

Frequently Asked Questions



Allegheny Lead Safe Homes FAQ for Applicants

Contents

| | |
|--|---|
| Allegheny Lead Safe Homes FAQ for Applicants | 1 |
| What is the Allegheny Lead Safe Homes Program?..... | 2 |
| What do I do if I have concerns about lead in water? | 2 |
| Am I Eligible?..... | 2 |
| What do I do if I am over the income guidelines? | 2 |
| What if I'm pregnant? | 3 |
| Where can I find more information about lead?..... | 3 |
| What if I have children 6 years old and over?..... | 3 |
| What work is typical for this program?..... | 4 |
| Can I pick the contractor?..... | 4 |
| Is this a grant or a loan? Do I need to contribute funds to participate?..... | 4 |
| I'm a landlord – Can I apply to the Program for multiple properties? | 4 |
| I'm a landlord – Are there any restrictions on who I can rent to after the work is done? | 5 |
| What to Expect Next (For Occupants – Homeowners and Tenants):..... | 5 |
| What to Expect Next (For Landlords/Property Owners)..... | 5 |

What is the Allegheny Lead Safe Homes Program?

The Allegheny Lead Safe Homes Program provides free repairs to eligible families to make their homes lead-safe. The Program will hire professionals to identify lead-based paint hazards in your home and then pay certified contractors to control or eliminate these hazards.

What do I do if I have concerns about lead in water?

The purpose of this grant is to remove lead paint hazards from homes. If you are concerned about lead in water and reside in Pittsburgh or Millvale, you can contact PWSA's lead line at 412-255-8987 or go to <https://lead.pgh2o.com/> for information about lead in water, or to receive a free test kit.

Kits are only for PWSA water customers. If you are a PA American Water or Wilkesburg- Penn Joint Customer, please contact their customer service departments for lead testing. PA American Water can be reached at [1-800-565-7292](tel:1-800-565-7292) and Wilkesburg-Penn Joint at [412-243-6200](tel:412-243-6200).

Filters that remove lead can be purchased online or at your local hardware store for about \$25. Make sure it is NSF certified to remove lead. Keep in mind that filter cartridges need to be replaced frequently. The City of Pittsburgh offers discount coupons for ZeroWater brand filters [here](#).

Request a filter from Women for a Healthy Environment at 412-404-2872.

Get The Lead Out is offering free full LIRA's that would include water but also other sources. The info for that resource is here - <https://gettheleadoutpgh.org/take-action/test-your-home/>

Am I Eligible?

We can conduct a pre-screen interview over the phone to see if you are likely to be eligible!

Eligibility will be determined once all documentation has been submitted. Final eligibility is determined by Allegheny County Economic Development. Assistance through this program is not guaranteed and is also based on funding availability.

What do I do if I am over the income guidelines?

If your income exceeds 80% AMI, you cannot qualify for this program.

However, there are things you can do to keep your children lead-safe:

- Get your child tested for lead
- Wash children's hands and face often, especially before eating
- Use a damp mop or rag to clean instead of a broom to cut down on dust

- Feed your children a diet high in iron (meat, beans, spinach), and calcium (milk, green vegetables, yogurt)
- Keep children away from areas with chipping and peeling paint.
- Let the tap run 30 seconds before using water for drinking and cooking.

Have your home assessed by a licensed lead inspection risk assessment firm.

- Based on the assessment, hire a contractor that uses lead-safe work practices. They should have the EPA Renovation, Repair, and Painting Certificate. You can request this from the contractor, or search at <https://cfpub.epa.gov/flpp/pub/index.cfm?do=main.firmSearch>
- If you plan to do full abatement, check if your contractor is a Pennsylvania Lead Certified Abatement Contractor by the PA Department of Labor and Industry. A list is posted here: <https://www.dli.pa.gov/Individuals/Labor-Management-Relations/bois/Documents/LEDCONTR.HTM>

What if I'm pregnant?

You are still eligible for assistance. All households must include a child under 6 and/or a pregnant woman to be eligible.

Where can I find more information about lead?

