



ONONDAGA COUNTY Lead Poisoning Prevention Initiatives

Contractor Recruitment and Training

Onondaga County organizes and funds EPA Lead Renovation Repair and Painting (RRP) training for contractors, property managers, homeowners, and landlords. The RRP course teaches individuals how to use lead-safe work practices in homes where lead-based paint may be disturbed, or where open lead violations exist.

Since July 2023, 159 individuals received the RRP Certification. Of these individuals, 22 were SCSD students studying trades and 5 received the course in Spanish. We also provided Home HeadQuarters (HHQ) with funding to cover the costs associated with 15 additional RRP scholarships.

Two Abatement Supervisor courses have been funded and provided to a total of twenty-five contractors. This training is one of the major requirements to receive City and County Lead Grant bid opportunities and work on larger-scale lead remediation projects and is offered quarterly as it is a four-day course.

In February, eight individuals received 2-day Lead Abatement Worker Course. This course provided training on lead-safe work practices for those working on job sites under a certified Lead Abatement Supervisor. This course is also offered quarterly.

We recognize that access to EPA Training is one part of the solution. We follow up with certified individuals to assess their post-training needs. An emphasis is placed on workforce development, and we collaborate with community partners to provide wrap-around services based on each individual and/or company's need.

We have been, and will continue to offer the RRP course monthly, and the Supervisor course quarterly.

HUD Grant

The county continues to administer the Lead Hazard Reduction Grant. Under this grant, 156 units have been remediated since January of 2020. Eighty units are approved for the program and are in the pipeline for remediation. The county is also assisting with the production of approximately 56 units for the City's Lead Program.

Windows and Doors

In partnership with both Home HeadQuarters and the Central New York Community Foundation, work is beginning on units that were waitlisted under the previous Windows and Doors program at HHQ. This includes Health Department referrals for properties associated with children identified with elevated blood lead levels (EBLLs).

Lead It Go

This will be the second program of its kind in New York State, offering supportive enrichment services to families of a child with elevated blood lead levels. The program will begin providing services to families in 2024.

Lead Safe CNY Coalition

Onondaga County leveraged its relationship with the National Center for Healthy Housing to facilitate a strategic planning meeting in September of 2022. This resulted in the Lead Safe CNY Coalition's re-emergence with sub-committees assigned to carry out the strategic initiatives set during the planning meeting. The resulting synergy

allowed for education efforts, blood lead testing promotion, contractor training and outreach, and data research to better inform the community of efforts to address/prevent childhood lead poisoning.

In December of 2023, the group reconvened for an annual review of the coalition's progress and to establish 2024 goals. Working committees were restructured to align overlapping strategies, and a committee specifically for affected families was created.

In March of 2024, the group engaged the United Way of CNY in the selection and hiring of the coalition's first Director. This key position will serve as operational support for coalition activities, oversee the implementation of the strategic plan goals, expand membership and support the work of coalition membership, engage in grant writing and fundraising activities critical to the next phase of growth for the Lead Safe CNY Coalition.

Testing

Testing strategies are focused on removing barriers to public health services. Both mobile and on-site testing is available in neighborhood locations to ensure blood lead testing services are available to people where, when, and how they are most likely to engage. The use of point-of-care testing devices provides rapid, onsite results, resulting in timely identification and response to children with elevated blood lead levels.

On-site testing is available monthly at the OCHD WIC Gifford Street location, the Civic Center Immunization Clinic, Tucker Missionary Baptist Church, and the Sankofa Health and Wellness Center. Additional neighborhood-based locations are under development.

Staffing

Funding was provided to support staff carrying out crucial programming. Staff additions since 2023 are as follows: Public Health Educator, Care Coordination Supervisor, two Community Health Counselors, three additional inspectors, two additional case management positions, and two additional staff to assist with community testing activity. The program continues to evolve to meet the identified needs of the community.

Foster Home Connection

Potential foster home applicants are required to have a lead paint inspection prior to the placement of a child under age 6. Dedicated funding was provided to Community Development to assist foster home applicants with funding to address lead paint hazards identified by the Health Department. One Community Development inspector and one Health Department inspector are assigned to this program. Those inspectors work jointly to draft scopes of work and oversee work for referred units. Four units are currently in the pipeline.

