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Governor Shapiro Budget Proposal Raises Awareness of Lead Paint Poisoning

Proposes \$500 Million Lead Remediation in Schools

HARRISBURG, PA (March 7, 2023) – Almost two years after the Lead-Free Promise Project launched, the risk of lead paint poisoning is being amplified across Pennsylvania and among policymakers. Governor Shapiro proposed a \$500 million lead remediation fund for schools over the course of five years as part of the 2023–24 Executive Budget.

The Lead-Free Promise Project continues to advocate for a fund to provide low-income homeowners and landlords with the resources they need to remove lead paint-based hazards in older properties.

“Any opportunity to reduce lead exposure is a victory for children, and we applaud Governor Shapiro for recognizing the need to address this hazard in schools through the creation of a \$500 million matching fund to make school environmental repairs and improvements,” said Rosemarie Halt, Health Policy Director, Lead-Free Promise Project. “We look forward to working with the Shapiro Administration and General Assembly to fund a program to combat this 100% preventable issue in homes.”

Every year the promise of thousands of young children in Pennsylvania is diminished due to lead paint poisoning. 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% of children screened for lead, more are likely to be poisoned. PA children are poisoned at a rate 2.3 times higher than children poisoned in Flint, Michigan at the peak of the city's crisis.

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.

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LFPP is part of ThrivingPA.org, 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.