

# Protect Kids. Create Jobs.



## Give Ohio Control over the Lead-Safe Work Rule for Renovation in Old Homes & Schools

### ACTION

Make Ohio an authorized state to manage the lead-safe work rule known as the Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule (RRP) from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Invest \$1.3 million in a specific line-item to cover costs for initial ramp up of the RRP program.<sup>1</sup>

### Why the concern?

**The most common cause of lead poisoning in children is lead dust and paint from old homes.** In Ohio, over two thirds of our homes were built before 1980, making them very likely to have lead hazards. More than 425,235 of these homes have children under 6 years old living in them and many of them are in neighborhoods both urban and rural that bear the brunt of historic disinvestment. The Lead-Safe Work Rule was adopted in 2010 to reduce the risk of child lead poisoning by eliminating the main source: lead dust and paint chips which commonly occurs during renovation and construction in old buildings. While Ohio has an estimated 80,000 various types of construction firms engaged in renovation and repair activities, only a small fraction (1,973 as of 1/12/21) are RRP-certified. Training and supporting businesses and workers to ensure lead safe work practices is a win-win for everyone.

### What does the “Lead-Safe Work Rule” (RRP) currently require?

Firms performing renovation, repair, and painting projects in homes and child care facilities built before 1978 must: (1) be certified by the EPA (or EPA authorized state), (2) use RRP-trained workers; and, (3) follow lead-safe work practices. By controlling lead hazards from lead dust during home repair and renovation with the “Lead-Safe Work Rule”, Ohio can build a strong foundation for preventing child lead poisoning.

### How Making Ohio a RRP-Authorized State Benefits Ohio Business, Workers & Children

#### Strengthen Ohio’s lead workforce

ODH has a strong track record of working with lead workers to provide training and guidance on lead safe practices. Managing the program locally, rather than relying on federal oversight, would ensure timely, quality customer service, better information and access to resources for contractors, renovators, and the public.

#### Ohio Control of Enforcement

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) would be responsible for managing the RRP Program. ODH would reduce the cost of on-going certification and allow a smaller fee for sole proprietors. ODH would also lower fines and have more flexibility with compliance. Fines from the USEPA can run up to \$37,500 a day but the rule permits states with transferred authority to significantly reduce the fine for violations.

#### Keeps Ohio Dollars & Cost-Benefit in Ohio

State authority for the Lead-Safe Work Rule would not involve new fees to businesses. Ohio would benefit from resources staying in Ohio to support lead abatement rather than going to the USEPA. A recent economic analysis found an annual payback of 150% to 500% primarily in improved child IQ.

#### Protects Ohio Children from Lead

Right now the current approach is failing to protect children from lead during renovation – Ohio can do better. Ensuring workers are best equipped to minimize lead dust and paint chips during renovation and repair of pre-1978 homes and other structures will help to keep children living or playing there safe from lead.

<sup>1</sup> Hire 4 FTEs to design and manage statewide program, develop online certification process and database, marketing and continuing RRP training and certification.