCCH) at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center.

The goal of this program is to protect children before they are poisoned by lead hazards or injured by safety hazards in their homes. The Connecticut Children’s Healthy Homes program integrates health and safety interventions, lead hazard control, energy efficiency interventions, and housing rehabilitation for property owners by coordinating resources in an efficient manner to produce healthy homes. In addition to removing lead-based paint hazards, the program can fund removal of a variety of housing-related hazards including asbestos, electrical, radon, mold, trip and fall hazards, asthma triggers, safety issues and more. Our approach improves the housing for current and future occupants.

“When the Healthy Homes Program was originally created, we focused solely on making housing units lead safe,” explained Chris Corcoran, Program Manager of the Healthy Homes Program. “Over the past several years, with the support of DOH, HUD, Connecticut Children’s and OCCH, we have been able to broaden our focus to remove other health and safety hazards commonly found in homes. With relatively low cost interventions in homes where children live, their homes are more safe and comfortable, school attendance and grades improve, parents miss less time away from work, emergency room usage declines, and significant cost savings to programs like Medicaid are achieved.”

The program’s services are available in [15 towns and cities across Connecticut](#) and provides qualified homeowners and tenants with:

- Inspections and plans for lead and home safety hazard removal
- Financial assistance to remediate hazards
- Relocation assistance during construction
- Referrals to low- or no-cost home weatherization programs designed to increase energy efficiency
- Lead hazard and healthy homes education

For more information about Connecticut Children’s Healthy Homes Program, call **860-837-6234**.

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Contact: Dan Arsenault

Connecticut Department of Housing

Dan.Arsenault@ct.gov

860-270-8103 (office)

860-977-3189 (cell)

Twitter: @CTDeptHousing