

# **The Pennsylvania Lead-Free Promise Project:**

## **A Program of Children First**

**August 5, 2025**

**Presented by:**

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Children First

PA LFPP Consultant

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## Today's Presentation:

- Our Parent Agency: **Children First**
- **PA Lead-Free Promise Project**
- Our Sponsoring Agency: **PA Department of Health**

[www.paleadfree.org](http://www.paleadfree.org)

# About

Children First PA works to improve the lives of our region's children by developing initiatives and advocating for quality health care, child care, public education and family stability.





## Children First

- Founded in 1980 as **Public Citizens for Children and Youth (PCCY)**. Today Children First is a leading child advocacy agency in PA.



## Lead Advocates for 25 Years

- Advocated to reduce childhood lead poisoning for over 25 years.
- Combines a solid reputation with expertise in outreach, advocacy, data, strategy and relationships.

## CHESTER CITY COUNCIL PASSES NEW LEAD CERTIFICATION ORDINANCE

**CHESTER, PA (April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023)** — The Lead-Free Promise Project, a statewide coalition of more than 60 organizations across the state, in partnership with the Delaware County Lead Prevention Coalition and the city of Chester hosted a press conference today announcing a new lead ordinance in a continued effort to end lead paint poisoning in Pennsylvania.

## ‘Universal’ lead bill passes, making Philly the biggest U.S. city to require landlords to test for lead

It took 18 months for Philadelphia City Council to pass a lead safety bill aimed at preventing children from being exposed to lead paint in apartments.

By Jake Blumgart · September 26, 2019

**M** Morning Call

**'It is unacceptable and it's preventable': Officials say high levels of childhood lead poisoning is significant problem in ...**

At least 350 children in Lehigh and Northampton counties experience lead poisoning every year, a new report by the anti-crime organization...

Jun 3, 2021

**t** timesherald

**[Norristown amends municipal code to include ‘lead poisoning prevention’ chapter](#)**

Norristown's elected officials authorized the amendment of a section of the municipal code earlier this week. crackina down on the negative...



**Children First:**  
*A Long Time  
Advocate of Lead  
Poisoning Prevention*

# Children First Driving Lead Poisoning Advocacy

## Children First

- Philly Lead Law
- Other local lead safe ordinances including City of Chester, Norristown, Yeadon,

## Collaboration with PADOH

- Working on Screening, education and Lead Remediation
- TA for counties

## Lead Free Promise Project

- 400 Coalition Members Representing over 100 Organizations and Impacted Families
- PA & County advocacy & education

# The Creation of the PA Lead-Free Promise Project (PA LFPP)

Started as a collaborative of three organizations as part of the "Thriving PA" initiative

Developed capacity through a three-year Pritzker grant

Funded by PA Department of Health starting 7/1/2024

# PA Lead-Free Promise Project 2025-26

1. Support municipalities that are exploring lead ordinances

2. Continue to provide "two before two" lead testing education to legislators

3. Share best practices across stakeholders

4. Collaborate with PADOH to ensure stakeholders have needed information and data

5. Provide resources to stakeholders

6. Continue to facilitate LFPP General Meetings, Screening and Legislative Committee meetings bimonthly



[THE CHALLENGE](#)

[OUR COALITION](#)

[OUR GOALS](#)

[RESOURCES](#)

[TOOLKIT](#)

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# PROTECTING PA KIDS BY ENDING LEAD PAINT POISONING



# Over 400 Lead Free Promise Project Coalition Members Representing over 100 organizations



<https://paleadfree.org>

## OUR COALITION



# Lead Free Promise Project Toolkits



## TOXIC LEAD

### PA LAWMAKERS MUST ACT TO PROTECT CHILDREN IN DELAWARE COUNTY

#### Did You Know?

- Lead poisoning can cause permanent brain damage to children – especially babies and toddlers and under. Lead can cause learning, behavior, hearing and speech problems, sometimes requiring special education services, and is a risk factor for criminal behavior.<sup>1,2</sup>
- For every dollar spent on removing lead paint-based hazards in children's homes and apartments, \$17-\$229 would be returned in health benefits, increased IQ, higher lifetime earnings, tax revenue, reduced spending on special education and reduced criminal activity.<sup>3,4</sup>

