

Are there qualifications to participate in program?

Yes. Your property must be in Erie County, built before 1978, have a child or children under the age of 6 living in the home or visiting more than 6 hours per week, and meet the income eligibility guidelines listed below. **Children under 6 should be blood tested for lead before work begins.**

HUD guidelines require the occupant to provide documentation that their household income is less than 80% of the median Erie County Household Income\* (\* income before taxes)

Low Income Chart ( 80% AMI)			
Family Size	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
1	49,150	4,096	945
2	56,150	4,679	1,080
3	63,150	5,263	1,214
4	70,150	5,846	1,349
5	75,800	6,317	1,458
6	81,400	6,783	1,565

LEADS SAFE Erie County program partners:

Belmont Housing Resources for WNY  
Alside Construction  
Sherwin Williams  
Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo

Erie County Health Department  
503 Kensington Avenue  
Buffalo, New York 14214

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## Lead Hazard Reduction Program

**FREE Assistance to Reduce Hazards and Improve Your Home**



Frequently Asked Questions



Erie County Health Department -  
LEADS SAFE Erie Co  
Mark C. Poloncarz, County Executive  
Gale R. Burstein, MD, MPH, Commissioner of Health



Funding provided by:  
U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development

WHAT IS LEAD HAZARD REDUCTION ?

Funded by the US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, **LEADS SAFE Erie County** provides lead hazard identification and contracted labor & supplies to remediate and control lead hazards at your property.

These funds are NOT intended to perform non-lead-related renovations or extensive home rehabilitation work. (such as roof replacement or major deficiencies)

However minor Healthy Home (health and safety) items may be corrected to improve health and safety to occupants.

What does ‘Lead Hazard Reduction’ mean?

Lead Hazard Reduction is activity geared towards control and elimination of lead-based paint (LBP) hazards, including interim controls and abatement.

- Interim controls are a set of measures designed to temporarily reduce human exposure to LBP.
- Abatement is a set of measures to permanently eliminate LBP hazards.



As a part of **LEADS SAFE Erie County**, the **LHRD** performs cost effective interim controls or abatement of lead hazards. **If no lead hazards exist, the program cannot offer assistance.**

How does the Lead Hazard Reduction Program work?

The program begins with you completing a simple application and Letter of Intent form. Once accepted, the program proceeds as follows:

- Occupant income is verified by Health Dept.; The Health Dept. explains the program and outlines responsibilities and commitments of all partners;
- The Health Dept. staff will then complete a full lead Paint Inspection / Risk Assessment at the property identifying all sources of lead and any lead hazards. ( An additional Healthy Homes Assessment may be performed as well.)
- Program partner Belmont Housing Resources for WNY will then prepare an estimate of the work and secure bids from certified lead contractors to perform lead hazard control work;
- The bid is awarded and the property owner signs a contract with the contractor for the scope of work;
- Using Lead Safe Work practices, the contractor completes the work as stipulated by the contract;
- Finally, a clearance exam is performed by a Certified Lead Risk Assessor to ensure that no lead hazards exist.
- Owner receives free training on how to maintain unit in lead safe condition.





# LEADSAFE Erie County Lead Hazard Reduction Program

## Who is eligible to participate in the program?

If your property is in Erie County...

- was built before 1978;
- you have a child or children under the age of 6 living in the home **or** visiting at least 2 days per week, 3 hours per day;
- a one, two, or three unit building;
- and, you meet the minimum household income eligibility guidelines (see back page);

## If my children are all 6 years old or older can I still participate?

Possibly. Due to HUD grant guidelines there *must* be a child under 6 years old *either living in or spending more than 6 hours a week at the property*. Homes with **well-documented** visiting children and daycares will be accepted. If you or someone in your home is pregnant, you can qualify as well.



## What is a lead based paint inspection / risk assessment?

A Lead Based Paint (LBP) inspection is a surface by surface investigation to determine the presence of LBP. A risk assessment is an on-site investigation of residential dwellings to discover any lead based paint hazards. Both are completed at the same time during the **LEADSAFE Erie County** program inspection.

## How long will it take to have the work done and complete the program?

Depending on the number of lead hazards identified and the cooperation by all parties, it will take approximately 1 week to remediate the hazards. From start to finish, the entire program can take up to 6 months.

## Will I have to relocate my family or tenants while work is being completed?

Every effort will be made to allow you to stay in your home. However, you must leave the property while work is in progress. Most work will be completed during normal business hours and, usually participants will be able to return at the end of the day. Occasionally work scheduled will require occupants to stay out of the unit for one or two nights.



## Am I required to repair any lead hazards that have been identified?

All lead hazards identified during the risk assessment must be corrected whether or not the property is further enrolled into the program. The **LEADSAFE Erie County Lead Hazard Reduction Program** is designed to cover contracted costs for supplies and labor. However, if the cost of repairs exceed the maximum amount available through the grant, you may be able to assist with funding the work above and beyond your percent contribution and / or perform some of the work yourself.

## What if I choose not to participate in the program after I sign-up?

You have the option of leaving the program up until the signing of the contract with the contractor. However, you should still repair any lead hazards identified.



## Will I receive a cash award or stipend to make repairs in my

**No.** The program is designed to cover only the cost of repairing lead hazards, and all repair funds (supplies and labor) go directly to the contractor performing the work.

## What if I have a deteriorated window that does NOT contain lead?

**ONLY** surfaces that have been identified as a lead hazard are eligible for interim controls or abatement.

\*Houses requiring major rehabilitation may not be eligible.

## I am a landlord. What will be required of me and my tenants to participate?

The program staff and contractors performing the work will require entry to the unit numerous times throughout the project. It will be necessary for you to assist in coordinating this. Without access, the work cannot be completed as specified in your contract and required by HUD guidelines.

## LET US HELP YOU KEEP YOUR CHILDREN SAFE FROM LEAD-BASED PAINT HAZARDS!

## I rent and run a family daycare at my home. Do I need the property owner's permission to participate?

Yes. Both you and the property owner must agree to participate. As the homeowner, your landlord is the one who is required to enter into the agreement and sign the contract. He or she will be the one receiving the supplies & labor. But, you can certainly encourage his participation by offering to work closely with him and the program staff to ensure that you will allow the work to be done.



## As the homeowner, is there any cost to me to participate in the program?

In order to allow funds to go farther and control lead hazards in as many homes as possible, The Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration program is asking for a small contribution to the final cost of labor and materials *not to exceed* 12% of the total. Depending on your income, you as the homeowner could pay as little as 0% (required \$25 process fee).

## It sounds like a lot of work to participate in the program. Is it worth it?

YES! Whether you're a parent, caregiver, or property owner, safety of our community's kids is of great concern. What better way to protect them than by making sure that no child will be exposed to lead hazards while at your home?