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## **The Biden-Harris Administration Announces Investment in Lead Pipe and Paint Removal**

*The Lead-Free Promise Project Applauds the Administration's Efforts to Make PA Lead Free*

**PHILADELPHIA, PA (February 3, 2023)** – President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris are in Philadelphia today at the Belmont Water Treatment Plant announcing \$500 million funding for water upgrades and lead service removal as part of a 10-year effort to replace lead pipe service across the country.

In addition to eradicating lead in drinking water, the Administration is also tackling lead paint with ambitious initiatives to remove lead paint in public housing, child care centers, and schools by creating an unprecedented cabinet-level partnership between the EPA, the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and U.S. Department of Agriculture.

“Pennsylvania continues to lead the nation in lead exposure with having the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest number of children testing positive for lead poisoning among states,” said Rosemarie Halt, Health Policy Director, Lead-Free Promise Project. “This issue continues to rob children of their intellect causing brain damage and behavioral and learning problems — problems that follow into adulthood.

“The Lead-Free Promise Project applauds the Biden-Harris administration for recognizing the importance of ending lead paint poisoning and encourages them to keep this important initiative alive. We look forward to working together to combat this 100% preventable issue.”

Still today, nearly 8,000 Pennsylvania children are lead poisoning every year — enough to fill the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex and Expo Center to maximum capacity. But with only 20% screened for lead many more children are undiagnosed, putting them at risk for lifelong health issues.

The Lead-Free Promise Project (LFPP) launched its over 60-organization coalition in 2021 vowing to remove lead paint-based hazards from homes and ensuring all children are screened for lead poisoning as part of a comprehensive wellness exam. Learn more at [www.paleadfree.org](http://www.paleadfree.org).

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*LFPP is part of ThrivingPA.com, a non-partisan, statewide campaign that seeks to improve the quality of and increase equitable access to a coordinated system of health supports, including access to comprehensive perinatal health services, children's health insurance, nutrition supports and lead screening and abatement.*