

Declaration of the Lead and Environmental Hazards Association Regarding HUD's Lead Hazard Reduction Grants on April 30, 2024

We are the Lead and Environmental Hazards Association¹, a national, non-profit organization committed to advancing our nation's efforts to eliminate lead paint poisoning and other public health, housing and environmental hazards faced by both children and adults, especially in homes, schools, and other buildings where hazards are most severe. We seek to improve opportunities for advancing lead inspection, risk assessment, abatement, and many other initiatives by conducting educational programs, research, policy evaluation, outreach to decisionmakers and business activities.

Since its inception in 1991, the Lead and Environmental Hazards Association has grown into an organization of hundreds of individuals, organizations and companies that represent a cross-section of the lead-based paint and healthy housing field, including contractors, consultants, testing companies, training organizations, laboratories, community groups, housing and health and environmental officials, facility managers, and lead hazard control program administrators.

We have reviewed the FY2025 budget proposal for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for its Lead Hazard Reduction Grants.² These grants are essential to making privately owned low-income unassisted older housing lead safe in rural, suburban, and urban communities across the country.

HUD is proposing that 80 percent of the requested funds be awarded using a formula rather than the traditional, and procedurally more complex to apply for and award, competitive grants. The new program design would allow more efficient distribution of funding to the highest need communities, streamline the selection and award of grants for communities facing large lead paint problems, and enable funded communities to build a sustainable cadre of contractors able to safely perform the work. The formula approach would complement the existing competitive grants for the balance of the fund, helping maximize funding utilization.

For these reasons, the Lead and Environmental Hazards Association strongly encourages Congress to adopt HUD's proposal to allocate 80% of its Lead Hazard Reduction Grant funds to a formula-based approach with the balance awarded competitively. We also ask that Congress direct HUD to apply the formula to award all previously unobligated funds so that the funds can be used for their intended-purpose—to protect children from lead and other housing-related health problems.

Kate Kirkwood, LEHA President

Date

4/30/24

Kate Kirkwood

¹ See our website at <https://leha.us/>

² See https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CFO/documents/2025_CJ_Program_-_Lead_Hazard_Reduction_v2.pdf.