



Lead Hazard Reduction Grant Program— Common Questions

1. **What is this program?** The Lead Hazard Reduction Grant Program finds and fixes lead paint hazards at **no cost** to the residents or owners of a residential building in suburban Cook County. An initial lead paint inspection is conducted. If lead hazards are found during the inspection, the program will hire a contractor to fix all lead hazards at **no cost** to the building owner or residents.
2. **Why is this program important?** We offer this program to fix lead paint hazards because we know that lead exposure can harm children's brain development and make it difficult for them to learn, pay attention, and succeed in school.
3. **Who can apply?** Any adult who resides in suburban Cook County, who has a child under 6 years old living with them or visiting them regularly, can apply.
4. **Who qualifies for the program?** Applicants will qualify if they:
 - **Live in suburban Cook County,**
 - **Live in a house built before 1978,**
 - **Live with a child under 6 years old,**
 - **Babysit or have a child under 6 years old who visit them often, and**
 - **Have income below the grant program limits**
5. **Can renters apply?** Yes, a renter can apply. However, we will need approval and some documentation from the owner of the building.
6. **My grandkids (or cousins, or the kids I babysit, etc.) don't live with me, but they visit me a lot. Can I apply for the grant program?** An applicant may qualify if they meet the other criteria (income, location, and age of home) even if young children don't live with them. If a child younger than 6 years old spends time at your home, you could qualify. That means that many home childcare providers, grandparents, aunts, and neighbors who care for children younger than 6 years old can qualify for this program.
7. **How do I complete an application?** Contact the staff member listed below for assistance with your application.
 - Diamond Ross
 - 312-465-3193
 - dsross@cookcountyhhs.org
8. **What happens after I apply?** Staff will review your application and all documents submitted and follow up with any additional questions.
9. **What happens if I qualify?** Once the application is approved by staff, we will let you know— usually by phone and/or letter – that you qualify for the program. Then, CCDPH program staff will contact you to schedule the lead inspection of your home, usually within a week or two.





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10. **How are the lead hazards fixed?** A CCDPH staff members will schedule a visit to complete “work specifications.” At that visit, staff will look at all the lead hazards, write down details of the work and take measurements for the work to be completed. Staff will review that information with you. A licensed lead abatement contractor will be assigned your home and will work with you to schedule when the work will take place. The abatement contractor will complete all the work listed in the specifications.
11. **What kind of work does the contractor do to make the lead hazards safe?** That varies depending on the home. In this program, we often replace windows and repaint surfaces inside and outside the property (walls, ceilings, porches etc.)
12. **Can I be home when the work is done?** At the very least, families will need to stay out of certain areas of the home during the work. In many cases, families need to leave the home for the duration of the project for them not to be exposed to hazardous lead paint dust during remediation. Families need to agree to stay out of the areas that the contractors specify during the work.
13. **I don’t have anywhere to go during the work – what can I do?** Many families in the grant program who need to relocate during the lead hazard remediation have friends or family they can stay with during the work. If a family doesn’t have that option, CCDPH may be able to pay for a hotel stay during the hazard remediation work. During the time when the Project Manager is scheduling the work, we will discuss your options with you. CCDPH has one hotel in the west suburbs and one in the south suburbs we work with to relocate families.
14. **There must be a catch – is this *really* free?** There is no catch. This program will fix lead-based paint hazards at **no cost** to you. Doctors know that lead hazards can hurt young children – their brains are developing quickly, and lead can get in the way of proper development. Lead exposure can make it difficult for children to learn, pay attention, and succeed in school. This program corrects lead hazards to protect children and keep them safe from lead exposure.

