



March 9, 2020

Members

House Health and Human Services - Appropriations Subcommittee

On behalf of the Safe Homes/Safe Kids: Michigan Alliance for Lead Safe Homes (MIALSH) coalition and the Michigan Environmental Council, we thank you for your time and attention. Our coalition has members throughout the state and includes health departments, lead-abatement contractors, small business owners, parents, homeowners, landlords, and other service providers. MIALSH works to end lead poisoning in the state and is before you today to thank you for your past funding support and in support The Governor's FY 2020-21 Budget recommendation for lead poisoning prevention and support services.

As you are all well aware, the call to end lead poisoning in Michigan is stronger than ever. Michigan ranks high nationally in our number of lead poisoned children and that is before the situation in Flint came to light. Studies link lead poisoning to I.Q. loss, poor test scores, violent crime, incarceration, infant mortality and new research is looking at lead as a possible contributor to the development of Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease as victims' age.

MIALSH supports Governor Whitmer's FY 2020-21 budget recommendation to:

- Maintain general funding (GF) for lead abatement at \$1.75 million. These monies have been used to leverage federal funds, sustain the department between federal grant lapses and provide assistance to lead impacted families when no other monies exist to help.
- Include \$10 million in one-time monies to support implementation of the Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund. These are seed monies for a loan loss reserve fund to spur private capitol investment in low income loans to make homes lead safe. Both private and landlord held properties are eligible and these monies will accelerate the pace of cleanups statewide.
- Continue funding support for public health surveillance, nurse case management and outreach to both prevent lead poisoning and to help impacted families thrive.
- Provide State match to leverage federal Medicaid dollars coming to Michigan in a first in the nation program, to provide on the ground support to families.

Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Tina Reynolds  
Health Policy Director  
Michigan Environmental Council