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BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY LEAD SAFE TASK FORCE



Introducing the Lead Safe Task Force

The Buffalo and Erie County Lead Safe Task Force is a non-profit, community led coalition, open to all! Its mission is to end childhood lead poisoning in Buffalo and Erie County. Our purpose is to serve as a liasion between community members and systems of power, amplify the voices of parents with young children, increase the volume of grassroots engagement, and engage a broad array of stakeholders in making Buffalo lead-safe.

The coalition organizes and advocates for policy changes, holds community education workshops and roundtable discussions, supports data collection and community research, and more.

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**BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY
LEAD SAFE TASK FORCE**



BUFFALO IS EXPERIENCING A LEAD POISONING CRISIS.

It ranks amongst the highest cities for lead poisoning cases in the country, with the ingestion or inhalation of lead paint chips as the number one source.

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The Lead Crisis

Lead is a heavy metal that acts as a neurotoxin when introduced into the body, contributing to severe health and developmental challenges.

Children are the most vulnerable to lead poisoning, with chipping lead-based paint as the most common cause of exposure. Lead was used in paint until it was banned from use in 1978. Over 90% of the housing stock in Buffalo was built before this, meaning the majority of homes contain lead paint! When lead paint deteriorates, it breaks down into paint chips and lead dust. The ingestion and inhalation of these chips and dust causes lead poisoning.

Lead poisoning causes irreversible damage to the brain and body. It contributes to attention and behavioral challenges, delayed learning, heightened irritability, difficulty hearing and speaking, high blood pressure, anemia, chronic kidney failure, and an increased risk of heart attacks.

While lead poisoning is a clear threat to public health, it is 100% preventable! There are many resources in WNY that assist with lead paint remediation, abatement and safe housing. There are grants and loans available to property owners to assist with this critical work. Keep reading to learn more!

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About our Partners and Presenters:

Read about the organizations who presented, and about other partners working to contribute to a lead-safe Buffalo.



Housing Opportunities Made Equal

Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME) is a fair housing organization that works to ensure Western New Yorkers can live in the housing and communities of their choice. We assist and advocate for tenants who have experienced housing



The Tool Library

The Tool Library is a membership based lending library serving Western New York. The Lead Safe Tool Borrowing Program is working to provide the tools families need to protect themselves from lead exposure and maintain affordable, safe housing. Through enrolling in the Department of Health's

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their rights. We also provide fair housing education for both tenants and landlords to ensure they are aware of their rights and responsibilities under fair housing law.

Landlords interested in taking our free landlord training course can register at www.homeny.org/landlordtraining

borrow HEPA Vacuums with a free membership to The Tool Library. Learn more at <https://thetoollibrary.org/borrow/>



The Western New York Property Owners Association

The Western New York Property Owners Association (WNYPOA) is a membership organization that represents and advocates for multifamily



Environmental Education Associates

Environmental Education Associates (EEA) is a Buffalo-based organization that helps create healthier housing by providing training and education focused on identifying, preventing, and controlling environmental hazards commonly found in

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members range from owners of a single property to operators of thousands of units. WNYPOA advocates on legislative and regulatory issues, keeps members informed about government policy developments and grassroots movements that affect the industry, and shares weekly email updates and timely alerts as issues emerge. The association advocates, monitors, and communicates on behalf of Western New York property owners in the public policy arena, serving as a unified voice for the industry.

For more information or to join contact Lisa Damiani at lisa@tolastrategies.com or [\(716\) 316-3298](tel:7163163298)

such as lead-based paint, mold, asbestos, indoor air quality, hazardous materials, and workplace safety. Through EPA- and state-accredited certification courses, EEA equips contractors, property managers, inspectors, remediation professionals, and housing organizations with the knowledge needed to make homes safer and healthier for occupants.

In addition to professional certification training, EEA supports healthy homes initiatives by offering resources and education that promote safe, affordable, and healthy living environments. Their work is aligned with healthy housing principles that address hazards such as lead exposure, moisture and mold problems, poor indoor air quality, and other conditions that can contribute to illness and injury. By training housing and environmental professionals to recognize and remediate these

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PrimeTime Energy Services

PrimeTime Energy Services is a trusted HVAC and insulation company dedicated to helping homeowners, renters, and landlords make their properties more comfortable, efficient, and affordable. We specialize in connecting customers with available grants and energy-efficiency programs that can help cover the cost of qualifying projects. In many cases, these programs can significantly reduce the out-of-pocket expense and may allow eligible customers to complete improvements at

improving housing quality throughout Western New York and beyond.

