

THE LEAD RISK REDUCTION PROGRAM

Why the Lead Risk Reduction Program Is Important

Lead paint is a significant and widespread threat to people's health, especially for children. The risks, which include behavior and learning problems such as reduced IQs and ADHD; slowed growth; hearing and speech problems; anemia; and in rare cases, seizures, coma and even death, are very serious and debilitating. Studies have found that children's health may be affected adversely even at extremely low blood lead levels, and no level of lead in blood is considered safe.

The scale of the problem nationwide is daunting; approximately half a million U.S. children have blood lead levels above 5 micrograms per deciliter, the level at which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends actions to reduce exposure. An estimated 37 million homes in the U.S. built prior to 1978 still have lead-based paint. Nevertheless, CDC considers lead poisoning the most preventable environmental disease among young children.

How the Program Works

The primary goals of the EPA Lead Risk Reduction Program are to decrease the number of children with blood lead levels of five micrograms per deciliter or higher, and reduce the higher rates of elevated blood lead levels found among low-income children and in communities of color. The program works to identify and reduce exposure to lead from lead-based paint through regulations, certification and training programs, and public outreach.

- Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule - Requires firms that perform renovation, repair, and painting projects that disturb lead-based paint in homes, childcare facilities and pre-schools built before 1978 to be certified by EPA (or an EPA authorized state), use certified renovators who are trained by EPA-approved training providers, and follow lead-safe work practices. Outreach materials are sent to contractors, media, large and small hardware stores, trade associations, and others and include ads, Web materials, articles, postcards, brochures, and fact sheets.
- Lead Abatement Program - Regulations provide a framework for lead paint abatement, inspections and risk assessments. These activities require specialized techniques and must be conducted by firms certified to do lead inspections, risk assessments and abatement.
 - EPA encourages families who live in homes built before 1978 to have their residences inspected for the presence of lead-based paint, and to have risk assessments conducted to determine if there are any sources of exposure, such as peeling paint or lead dust.
 - Lead paint abatement may be needed to permanently eliminate lead-based paint hazards and is sometimes ordered by a state or local government.
- Real Estate Disclosure Regulations - Federal law grants home buyers and renters of properties built before 1978 the right to know whether lead paint is present before signing contracts or leases. Landlords, real estate agents, property managers, and home sellers must disclose information about the presence of lead-based paint to prospective buyers or renters, who must be provided an EPA-approved information pamphlet that spells out their rights.

Consequences if the Program Is Eliminated or Inadequately Funded

Elimination or reduction of funding for this program will significantly disrupt national and

state risk reduction efforts and delay further progress in reducing childhood lead poisoning across the U.S. Many states cannot afford to carry out all aspects of the program.

Demonstrated Successes

- Recent biomonitoring data show significant progress in the continuing effort to eliminate childhood lead poisoning as a public health concern. The following are outreach efforts that have helped raise awareness of this preventable childhood threat:
 - Through the Ad Council, an outreach campaign has secured millions of donated media support for TV, radio, print and outdoor billboard PSAs that educate parents, pregnant women, do-it-yourselfers, teachers, landlords, contractors and renovators, medical professionals, and the press about lead paint risks.
 - Annually in late October, EPA observes National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week to highlight and educate parents and children on the dangerous health effects of exposure to lead. Lead Poisoning Prevention Week embraces a different theme each year, which underscores the many ways parents can reduce a child's exposure to lead and prevent its serious health effects. EPA partners with CDC and the Department of Housing and Urban Development on themes, develops posters and flyers and other education and awareness tools, and produces events in communities across the country.

Funding for the Lead Risk Reduction Program

FY2016 Baseline Budget: \$13.275 million

FY2017 President's Budget Proposal: \$13.598 million

FY2017 Amount Appropriated: \$13.250 million

FY2018 President's Budget Proposal: \$0

FY2018 Amount Appropriated: \$13.203 million

FY2019 President's Budget Proposal: \$0 million

FY2019 Amount Appropriated: \$12.627 million

FY2020 President's Budget Proposal: \$0 million