

LEAD-FREE MOHAWK VALLEY PLAYBOOK

A PLAN TO REDUCE LEAD POISONING AND
SUPPORT ACCESS TO HEALTHY HOUSING
IN HERKIMER AND ONEIDA COUNTIES

2021-2024



REVISED:
MARCH 2021

LEAD-FREE MOHAWK VALLEY MEMBERSHIP

Coalition Chair

Dr. Mark Warfel

Coalition Partners

- Arc Herkimer
- Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) - Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego
- Central Adirondack Partnership for the 21st Century
- Central-Eastern NY Lead Poisoning Resource Center
- Citizen Action of New York – Central New York Chapter
- City of Rome
 - Mayor - Jacqueline Izzo
 - Code Enforcement
 - Community and Economic Development
- City of Utica
 - Mayor - Robert Palmieri
 - Codes Enforcement
 - Common Council
 - Corporation Counsel
 - Fire Department
 - Housing Department - Section 8
 - Urban and Economic Development
- The Community Foundation of Herkimer & Oneida Counties, Inc.
- Connected Community Schools
- Cornell Cooperative Extension – Herkimer County
- Cornell Cooperative Extension – Oneida County
 - Child Care Council
 - Eat Smart New York
- Curtis Lumber
- Eisenbach & Ruhnke Engineering
- Engler Electric
- Excellus BlueCross BlueShield
- Fidelis Care
- Charles A. Gaetano Construction Corporation
- Greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank
- Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
- Hamilton College
- Herkimer County
 - County Administrator - James Wallace
 - County Legislature - James Bono
 - Department of Social Services
 - Planning Department
 - Public Health
- Herkimer County HealthNet
- Home Builders and Remodelers Association of the Mohawk Valley
- ICAN – Oneida and Herkimer Counties
- Individuals and Community Representatives
 - David Jones
 - Mary Lyons Bradley
 - Kathleen Paciello
 - Phyllis Spinner
- KAS by KAS Consulting
- Kasson & Keller, Inc.
- Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York, Inc.
- Legal Services of Central New York
- Little Falls Hospital
- Mohawk Valley Association of Realtors
- Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency
- Mohawk Valley Health System
- Mohawk Valley Housing and Homeless Coalition
- Mohawk Valley Latino Association
- Mohawk Valley Water Authority
- Mosaic Health
- Neighborhood Center
 - Mohawk Valley Perinatal Network
- New York State Assembly - Marianne Buttenschon
- New York State Senate - Joseph Griffo
- New York State Department of Health
 - Central New York Regional Office
 - Herkimer Regional Office
- New York State Homes and Community Renewal
- Oneida County
 - County Executive - Anthony Picente
 - County Attorney's Office
 - Department of Social Services
 - Health Department
 - Planning Department
- Prevention Institute
- Resource Center for Refugees in the Mohawk Valley (The Center)
- Rome Housing Authority
- Saunders Kahler, LLP
- State University of New York Polytechnic Institute
- Utica Municipal Housing Authority
- United Way of the Valley and Greater Utica
- U.S. Congressional Member NY-22 – Claudia Tenney
- Upstate Cerebral Palsy
- Utica Neighborhood Housing Services
- Neighborworks® HomeOwnershipCenter

