



**NEWS RELEASE**  
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## **Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition Announces Search for Additional Administrators**

CLEVELAND – Today, the Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition (LSCC) has released four Requests for Qualifications (RFQs), soliciting proposals to serve as Administrators for four new program areas:

- **Lead Safe Child Care** – The selected Administrator(s) for this new program area will administer, evaluate, improve, and scale a pilot that implements proactive lead safe repairs in child care facilities of all types across Cleveland. The pilot will establish a replicable lead safe standard and preventative model for child care for Cleveland, and across the state, and even the nation.
- **Relocation Assistance** – The selected Administrator(s) for this new program area will improve monitoring of current and potential displacement and expand temporary or permanent housing resources for families displaced due to lead. This will be done by building upon and then launching the pilot program ideas developed by the City of Cleveland’s Lead Safe Housing Action Board. All programming will also serve as proofs of concept to scale up to programs to potentially help families facing other types of displacement.
- **Additional Workforce Development** – The selected Administrator(s) will work in tandem with the existing Administrator, Environmental Health Watch, to develop and establish additional workforce development programming to meet the lead safe worker demand. Programming may include training staff in lead safe inspection and managing them as in-house lead safe workers available to property owners in their respective communities and/or service areas.
- **Additional Grants to Property Owners** – The selected Administrator(s) will work in tandem with the existing Administrator, CHN Housing Partners, to provide lead safe remediation grants to property owners. Special focus will be on developing additional home repair capacity in Cleveland’s housing nonprofit landscape, particularly at BIPOC-led organizations, to meet the overall housing instability crisis.

The new program areas and added capacity are in direct response to the expansion of the Lead Safe Home Fund. The Lead Safe Home Fund, a first-of-its-kind, public-private sector partnership, provides families and property owners with the resources they need to live lead safe. After receiving a \$52.5M pledge from the Cleveland Clinic, a \$17M pledge from the City of Cleveland, and a \$1M federal earmark, the Lead Safe Home Fund budget totals \$115M to spend over seven years.

The new Administrators will join LSCC’s two other Administrators – CHN Housing Partners and Environmental Health Watch – to deliver programs of the Lead Safe Home Fund.

Kenneth Surratt, Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition Steering Committee Member and Vice President of Community Investment and Chief Investment Officer at the United Way of Greater Cleveland, stated, “The Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition, including United Way of Greater Cleveland, are thankful for the additional funding we’ve received from the Cleveland Clinic and the City of Cleveland – essential funding that ramps up our community’s ability to prevent lead poisoning and protect our youngest

citizens. Cleveland has been a national example in collectively working together to make our community stronger and more resilient.”

New funding for the Lead Safe Home Fund complements existing support from the public sector (State of Ohio, Cuyahoga County, the City of Cleveland), philanthropy, and the private sector (Banks, CDFIs, and healthcare institutions).

“The Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition is fully committed to ensuring no child is ever lead poisoned. Thanks to the Lead Safe Home Fund investors, the Coalition will expand its capacity, programming, and most importantly, impact,” said Ayonna Blue Donald, Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition Steering Committee Member and Vice President and Ohio Market Leader for Enterprise Community Partners.

“As the facilitator of the Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition and manager of the Lead Safe Home Fund, we couldn’t be more excited to announce these RFQs. It means we are one big step closer to launching more programming in 2023 and providing assistance to Clevelanders who are committed to making their properties lead safe.”

**The RFQs are available at [www.lead safecle.org/rfqs](http://www.lead safecle.org/rfqs).** All mission-driven organizations are welcome to apply. The deadline for submission is September 21, 2022, at noon ET.

LSCC will host two virtual pre-response conferences. The pre-response conference for those organizations interested in learning more about Additional Workforce Development RFQ and Additional Grants to Property Owners RFQ will be held on September 7, 2022, from 10:00-11:00 am ET. The pre-response conference for those organizations interested in learning more about the Lead Safe Child Care RFQ and Relocation Assistance RFQ will be held on September 7, 2022, from 3:00-4:00 pm ET.

For additional questions or to register for a respondent conference, please email [lead safecleveland@gmail.com](mailto:lead safecleveland@gmail.com).

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### **About the Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition**

The Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition is a public-private partnership formed in 2019 to address the public health crisis of lead poisoning in our community. The cornerstone of the Coalition’s work is supporting the City of Cleveland’s Lead Safe Certification law which requires residential rental properties built before 1978 to be proactively certified as lead safe. Lead is an environmental toxin that affects the brain, heart, bones, kidneys, and nervous system, and there are no safe levels once it is in the bloodstream. The Coalition is implementing an alternative, preventative approach that saves money and protects Cleveland’s children from lead poisoning. LSCC is open to everyone and comprises more than 500 members and 140 organizations, state and local governments, and families impacted by lead. To learn more, go to <https://lead safecle.org/>. Email: [info@lead safecle.org](mailto:info@lead safecle.org). Social Media: @LeadSafeCLE.