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## **PENNSYLVANIA BUDGET PROPOSAL INCLUDES STATEWIDE REPAIR FUND FOR AGING HOMES**

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**HARRISBURG, PA (February 4, 2025)** — The Shapiro Administration’s 2025-26 Executive Budget proposal, released today, includes a \$50 million investment to create a new statewide housing repair fund to help homeowners struggling to make needed repairs to their aging homes.

The Lead-Free Promise Project, a growing coalition of nearly 70 organizations across Pennsylvania, issued the following statement in response to Governor Shapiro’s proposal:

“We are encouraged that the Governor is looking to fund housing repair in a state where seventy percent of the houses were built before 1978 when lead paint was banned. In fact, Pennsylvania has the fourth oldest housing stock in the nation.

“These factors alone make Pennsylvania children and families vulnerable to lead paint poisoning. The state should, as part of the proposed \$50 million housing repairs funding, ensure that houses are tested for lead paint and made lead safe as part of the home repairs.

“Each year, the promise of thousands of young children in Pennsylvania is diminished due to poisoning from lead paint found in their homes. More than 7,000 children in our commonwealth are poisoned by lead paint every year, though the actual number is likely much higher as exposure testing rates of children under the age of six are less than 20 percent.

“Unfortunately, children exposed to lead are at significant risks for nervous system and brain damage that can cause developmental delays, hearing and speech issues, behavioral and impulse control problems, and slowed growth impacting their ability to learn and flourish in life. A significant body of research also demonstrates that early childhood lead exposure is a risk factor for future involvement in the criminal justice system. There is no safe level of lead exposure.

“This new investment could be an opportunity to help homeowners and landlords with the resources they need to remove lead paint-based hazards in older properties.

“We look forward to working with the Shapiro Administration, the General Assembly, and the Pennsylvania Department of Health to combat this 100 percent preventable issue.”

The Lead-Free Promise Project (LFPP) launched its nearly 70-organization coalition in 2021 with the goal of removing 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.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.*