

LEAD SAFE CLEVELAND COALITION

NEWS RELEASE

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Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition Announces Lead Safe Home Fund Administrators

CLEVELAND – Today the Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition announced the Administrators for its Lead Safe Home Fund, a first-of-its-kind fund that will provide families and property owners the resources they need to make homes lead safe.

The Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition (LSCC) released a public Request for Qualifications soliciting proposals to serve as Administrators in September 2019. After a thorough review process, the LSCC Steering Committee unanimously selected:

- **Environmental Health Watch (EHW) to serve as the Resource Center Administrator.** As the Lead Safe Resource Center Administrator, EHW will manage the operational headquarters for lead poisoning prevention public awareness, workforce development, landlord and resident outreach, and more.
- **CHN Housing Partners (CHN) to serve as the Home Loans and Grants Administrator.** As the Home Loans and Grants Administrator, CHN will help create, manage, and operate a spectrum of loans and grants to help property owners achieve the City of Cleveland's new Lead Safe Certification, the program requiring certain rental units built before 1978 be certified as lead safe beginning in March 2021.

“We are thrilled to partner with two deeply trusted, mission-driven organizations as the Lead Safe Home Fund Administrators. EHW and CHN come with strong histories of managing complex programs and working in collaborative partnerships,” said Marcia Egbert of The George Gund Foundation and LSCC Steering Committee Member. “Throughout our review process, EHW and CHN didn’t just demonstrate a commitment to lead poisoning prevention; they demonstrated a readiness to work together—with one another, the Coalition, and the community at large—on this effort.”

“After weeks of rigorous review from a pool of strong applicants, we are so proud to select CHN and EHW,” said Mark McDermott of Enterprise Community Partners and LSCC Steering Committee Member. “EHW brings a nationally renowned reputation in healthy homes and sustainable community programming. CHN brings a 38-year track record in affordable housing—having developed more than 6,500 units of affordable housing and annually serving 30,000 families.”

“Environmental education, mitigating home hazards, and helping to develop healthy communities are core to EHW’s mission. As an organization, we couldn’t be more committed to creating a lead safe Cleveland,” said Kim Foreman, Executive Director of Environment Health Watch.

The Lead Safe Resource Center will serve as the front door to the Lead Safe Home Fund. It will be a one-stop-shop where residents, landlords, lead safe workers, and others can learn about lead hazards, receive support, and access resources to make homes lead safe.

Comprised of the Resource Center and Home Loans and Grants, the Lead Safe Home Fund will provide property owners and families effective, enforceable, and equitable support for home repair and lead poisoning prevention. The Fund is structured to be flexible and nimble, with a 5-year, \$99.4 million target budget. Since launching the Fund in September 2019, the Coalition has already raised over \$10.1 million in commitments. Fundraising will continue throughout 2020.

“We’d like to thank the Coalition for their trust in us to fulfill this critical role as Home Loans and Grants Administrator. As a lender and housing provider, CHN knows the work ahead will be challenging but vital,” said Kevin Nowak, Executive Director of CHN Housing Partners.

“The Lead Safe Home Fund represents a new opportunity for Cleveland, a new way to improve our homes and our lives. The Fund will not only help make Cleveland lead safe, but it also creates a new pathway for reinvesting millions of dollars directly into our neighborhoods, our homes, and our residents. We are ready to get to work,” added Kevin.

“On behalf of the Steering Committee, I can say that our commitment to real systems change remains as strong as ever. To protect our children in the long run means we must authentically engage the community, build community trust, and approach all the work we do with respect, integrity, and a customer service focus. EHW and CHN believe in this commitment, and we believe in them to lead the way,” said Sonia Monroy Matis, Resident Action Team Leader and LSCC Steering Committee Member.

With oversight from the LSCC Steering Committee, Enterprise Community Partners will negotiate, execute, and eventually manage contracts with the selected Administrators on behalf of the Coalition. The programs and processes for both the Lead Safe Resource Center and Lead Safe Home Loans and Grants will be co-created and finalized as soon as possible. The Coalition hopes to preliminarily launch the Resource Center and Home Loans and Grants this summer.

Until the preliminary launch, we encourage property owners, families, lead safe workers, and other potential Lead Safe Home Fund clients with questions to contact the Coalition at info@leadsafecle.org.

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About the Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition

The Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition is an inclusive, public-private partnership founded to address lead poisoning through a comprehensive, preventive, and long-term approach. This approach protects Cleveland’s children by merging smart, adaptable public policies; knowledgeable agencies willing to collaborate; proven community programs and leaders; and public and private sector accountability. With community voice embedded in all aspects, the Coalition is working on: 1) Supporting and measuring the City of Cleveland’s Lead Safe Certificate system, 2) Developing

a lead safe workforce, 3) Rolling out a public awareness campaign, 4) Advocating for state and federal lead safe policies and resources, 5) Securing investments into the Lead Safe Home Fund, and 6) Launching the Lead Safe Resource Center and Home Loans and Grants. Initial support for the Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition came from the City of Cleveland, the Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation, the George Gund Foundation, the Saint Luke's Foundation, The Cleveland Foundation, the Bruening Foundation, the Sisters of Charity Foundation, the Third Federal Foundation, and United Way of Greater Cleveland. Today, the Coalition has over 400 participants and six working committees and continues to grow. Everyone is encouraged to join us. Email: info@leadsafecle.org. Twitter: @LeadSafeCLE, #LeadSafeCLE.

About CHN Housing Partners

Founded in 1981, CHN Housing Partners (CHN) is a large-scale affordable housing developer and housing service provider that works with its partners to solve major housing challenges for low-income people and underserved communities. CHN partners with financial institutions, utility companies and public agencies to manage and deliver large-scale housing resources. CHN also partners with people—low-income individuals, families, seniors, the disabled and the homeless—to improve their housing stability. CHN's impact in Cleveland includes 2,500 new homeowners, the housing stability services it provides annually to 30,000 individuals, and the development of 6,500 new homes. www.chnhousingpartners.org

About Environmental Health Watch

Environmental Health Watch (EHW) was formed in the early 1980's by a group of concerned neighbors and health professionals in response to pervasive health hazards in Northeast Ohio homes and communities. EHW provides education, advocacy, and direct service to families while also working alongside policy makers to spotlight and confront critical environmental health issues. www.ehw.org/