#### WHAT DOES THE LEAD POISONING CRISIS LOOK LIKE IN DELAWARE COUNTY?

- Delaware County has the 5TH HIGHEST NUMBER OF CHILDREN POISONED of all PA counties.<sup>5,6</sup>
- ALMOST 290 CHILDREN ARE POISONED EVERY YEAR<sup>7</sup> – enough to fill 12 pre-school classrooms.
- With ONLY 19% OF CHILDREN SCREENED for lead, more are likely to be poisoned.<sup>8</sup>
- Delaware County children are POISONED AT THE SAME RATE AS CHILDREN POISONED IN FLINT, MICHIGAN at the peak of the city's crisis.<sup>9-14</sup>
- LEAD-BASED PAINT HAZARDS IN CHILDREN'S HOMES ARE THE MAIN SOURCE OF LEAD POISONING. Lead-based paint was not banned for residential use until 1978, and 87% of residential properties in Delaware County were built before 1980.<sup>15</sup>
- Black and Hispanic children are disproportionately poisoned because they are more likely to live in older properties with deteriorated lead-based paint. In Delaware County, 5.5 TIMES MORE BLACK CHILDREN AND 5.5 TIMES MORE HISPANIC CHILDREN ARE POISONED THAN WHITE CHILDREN.<sup>16</sup>

#### CALL TO ACTION

**CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING IS 100% PREVENTABLE** primarily by removing lead paint-based hazards in their homes. Delaware County takes real protection from toxic lead.

**URGE YOUR STATE LEGISLATOR TO:**

- FUND REMOVAL OF LEAD PAINT FROM CHILDREN'S HOMES
- GUARANTEE EVERY PA CHILD IS APPROPRIATELY TESTED FOR LEAD AS PER CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL REQUIREMENTS.



## A RESOURCE GUIDE: CARE MANAGEMENT OF A CHILD WITH ELEVATED BLOOD LEAD LEVELS

### PENNSYLVANIA TOOLKIT



Please share this resource guide widely! If you have an electronic medical record, insert the guide's url into your system.

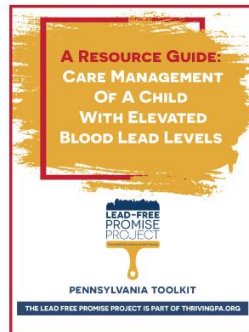
This guide is for public use and does not require a license for a health system or managed care organization to share with their networks.

This guide was released June 1, 2021, and will be updated regularly. To report a change or discrepancy, contact Colleen McCauley at [ColleenM@childrenfirstpa.org](mailto:ColleenM@childrenfirstpa.org) or 215-563-5848 x33.

**THE LEAD FREE PROMISE PROJECT IS PART OF THRIVINGPA.ORG**

# RESOURCES

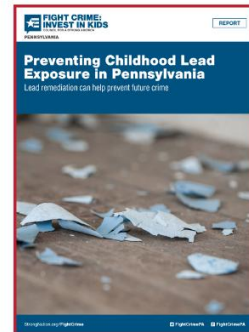
## Toolkit



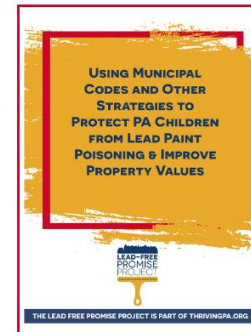
## PA Fact Sheet



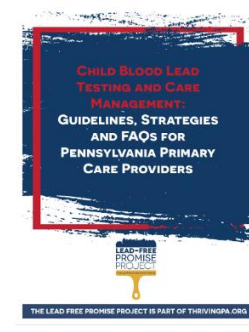
## PA Lead Report



## 6 Steps Handout



## Screening Guide



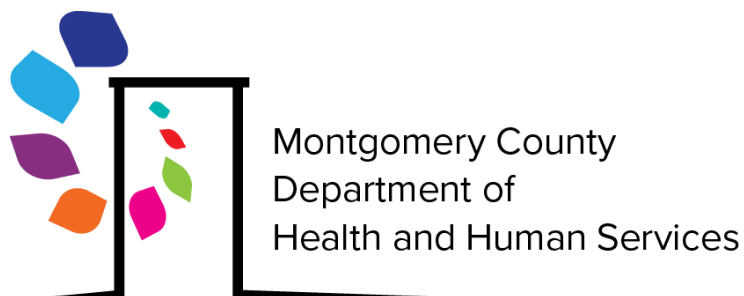
# Case Example: 2019 Childhood Lead Outreach to Montgomery County Municipalities

