



Board of Commissioners

PRESS RELEASE

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Lake County Board of Commissioners Wrap Up \$1.3 Million Lead Safety Initiative, Enhancing Health and Safety for Families

PAINESVILLE, Ohio, September 30, 2026 – The Lead Safe Ohio Program in Lake County concluded in August 2026 after a three-year implementation period. The Lake County Board of Commissioners received \$1,303,000 through the statewide initiative and fully expended the allocation on lead-safe renovation projects across the county.

Lead Safe Ohio was funded by the Ohio General Assembly through House Bill 45, supported by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Statewide, the initiative invested \$150 million toward reducing lead hazards in homes and facilities frequently used by children and families. Lake County participated in this effort with the goal of addressing lead-based paint risks in older structures where remediation costs can be overwhelming and expensive.

The county's award supported lead-safe renovations for 39 properties, which included income-qualified residential homes, congregate shelters, and childcare centers. The average renovation cost per property was nearly \$30,000, reflecting the scope and complexity of the work required in older buildings.

Renovations generally involved replacement or repair of wood windows, exterior doors, and siding. These components commonly contain lead-based paint, and deterioration over time produces dust and paint chips that create exposure risks, especially for young children.

"My new front porch and renovated exterior make my home look great while also giving me a sense of safety I did not have before I applied," – Painesville Homeowner

"Families living in older homes often face higher risk with fewer resources. This initiative helped in ensuring that high-quality, lead safe improvements reached those who needed them most," said Commissioner Morris W. Beverage III.

"This was a statewide investment addressing a need Ohio has grappled with for decades. Lake County took full advantage of this one-time opportunity to make lead safe improvements that will benefit residents long-term," said Commissioner John T. Plecnik.

"The cost of tackling lead hazards in aging homes is simply not affordable for many residents. Lead Safe Ohio filled a critical gap by funding renovations that families or nonprofits could seldom take on alone," said Commissioner Morgan R. McIntosh

With these projects completed, we are pleased to officially wrap up our Lead Safe Ohio efforts and recognize the meaningful impact they have made. We would like to express our gratitude to Western Reserve Community Development Corporation and Ohio Regional Development Corporation for their partnership in helping successfully administer this program throughout Lake County.

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Before



After

Owner-occupied residence in Painesville that received renovation assistance through the Lead Safe Ohio Program. The structure had chipping and peeling paint on the old wood present on the windows, front door, and siding, along with a deteriorated front porch that was unsafe to walk on.