SYSTEM OVERVIEW

A Silent Danger

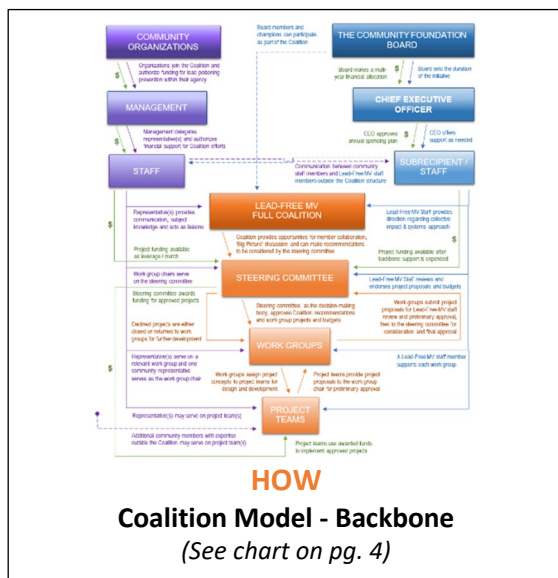
Oneida County consistently has one of the highest levels of childhood lead poisoning in the state and Herkimer County levels are double the state average. Experts say children can be exposed to lead through a variety of sources, including contaminated soil or water; imported toys, pottery or cosmetics; and household paint manufactured before 1978. Long-term lead exposure can result in developmental delays, learning difficulties and behavioral issues, with lifelong health and financial consequences. Several local, state and federal programs are addressing the issue, but an opportunity exists to coordinate efforts to achieve greater outcomes and prevent duplicative efforts.

Lead-Free Mohawk Valley envisions a two-county region where all residents have access to lead safe and healthy housing that won't make individuals or families sick.

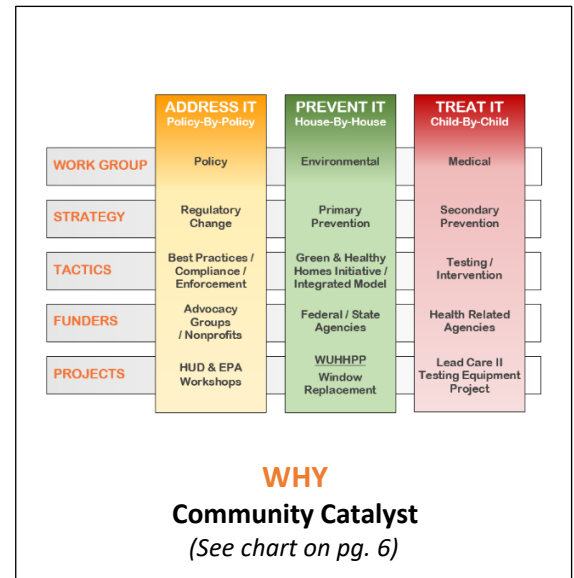
Collective Impact

Collective Impact, a framework to tackle deeply entrenched and complex social problems, is an innovative and structured approach empowering government, business, philanthropy, nonprofit organizations and citizens to collaborate and achieve significant, lasting social change.

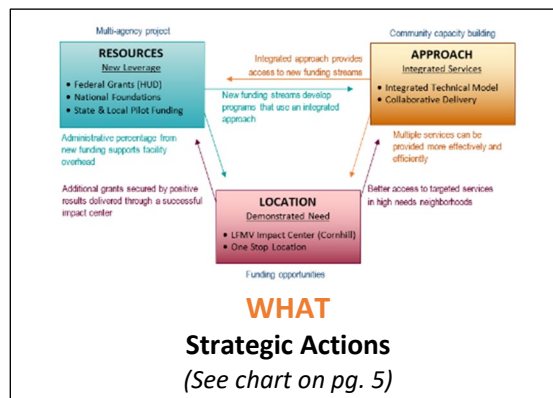
- **Goal** - Enable a high-functioning system that addresses lead poisoning and healthy housing
- **Framework** - Use the coalition model for collective impact
- **Foundation Role** – Fund a sub-recipient backbone organization
- **Results** - Build community capacity to achieve long-term outcomes



Coalition model brings partners together to use or expand existing programs to develop new projects



