





# INCREASED INVESTMENT FOR LEAD PAINT REMEDIATION IN PA BUDGET

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Lead-Free Promise Project is asking for \$12 million in the 2023–24 PA State Budget to:

-  Provide low-income homeowners and landlords with the resources to help remove lead paint-based hazards in older properties.
-  Strengthen and develop the workforce of lead remediators to better tackle the lead crisis.

Pennsylvania continues to rank high for the wrong reasons — with having the **second largest number of children** testing positive for lead poisoning among all states.<sup>i</sup>

Lead damages the brain and nervous system, slows childhood growth, and causes behavioral and learning difficulties for children. Research also demonstrates that childhood lead exposure is a risk factor for criminal behavior, including violent crime, in adulthood.<sup>i,ii</sup>

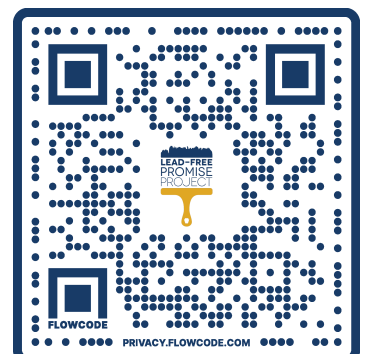
In Pennsylvania, nearly 8,000 children are poisoned by lead every year — enough to fill the PA Farm Show Complex & Expo Center to maximum capacity.<sup>iii</sup>

For every dollar spent removing lead paint-based hazards, PA sees up to \$221 dollars returned in health benefits, higher lifetime earnings, tax revenue, reduced spending on special education, and reduced criminal activity.<sup>iv</sup>

Childhood lead poisoning is 100% preventable — primarily by removing lead paint-based hazards in older homes.

The Lead-Free Promise Project is a growing coalition of over 60 statewide organizations that are all dedicated to ending lead paint poisoning in Pennsylvania, including law enforcement, health care, health insurance, housing, social service, education, business, civic and community organizations, and child advocates.

Learn more and join the **#PromiseProject**.



# THE LEAD-FREE PROMISE PROJECT ENDORSES SENATE BILL 514.




**KNOWN AS THE CHILDHOOD BLOOD LEAD TEST ACT, THIS BILL ADVANCES THE FIGHT TO END LEAD PAINT POISONING BY FOCUSING ON LEAD POISONING PREVENTION, ASSESSMENT AND TESTING — AND HAS BIPARTISAN SUPPORT.**

Introduced by Senator Lisa Baker and co-sponsored by Senators Art Haywood, Judy Ward, Vincent Hughes, Jimmy Dillon, John Kane, Delvin Robinson, Marty Flynn, Carolyn Comitta, Patrick Stefano, Christine Tartaglione, Amanda Cappelletti, and Steven Santarsiero, this bill requires testing all children by age 2 in Pennsylvania, so that prompt diagnosis and treatment, as well as the prevention of harm, are possible.

Lead is an invisible threat, so when a child is first exposed, there are no apparent symptoms. The blood lead test is the only tool we have to know if a child is exposed.

With this bill's passage, Pennsylvania will take a giant step toward making lead paint poisoning a thing of the past, and will allow for earlier intervention and opportunities for children and families to get the care and assistance they desperately need.

## OUR MAIN GOALS ARE:

-  Get lead out of homes.
-  Ensure all poisoned children are referred to Early Intervention services.
-  Guarantee all children get tested at least once by age two.



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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.strongnation.org/articles/1560-preventing-childhood-lead-exposure-in-pennsylvania>

<sup>2</sup> Centers for Disease Control, (2020). <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/prevention/health-effects.htm>

<sup>3</sup> 2021 Childhood Lead Surveillance Annual Report.

<sup>4</sup> Gould, E. (2009). Childhood Lead Poisoning: Conservative Estimates of the Social and Economic Benefits of Lead Hazard Control. *Environ. Health Perspect.* 117(7): 1162-1167.