- Environmental Protection Agency
<https://www.epa.gov/lead>
- Centers for Disease Control
<https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/>
- Allegheny County Health Department Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention
412-350-4048
- <https://www.alleghenycounty.us/Health-Department/Programs/Special-Initiatives/Lead/Lead-Exposure-Prevention.aspx>
- Talk to your pediatrician!

What if I have children 6 years old and over?

If your child has a documented elevated blood level (EBL), you can possibly still qualify for the Allegheny Lead Safe Homes Program. Have the applicant call Jennifer Saks, 412-350-1032, for specifics in each case.

The age cutoff exists because children under six have a higher risk of lead poisoning due to their small size, fast rate of growth, and how frequently they put their hands and other objects in their mouth.

If your child(ren) do(es) not have a documented EBL, there are other resources available in the county for home repair, depending on location and income. You can search an up to date list at www.findhelp.org

- Pittsburgh: The URA offers various programs for home improvements. <https://www.ura.org/pages/housing-opportunity-fund-programs>
- [County Residents: Allegheny Home Improvement Loan Program \(AHILP\)](https://www.alleghenycounty.us/economic-development/residents/ahilp/ahilp.aspx) provides a 0% fixed interest rate for up to 20 years for home improvements. <https://www.alleghenycounty.us/economic-development/residents/ahilp/ahilp.aspx>

What work is typical for this program?

Typical lead hazard control and abatement methods that could be implemented include:

- Repairing and repainting lead-hazardous surfaces
- Window replacement
- Enclosing exterior trim and components
- Door replacement

Can I pick the contractor?

No. The Program will assign a Pennsylvania Lead Abatement Certified contractor to conduct work on your home.

Is this a grant or a loan? Do I need to contribute funds to participate?

The Allegheny Lead Safe Homes Program is a grant. In rare cases, if your home/property requires more lead hazard control work than the Program can provide, you may have the option to contribute personal funds in order to fill the funding gap and make your home lead safe. The Program requires that all lead hazards in the home must be eliminated – the Program will not partially eliminate lead hazards in any home.

I'm a landlord – Can I apply to the Program for multiple properties?

Yes. There is no limit to how many properties a property owner can refer to the program, but each unit's tenants must individually qualify.

I'm a landlord – Are there any restrictions on who I can rent to after the work is done?

Yes. There is a rental stipulation for landlords to rent to families at or below 80% of the area median income with a child under the age of six for not less than three years following the completion of lead hazard control activities. Landlords should be prepared to respond to annual monitoring requests from ACED to demonstrate that they have complied or document a good faith effort in renting these units to the target population.

What to Expect Next (For Occupants – Homeowners and Tenants):

- **Eligibility Review:** After submitting the submitting and required supporting documentation, Allegheny County Economic Development will send an approval or denial letter after receipt of a completed application. Tenants' applications are dependent on their landlord also receiving approval.
- **Lead Inspection:** A Lead Inspection/Risk Assessment firm make an appointment to assess the lead hazards in the home.
- **Scope Development:** Urban Redevelopment Authority program staff will develop a scope of work and assign a contractor to eliminate or control the lead hazards.
- **Lead Hazard Control Work:** The lead hazard control work will be scheduled and completed.
- **Temporary Relocation:** You may need to be temporarily relocated from your home during the lead hazard control work. The ACED Client Coordinator will work with you to establish a Temporary Relocation Plan.
- **Clearance:** Once the work is complete, a clearance test will be completed to verify that the lead hazards have been eliminated.

What to Expect Next (For Landlords/Property Owners)

- **Eligibility Review:** Once your application is complete, Allegheny County Economic Development will send you an approval or denial letter. Your application approval is ultimately dependent on the tenant's application.
- **Lead Inspection:** A Lead Inspection/Risk Assessment firm conduct an inspection of the unit, identifying all lead hazards.
- **Scope Development:** Urban Redevelopment Authority program staff will use this report to develop a scope of work and assign a contractor to remediate the hazards.
- **Lead Hazard Control Work:** The lead hazard control work will be scheduled and completed.
- **Clearance:** Once the work is complete, a clearance test will be completed to verify that the lead hazards have been eliminated.