Learn how EEA can work for you at

www.environmentaleducation.com



Buffalo Niagara Association of REALTORS

For over 120 years, The Buffalo Niagara Association of REALTORS® has served as the voice of real estate in Western New York, and that role carries a responsibility that goes beyond transactions. Our association is built on a foundation of professionalism, cooperation, and fair housing, and we take that commitment

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through the process, from determining eligibility to completing the necessary HVAC and insulation work. Whether you're looking to improve comfort, lower energy bills, or upgrade your home's efficiency, we're here to help. PrimeTime Energy Services—helping you make your home better. Learn more at www.PrimeTime-energy.com

requirements we hold our members to, to the advocacy work we support at the local level. That's why BNAR stands behind initiatives like the Erie County Lead Safe Task Force, helping connect our members and the community with the resources and knowledge needed to keep housing safe and accessible. Homeownership remains one of the most powerful paths to building wealth and stability, and BNAR is proud to advocate for policies and programs that keep that path open and equitable for everyone in our region. Whether you're buying, selling, or investing, our members are here to guide you with the expertise and integrity this industry demands.

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Rental Assistance Corporation of Buffalo

The Rental Assistance Corporation of Buffalo (RACB), a not-for-profit organization, administers the City of Buffalo's Section 8 Rental Assistance programs throughout Erie County. RACB assists approximately 5,000 families annually through its Section 8 programs, providing approximately \$40 million dollars in rental assistance to these low-income families. The Section 8 programs provide direct housing assistance payments to thousands of landlords throughout Erie County, New York on behalf of RACB's clients. RACB's clients can seek out housing of their choice in the community of their choice while paying rent based on their income, thereby making their housing



Helping all the People

The HATP Foundation is a Buffalo-based nonprofit led by community activist Nate Boyd, focused on youth development and support for local families. Nate is a familiar face on the East Side, known for community outreach and organizing food and clothing giveaways that put food and resources directly in neighbors' hands. Follow Nate Boyd on Facebook. Thank you to Nate Boyd for making our last workshop such a success!

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Neighborhood Legal Services, Inc.

Neighborhood Legal Services, Inc. (NLS) is a private not-for-profit law firm providing high quality, free legal services to low-income families and individuals. Services include advice and representation regarding housing problems, including eviction, housing discrimination and fair housing advocacy, prevention of homelessness, and public and subsidized housing advocacy; advocacy regarding public benefit programs, including public assistance, food stamps, utility shut-offs, and Medicaid; issues faced by people with disabilities including Social Security Disability and SSI, access to services and necessary medical equipment; veterans advocacy; domestic violence advocacy, and representation and advocacy in other family law matters. NLS serves rural, suburban and urban communities throughout Erie, Niagara, Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties and maintains offices in Buffalo, Batavia, Lockport, and Niagara Falls. Neighborhood Legal Services (NLS) assists tenants

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and housing inspections, and by advocating for tenants and challenging housing providers that refuse to make necessary repairs to painted surfaces or to address the plumbing and structural problems that heighten the risk of lead poisoning. NLS provides legal representation in Article 7-D matters which allow tenants to sue landlords directly for housing code violations and unsafe living conditions, in warranty of habitability cases where a tenant seeks to reduce the amount of rent paid or unpaid due to unsafe housing conditions, and in eviction actions.

Call to Action: Historic District Residents

Hi neighbors — if you live in a historic district, we know you may have heard that you can't apply for the lead safety grant/rebate program. That's not necessarily true! We're currently working with New York State and the Health

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If this applies to you, please email Tabitha to let her know you're interested — we'll follow up as soon as we have a meaningful update.

Grants and Loans

The Lead Safe Task Force does not offer any of its own grants or loans. However, we are able to connect property owners to private and public programs. Please follow [this link](#) to view the presentation given at the Home Repair Grant Workshop. It details available grants and loans, including their requirements, awards, and application instructions!

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Exposure

Eating a variety of nutritious foods can help you reduce the effects of lead.



VITAMIN C

Helps the body absorb calcium and iron better

- Food such as potatoes, fruits, peppers, and tomatoes, etc.



IRON

Protects against harmful effects of lead

- Food such as dark green veggies, meat, fish, eggs, whole wheat bread, etc.



CALCIUM

Makes it hard for lead to enter the body

- Food such as dairy, cassava leaves, sweet potatoes, dried fruits, etc.

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Food can play a key role in protecting the body from lead poisoning. Foods high in Vitamin C, iron and calcium won't reverse lead poisoning, but can help naturally reduce high amounts of lead in the body. The Massachusetts Avenue Project is a local non-profit Mobile Farmers Market that offers produce at a discount! Check out [their website](#) to see where they go, and how you can save money on locally grown farm-fresh food.

GetAheadOfLead.org

Thank you for reading.

Sincerely,

Tabitha

Director of the Lead Safe Task Force

Instagram: @leadsafetaskforce716

Facebook: Get Ahead Of Lead

Website: www.getaheadoflead.org

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