



**Metropolitan Partnership for Lead Safe Housing
Lead Hazard Repair Program Newsletter Article**

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Financial Assistance Available to Repair Lead Hazards in Homes

Every child deserves a lead-safe home!

Lead poisoning can cause permanent brain damage in young children. It is also one of the top three preventable causes of mental retardation. The most common pathway for lead poisoning is caused by deteriorating lead-based paint (on older windows, doors and trim, or walls) or through improper renovation, repair and painting activities that cause paint to chip peel or flake.

Lead-based paint was banned in 1978 and it is assumed that most homes built prior to 1978 have lead based paint. Because of the number of older homes in our community, this problem exists in many neighborhoods in Polk and Dallas Counties. Repairing lead hazards can be costly to a homeowner.

Financial assistance through grants, forgivable loans or low-interest loans is available from the Metropolitan Partnership for Lead Safe Housing (MPLSH) to assist eligible homeowners and landlords with repairing lead hazards in their properties. Eligible applicants must own a property in Polk or Dallas Counties built before 1978; have children under the age of six who either live in the home or visit the home 60 hours per year; and be at or below 80% of the Median Family Income for the area. (For rental properties, the tenants' income must be below this level.)

MPLSH requires that licensed lead abatement contractors perform all repair work. Due to the nature of the work, those residing in the home must agree to relocate to temporary housing (assistance is available) during the repairs.

"This is a great opportunity for residents in our communities. Lead poisoning is 100% preventable and we feel every child deserves a lead-safe home!" said Rick Kozin, Polk County Health Department Director.

For more information on the Metropolitan Partnership for Lead Safe Housing or to apply for financial assistance, please contact the Polk County Health Department at 515-286-2115 or visit www.metroleadsafe.org.

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