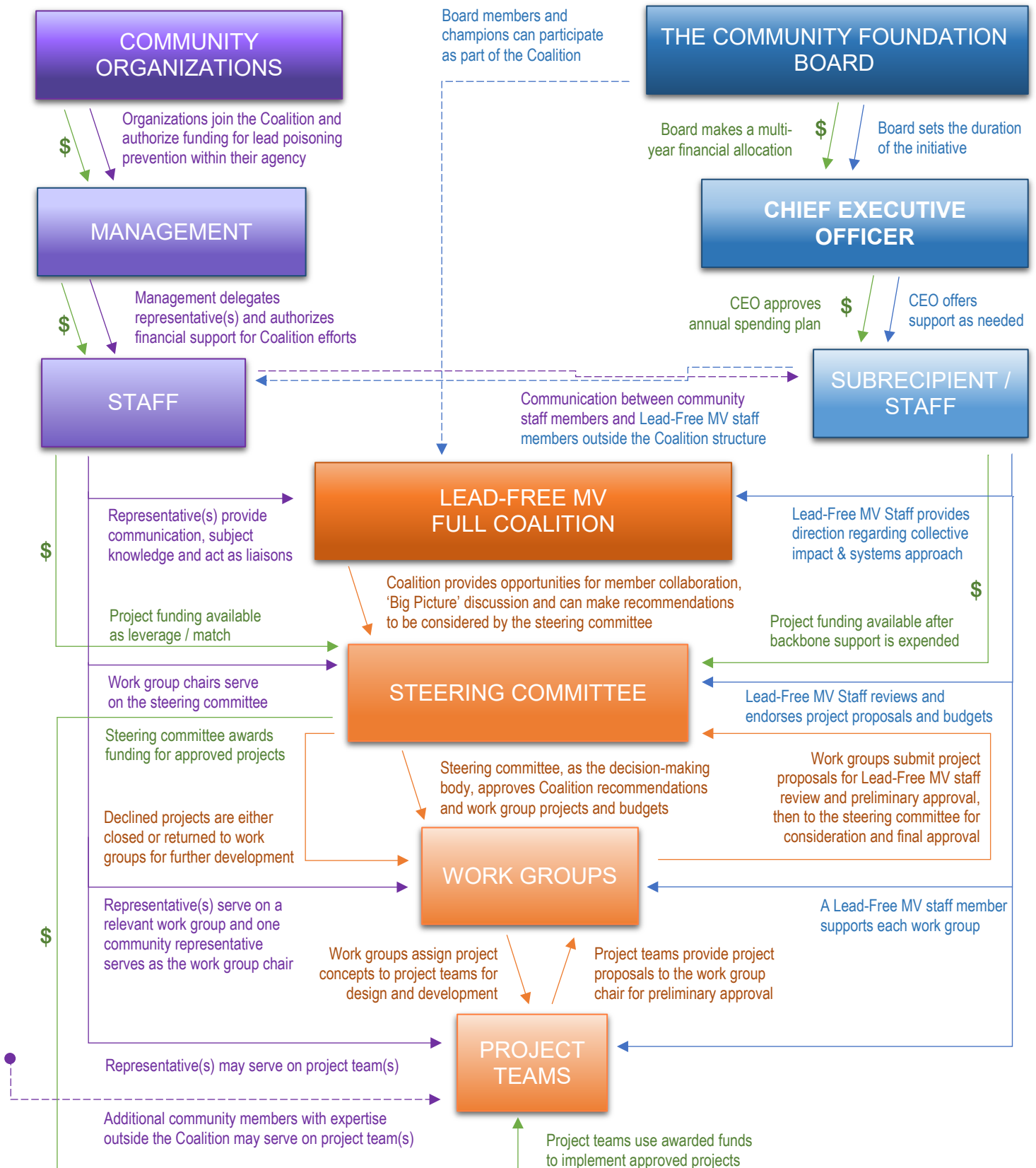
A community catalyst allows impact to occur in accelerated and highly visible ways resulting in social change



Related projects that can be integrated are aligned to create a community catalyst

Coalition Model

The Community Foundation of Herkimer & Oneida Counties, by providing funding for this initiative, will support a sub-recipient agency to act as a “backbone organization” to coordinate Lead-Free Mohawk Valley (LFMV). The LFMV Coalition’s multiple community partners will leverage resources to address lead poisoning and other household environmental health hazards.



