



Statements on Lead Safe Home Fund Launch from Community and Coalition Leaders

Mayor Frank G. Jackson, City of Cleveland

"The opening of the Lead Safe Resource Center and Lead Safe Home Loans and Grants serve as examples of our continued efforts to improve both the health of our residents and the housing stock across Cleveland communities. Ensuring that these resources are accessible to residents and their families moves us one step closer to eliminating the possibility of childhood lead poisoning in the City of Cleveland."

Council President Kevin Kelley, City of Cleveland

"None of this could have happened without the committed partnership of the Mayor, his Administration, my Council colleagues, the philanthropic sector, our nonprofit partners, and the residents of this great city. A true collaboration. We have so much to be proud of in launching the Fund."

Councilman Blaine Griffin, City of Cleveland, Sponsor of Ordinance 747-2019

"Our commitment from day one has been to provide sorely needed resources into our neighborhoods to build them back as lead safe. The legislation we passed last year was only the first step. The Lead Safe Home Fund is the next, critical step in our long-term work to invest in a healthy future for generations. It is an investment into our neighborhoods AND into each and every one of our children."

Mitchell Balk, Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation, Governance Chair

"Today's opening represents another extraordinary achievement for the Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition. As extraordinary as this milestone is, there is a long road ahead and much work left to be done. The Mt. Sinai Foundation remains as committed as ever to continuing to build a healthy future for Cleveland's kids and securing a bright tomorrow for this city."

Ayonna Blue Donald, City of Cleveland, Director of Building and Housing

"Amidst an unprecedented year, our Department has been working around the clock to implement the Lead Safe Certification. Our goal has always been and always will be about helping landlords comply. We are grateful to the Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition, and their Lead Safe Home Fund, for their partnership in this goal."

Aparna Bole, MD, FAAP, Medical Director of Community Integration at UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital

"Investing in prevention of lead exposure is an investment in our future, protecting current and future generations of Cleveland's children, and supporting their ability to grow, learn, and thrive. The launch of the Lead Safe Resource Center and Lead Safe Home Loans and Grants program is an important milestone that will benefit our community's health now and in years to come."

Marcia Egbert, The George Gund Foundation, Resource Development Chair

“We are grateful for the investments -- from government at every level, philanthropy, and our corporate partners – that have flowed into the Lead Safe Home Fund. The extraordinary work of EHW and CHN would not be possible without these investments. We believe in our public-private approach and I think our investors value this new way of doing business.”

Mark McDermott, Enterprise Community Partners, Policy Chair

“Lead poisoning is an issue of equity. When I think about the Lead Safe Home Fund, I think about making investments in this most basic human need – safe, decent housing. The Coalition has always talked about pairing resources with the Lead Safe Certification. Thanks to the endless hard work of CHN and EHW, we are fulfilling the vision and bringing new resources for community and into our housing stock.”

Marsha Mockabee, Urban League of Greater Cleveland, Workforce Development Chair

“The Coalition’s vision - to build a lead safe workforce development system accessible to all types of workers with special emphasis on those from communities hardest hit by lead – is closely aligned with Urban League’s mission. We’ve been proud to partner with the Coalition and lead the Workforce Development Advisory Group. It’s been a busy year of implementation, but the Resource Center has already trained dozens of new workers. Today’s launch is another step toward more jobs, more lead safe homes, and most importantly, more children protected from the impact of lead poisoning.”

Augie Napoli, United Way of Greater Cleveland, Summit Chair

“From tailored workshops with more than 150 landlords to the 500-person Lead Safe Home Summit that United Way hosted, the Coalition – and our community – is at its best when we bring together property owners, residents, experts, and policymakers to chart our path forward. As the Lead Safe Home Fund Administrators, CHN and EHW have taken this community engagement to the next level and their work will serve as a critical asset now and into the future. United Way is proud to continue its support of the Coalition and to creating a lead-safe Cleveland.”

Jehuda Reinharz, Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation

“Congratulations to the Coalition and EHW and CHN. We believe that investing in people leads to systemic change. The Lead Safe Home Fund will be a powerful lever for change for our community’s most vulnerable people – children. With the launch today, we are taking a giant leap toward that change.”

Chantal Tademy, Lead Safe Resource Center, Program Director

“The work of Environmental Health Watch and CHN Housing Partners is unique and essential to Lead Safe success in Cleveland. The Lead Safe Resource Center’s importance lies in the community-based element; which says we can do this, we can achieve lead safety in our city. We accomplish this by offering engagement and support to residents, landlords and property owners in navigating the clearance process and by providing resources and incentives as we prepare rental properties for lead safe certification. The plan is a detailed, multilevel collaborative effort that aims to build a healthy future for children in the city of Cleveland, and which also considers the mutual interest of us all; while building a model for lead safety across our nation.”

Mike Valerino, Akron Cleveland Association of REALTORS®

“The Coalition is a great example of community leaders coming together to address a serious public health concern, and today marks an important milestone: The Lead Safe Home Fund, accessible through the newly opened Lead Safe Resource Center, promises to be instrumental in helping property owners, tenants, and contractors fulfill their roles in ending lead poisoning in Cleveland.”

Tracie Washington, Lead Safe Resource Center, Landlord & Tenant Liaison

“Residents and landlords across the city have come together to use our voice and our connections with our neighbors to help realize a vision for safe, decent housing. We know policies are only as effective as how they are implemented on the ground, how they touch people in our communities. That's why we're proud to see a Resource Center housed in our neighborhoods, led by people who look like us, sharing information in the languages we speak.”