

PRESS RELEASE



MARCH 19, 2019

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lead Safe Home Summit to take place June 21, 2019

CLEVELAND: The Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition has announced that its first Lead Safe Home Summit will take place on June 21, 2019. This free event is being organized by United Way of Greater Cleveland.

The goal of the Lead Safe Home Summit is to convene parents, residents, landlords, advocates and local elected officials, learn about lead poisoning from national experts and peer cities, listen to stories of those impacted in our community, provide information on available resources, and build Cleveland's path forward.

"To address childhood lead poisoning, we need to collaborate now for solutions that will work today, tomorrow and well into the future," said Mayor Frank G. Jackson. "The Lead Safe Home Summit aims to help us come together as one community and create a more strategic path forward."

"Addressing lead poisoning in a way that is comprehensive, sustainable and preventative doesn't happen overnight," said Cleveland City Councilman Blaine A. Griffin. "The Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition looks forward to the summit as an opportunity to engage with national experts, community leaders, those directly affected by lead and more, and to use their feedback and direction to make our policies and implementation successful."

The summit planning committee, comprised of 20 community stakeholders from various sectors and chaired by Andrew Katusin MSSA, LSW, Director of Basic Needs for United Way of Greater Cleveland, is specifically designing the event to bring all these various community voices together.

"United Way of Greater Cleveland and the Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition are devoted to laying the groundwork for long-term solutions for lead in our community," said August Napoli, president and CEO of United Way. "Change takes time, but the collaboration and education the summit will foster are the first steps to creating lasting and sustainable results in reducing lead poisoning."



"The Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition continues to dedicate the time it takes to build trust and develop authentic partnerships with the community," added Kim Foreman, executive director of Environmental Health Watch. "Their participation and voices will be the core of this effort. The summit is only one point of connection, but we will need to hear from impacted communities well beyond to co-create solutions to lead poisoning in Cleveland."

"The Summit's focus on solutions is imperative," said Council President Kevin Kelley. "Creating lead-safe housing and a lead safe City is our goal. Our challenge is taking what we know and turning it into action."

The summit will run all day and include keynote speakers, breakout sessions, interactive ways to learn more about the issue of lead in the community, and a resource fair for residents and stakeholders. It will also provide the opportunity for stakeholders to immerse themselves in the work of the other committees that make up the Coalition.

The Lead Safe Home Summit will be hosted at the Huntington Convention Center of Cleveland (300 W. Lakeside Ave., Cleveland, Ohio, 441113). The convention center is easily accessible to residents via multiple bus routes, the Rapid stop at Tower City, downtown trolleys or vehicle self-parking.

United Way is anticipating over 350 Clevelanders will attend the summit. Registration for this free event can be completed at unitedwaycleveland.org/leadsafesummit/.

Founded in 1913, United Way of Greater Cleveland is a local, independent nonprofit organization dedicated to fighting poverty in the Greater Cleveland area. The largest private-sector funder of health and human services, United Way is dedicated to addressing the core issues of poverty, including health, financial stability, developing children to their full potential, employment barriers, housing stability and other basic needs. Through donations, United Way funds 78 human service agencies in 13 areas of support to fight poverty from every angle and tackle both the root causes and symptoms of poverty that impact Greater Cleveland. For more information, visit unitedwaycleveland.org

The Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition is a community-led coalition to address lead poisoning. The Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition is pursuing a comprehensive, sustainable, and preventive approach that merges smart, adaptable public policies; knowledgeable agencies willing to collaborate; proven community programs; and public and private sector accountability. The coalition is working toward a five-point action plan that includes: 1) creating community goals, 2) developing lead safe legislation, 3) hosting the Lead Safe Home Summit, 4) creating a Lead Safe Home Fund and 5) advocating for state and federal resources. In partnership with Mayor Frank Jackson and Cleveland City Council, the Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition has already grown from the initial philanthropic support of 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 to a group of nearly 200 organizations. Greater Cleveland residents can join the coalition by emailing a request to info@leadsafecle.org.