Strategic Actions

The Lead-Free Mohawk Valley (Lead-Free MV) Coalition works together to reduce lead poisoning in Oneida and Herkimer counties using three approaches:

- **Address it** (Policy) - measures to strengthen regulation that makes prevention easier and treatment less necessary
- **Prevent it** (Environmental) - interventions to reduce environmental hazards and help limit exposure
- **Treat it** (Medical) - actions to educate, identify, test and treat exposed individuals and families

LEAD POISONING

	ADDRESS IT Policy-By-Policy	PREVENT IT House-By-House	TREAT IT Child-By-Child
WORK GROUP	Policy	Environmental	Medical
STRATEGY	Regulatory Change	Primary Prevention	Secondary Prevention
TACTICS	Best Practices / Compliance / Enforcement	Green & Healthy Homes Initiative / Integrated Model	BLL Testing / Intervention
FUNDERS	Advocacy Groups / Nonprofits	Federal / State Agencies	Health Related Agencies
PROJECTS	HUD & EPA Workshops	<u>WUHHPP</u> Window Replacement	Lead Care II Testing Equipment Project

Some of these identified projects may also have connections to or be part of other broader community efforts, healthy neighborhoods; education and the literacy coalition; anti-poverty and the Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative (ESPRI); one stop resources and impact centers; and, economic and community development.

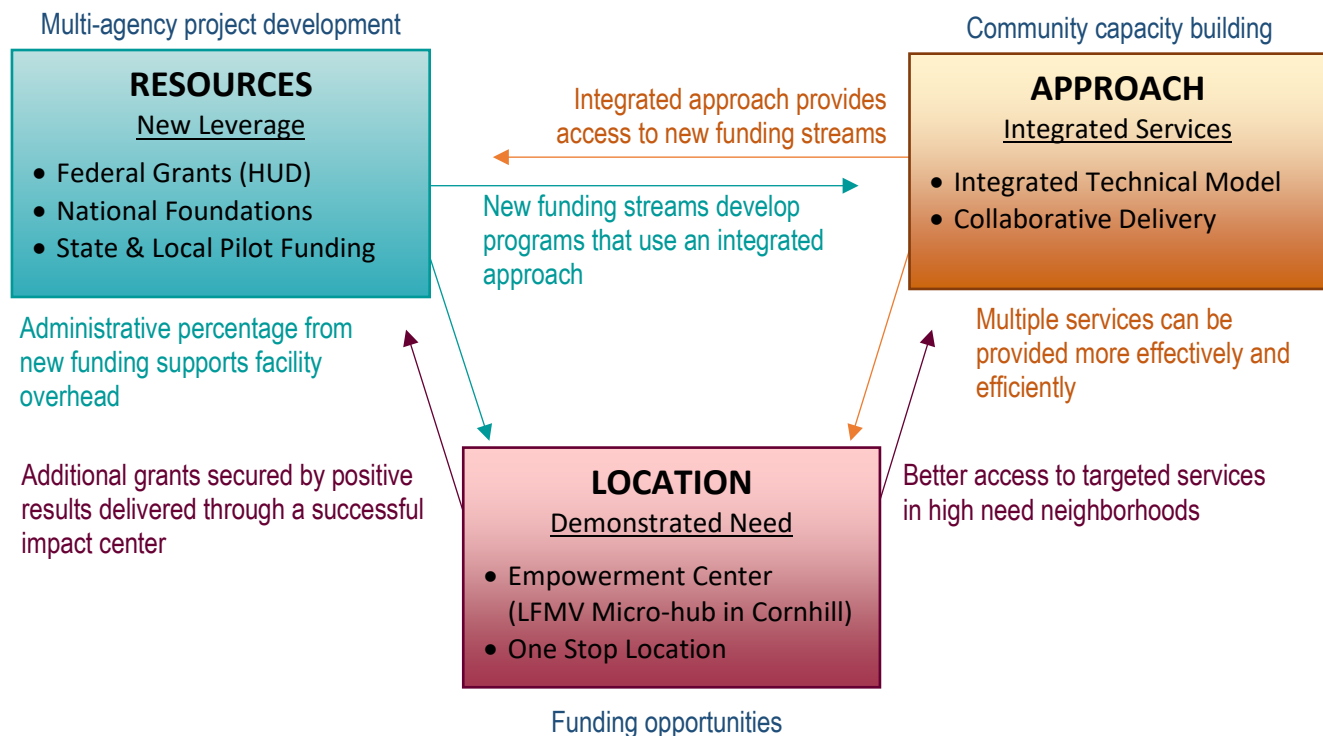
The quality of housing and access to services including healthcare have important implications for environmental justice, equity and health. Those living in inadequate housing units and/or with limited access to health and wellness opportunities are more likely to have diseases and injuries caused by social and environmental risk factors. Substantial disparities in health and housing have remained largely unchanged. According to the U.S. Census American Housing Survey: people of color experience more substantial housing disparities than their white counterparts. Residential zip code, lack of housing mobility, and homelessness are associated with adverse health outcomes and life expectancy.

