

## What America Should Do to Eliminate Lead Poisoning: Find It, Fix It, Fund It.

### Petition calling on Congress and the Administration to create and implement bold national action plan to eliminate lead poisoning

#### Because:

- Urgent action and a comprehensive response to eliminate lead poisoning are required now. Lead poisoning is entirely preventable; we know how to solve this problem.
- Flint and other jurisdictions are only the tip of the iceberg, with over half a million children needlessly harmed by lead.<sup>i</sup>
- Tens of millions of U.S. homes have lead water pipes, lead-based paint, and lead-contaminated dust and soil.<sup>ii</sup>
- The United States failed to meet the 2010 goal to eliminate childhood lead poisoning set by the [President's Task Force on Children's Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks](#) in 2000 because funding was not adequate.
- For every \$1 dollar invested in HUD lead hazard control, the nation gains \$17- \$221 in savings.<sup>iii</sup>
- Children harmed by lead must be provided assistance through home-based follow-up, Head Start, special education, and other needed services.

#### We call on Congress and Federal Agencies to invest in our children and our future by:

1. Finding lead hazards;
2. Fixing these hazards using both short- and long-term proven methods; and
3. Funding these efforts.

#### We must have all three.

We oppose a piecemeal, reactive strategy that responds only AFTER children have been harmed.

We support proven strategies that protect children BEFORE they are harmed.

We urge action in all of the areas outlined below.

### Find It, Fix It, Fund It

- **FIND IT: FIND THE LEAD HAZARDS IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY.**
  - **Identify all lead** hazards and their sources in our homes, yards, schools, and playgrounds, including lead water pipes, lead paint and lead dust, and soil hazards, using validated measurement and sampling methods. Disclose results through open-source data and use GIS mapping to make data available, accessible, and understandable to all. Incentivize finding and disclosing lead hazards in private sector housing.

- **Require lead-based paint risk assessments in all HUD inspection protocols**, including the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program.
- **FIX IT: TAKE BOTH IMMEDIATE AND LONG-RANGE ACTIONS TO PROTECT CHILDREN.**
  - **For homes with lead paint hazards**, implement immediate, proven measures to correct deteriorated paint and clean up lead dust and soil. Conduct a long-term effort to remove residential lead paint in existing housing.
  - **For homes with high lead levels in water**, immediately provide filters and/or bottled water. Begin a long-term program to replace all lead drinking water pipes.\*
  - **Develop, implement, and fund a new national plan including all government agencies to eliminate lead poisoning.** In 2000, the federal government released a strategy to eliminate lead poisoning by 2010 through a cabinet-level President's Task Force on Children's Environmental Health and Safety Risks. We did not meet the 2010 goal, and there is no new goal; nor is there an updated comprehensive funding plan as there was in 2000.
  - **Re-establish the CDC National Advisory Committee on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention.** This was the nation's only scientific advisory group dedicated to lead poisoning prevention before it was disbanded in 2012.
  - **Update all outdated lead regulations using the most recent science and enforce them:**
    - EPA Safe Drinking Water Regulations – last updated 25 years ago.
    - EPA Lead Dust and Soil Hazard Standards – last updated 15 years ago.
    - OSHA Lead Standards – last updated in 1978 (industry) and 1996 (construction).
    - HUD – Federally Assisted and Owned Housing – last updated 16 years ago.
    - EPA Renovation, Repair, and Painting – issued eight years ago. Require dust testing at the end of the job to ensure that it was cleaned up correctly and no hazards remain as is already the case in HUD housing. Make training and enforcement more widespread.
  - **Make all regulations consistent with new CDC blood lead guidelines** and **ensure that clinical laboratories report these levels** to CDC and state and local health and housing authorities.
  - **Require all Medicaid plans to reimburse** for lead poisoning home visits and risk assessments, and for collection and analysis of lead samples.
  - Ensure that **children harmed by lead** receive special education needs assessments, education interventions, and other programs to help mitigate the effects of lead poisoning.\*
  - **Expand the number of children tested.** All at-risk children should have their blood tested at least twice before age two, especially Medicaid-eligible children. Increase CDC resources to provide the surveillance results for all states and large cities (populations over 50,000).
  - Stop **U.S. paint companies** from making, selling, or applying new lead paint and work to ban it worldwide.\*
  - **Conduct new research** to find better ways to identify and remediate all lead hazards and all people at risk, especially children. Conduct research on how best to help children already exposed to lead.
- **FUND IT: STOP THE DISINVESTMENT IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND CHILDREN.**
  - **Immediately restore and expand funding** for CDC's lead program to at least \$35 million and HUD to at least \$230 million annually. Full funding for comprehensive lead poisoning surveillance, outreach, and education is at least \$60 million for CDC. Full funding for lead paint hazard assessment and control needs to be recalculated in a new national lead elimination plan for HUD.
  - **Provide emergency funding to Flint** and other places with similar findings.\*
  - EPA funding for enforcement and training grants needs to be increased.\*
  - Fund efforts to find and eliminate all lead water pipes and all lead paint hazards.\*
  - **Provide grants, tax credits, and incentives** to find and address lead hazards in low-income privately owned homes with children.\*
  - **Fully fund Head Start** and special education for any child with elevated blood lead levels.\*

For more information about NCHH's lead advocacy, the National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition's lead advocacy, or the Find It, Fix It, Fund It action drive, contact Julie Kruse at [jkruze@nchh.org](mailto:jkruze@nchh.org).

Join the Find It, Fix It, Fund It action drive and show your support by [signing the petition](#).

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<sup>i</sup> U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2013, April 5). Blood lead levels in children aged 1–5 years — United States, 1999–2010. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*, 62(13), 245-248. Retrieved May 9, 2016, from <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm6213.pdf>

<sup>ii</sup> Jacobs, D. E., Clickner, R. L., Zhou, J. L., Viet, S. M., Marker, D. A., Rogers, J. W., et al. (2002, October). The prevalence of lead-based paint hazards in U.S. housing. *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 110(10), A599-A606. Retrieved May 9, 2016, from <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1241046/>

<sup>iii</sup> Gould, E. (2009, July). Childhood lead poisoning: Conservative estimates of the social and economic benefits of lead hazard control. *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 117(7), 1162-1167. Retrieved May 9, 2016, from <http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/wp-content/uploads/117/7/ehp.0800408.pdf>

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[Join](#) the Find It, Fix It, Fund It action drive and show your support by [signing the petition](#).