## In Collaboration with

- Montgomery County Office of Public Health
- Maternal and Early Childhood Consortium's Childhood Lead Poisoning Task Force

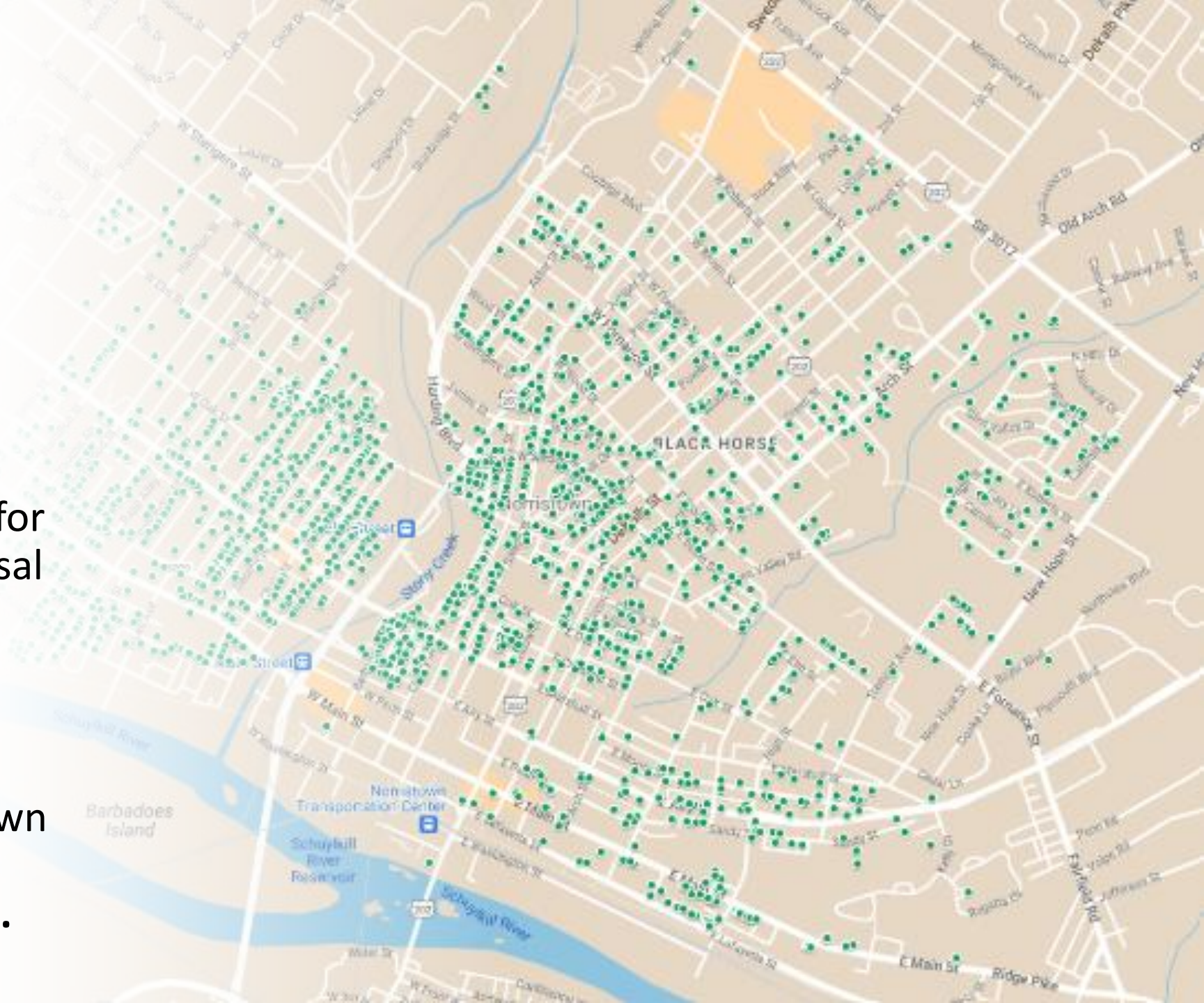
## Children First helped us develop presentations showing:

- ✓ Compelling Need
- ✓ Local Data
- ✓ Local Resources
- ✓ Goals to Consider
- ✓ Four Strategies



# Results of PA LFPP in Montgomery County

- Norristown Code Enforcement Officer **Amrinder Singh** joined Montco's Task Force.
- LFPP and Montgomery County provided support for his Lead Ordinance Proposal which **passed Council unanimously** in October 2021.
- 10/26/2023: 50% of all rental housing in Norristown are **certified lead-safe or lead free after 22 months.**



***The Opportunity....***  
Childhood Lead Poisoning  
Care Coordination Pilot

The PA Department of Health has awarded Children First PA a grant for support of the Lead-Free Promise Project. This grant includes funding for a two-year pilot project to strengthen and support the coordination of services in initially five counties with higher-than-average rates of lead poisoning. There is an option to extend the pilot for a third year.



# ***The PA Lead-Free Promise Project***

## Childhood Lead Poisoning Care Coordination Pilot

The purpose of the Lead Poisoning Care Coordination Pilot Project is to strengthen coordinated and effective processes that increase the share of children tested for lead exposure and to ensure that children and families receive necessary services after testing positive for lead poisoning.



# PA LFPP 2025 – Building Capacity in Counties and Municipalities: York County



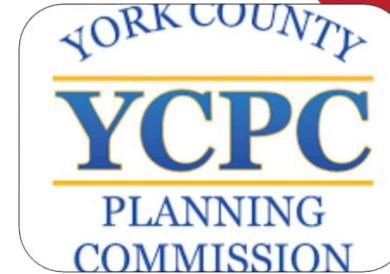
WellSpan Health  
System



PA DOH



York City Health  
Department



York County Planning  
Commission



Geisinger



UPMC



York College Center for  
Community  
Engagement



YMCA

# PA LFPP 2025 – Building Capacity in Counties and Municipalities: Berks County



City of Reading



Jefferson Health  
Plans



PA DOH



Intermediate Unit  
Berks



Pathstone Head Start  
Seasonal Workers



Berks Community  
Health Center



UPMC



Highmark Whole  
Care



Make the Road PA

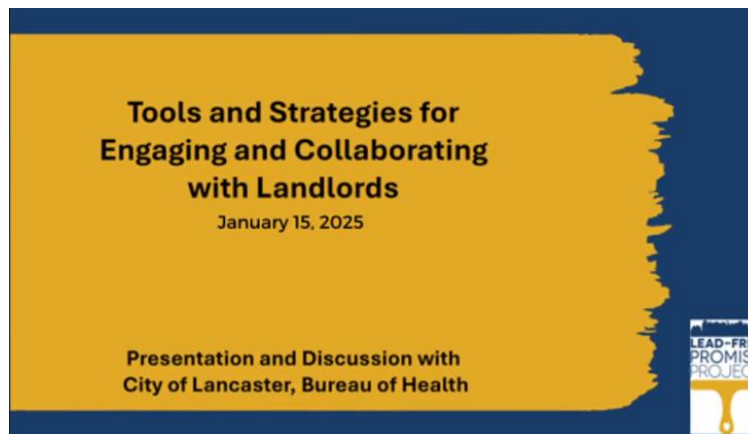


## While each location is unique, some commonalities appear:

- Testing is a challenge everywhere
- There is a gap in getting lead abatement done
- Municipal Lead Paint Ordinances can be very helpful.

- Current Collaborative Work Focuses on York County, Berks County, The City of Chester and Delaware County, as well as reconvening the Philadelphia Childhood Lead Task Force.
- We are identifying and sharing best practices, including the "Nuts and Bolts of Implementing a Lead Ordinance" and "Engaging and Working with Landlords and Others".





# Sharing Best Practices

# ***SAVE THE DATE!***

## **PA Statewide Childhood Lead Poisoning Conference**



**Tuesday, October 21**



**8:30 AM – 3:30 PM**



**St. Joseph's University, Stoudt Building; Lancaster PA**



*Join us for a day of collaboration, education, and action to protect Pennsylvania's children from lead exposure.*

### **Planning Committee:**

- City of Lancaster, Bureau of Health
- Lead-Free Families, Penn Medicine Lancaster General
- PA Lead-Free Promise Project



Any Questions?

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