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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Ohio Lead Free Kids Coalition Responds to Governor DeWine's Budget

State Capitol, Columbus, Ohio

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The Ohio Lead Free Kids Coalition (OLFKC) applauds Governor DeWine's continued budgetary support of lead poisoning prevention in the FY22-23 Executive Budget. The Governor has made the health and safety of children one of his highest priorities and we are grateful to see the budget continues to reflect this dedication. The budget builds on the Governor's previous investments while also taking bold new steps to protect Ohio children by increasing funds to abate lead hazards, ensuring lead safe work practices and supporting local innovation to prevent child lead exposure.

"Governor DeWine continues to show that he takes lead poisoning prevention seriously; his budget will protect the health and wellbeing of families and communities statewide" said Tim Johnson, member of the OLFKC Leadership Team and Policy Advocate with the Ohio Poverty Law Center. "We look forward to working with the Governor and the Legislature to further strengthen the budget to create an Ohio where no child is poisoned by lead."

One of the most important budget provisions has the [state take over the enforcement of the lead safe work rule](#), known as the Renovation, Repair, and Paint Program, which requires contractors to be properly trained and to use lead safe work practices. This lead safe work rule is currently under the jurisdiction of the federal government and is inconsistently enforced and can be overly punitive to Ohio businesses. "Bringing the rule under state control is a win-win for our state" said Gabriella Celeste, member of the OLFKC Leadership Team and Policy Director for the Schubert Center for Child Studies at Case Western Reserve University. "The number one source of child lead poisoning is lead dust from old paint. This budget helps to protect children from being inadvertently lead poisoned during renovation or repair in old homes, it fortifies our lead workforce, and it keeps Ohio dollars and cost-benefits in Ohio."

We are also excited to see the investment made by the Governor to foster local lead abatement activities throughout the state. While we had hoped these dollars would be seed funds for the [Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund](#), it appears some of these funds would still allow for communities to draw down dollars to implement their own lead primary prevention programs. Combined with the SCHIP lead program targeting children living in high risk communities with old housing stock, the Lead Safe Home Fund, and supports for middle income families, this budget shows a major step forward to tackling lead poisoning. The Ohio Lead Free Kids Coalition is committed to working with the administration and the General Assembly to successfully advance this work and chart a course for a healthy future for our children and communities.

More information about the **Ohio Lead Free Kids Coalition** and our FY22-23 "[Protect Kids. Create Jobs.](#)" [Budget Priorities](#) and [further details](#) can be found www.ohleadfreekids.org