Lead-Free MV has identified local projects and actions that build on established models and connect to broader state and federal objectives. The Coalition may choose to advance any combination of these projects that would support lead poisoning prevention and access to healthy housing.

Community Catalyst

The Coalition, with support of the backbone organization, is uniquely positioned to analyze the entire system of lead poisoning prevention and forge the connections between projects proposed by the Coalition and/or existing programs that may not otherwise be integrated to achieve synergies for catalytic change. Lead-Free MV staff can provide additional support to integrate projects to create mutually reinforcing activities that drive change in the lead poisoning prevention system.

The following diagram demonstrates how related Coalition projects could be integrated and aligned to have an accelerated and highly visible impact. At-risk neighborhoods, such as Cornhill and West Utica, face a diverse set of complex and interrelated environmental health issues that a piecemeal approach fails to address.



- **Resources:** Obtaining new funding streams from public and private partners and braiding them with existing funding streams will enable scaling of both existing and Coalition-driven pilot programs to remediate unhealthy housing stock. Funders in other communities have included NYS Department of Health, NYS Energy Research and Development Authority, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and several national philanthropic organizations. Use of an integrated model for housing remediation may expand access to funding.
- **Approach:** An increasing number of communities in Upstate New York, including Buffalo, Greater Syracuse, and the Capital Region, are adopting established models for integrated delivery of housing intervention services allowing involved project partners to show greater impact, achieve additional program benefits and have longer lasting results.
- **Place:** By using a collaborative, asset-based approach in areas with the greatest need, residents and providers have more opportunities to connect with programs and services when they are co-located. There is also an increased awareness of other available resources. When the Coalition attracts new funding to the community, a physical location at the Empowerment Center on James Street in Cornhill could provide a place-based micro-hub for service delivery directly to residents within the neighborhoods with the highest local incidence rates of childhood lead poisoning.

INTEGRATED DELIVERY

Align, braid and coordinate programs, strategies and data systems

- **Coalition Model**

Coalition Members

Continue to participate in and support the coalition framework (modeled in-part on Rochester's successful efforts to address childhood lead poisoning), consisting of more than 100 representatives of more than 40 organizations, that has been established for Herkimer and Oneida counties.

2016-2020 UPDATE: ▫ LFMV Coalition/Steering members have met monthly since its inception. While membership continues to meet the 100 member - 40 organization benchmark, participation in Coalition meetings consistently averages about 20 individuals in attendance.

▫ All 30 LFMV supported projects are collaborative endeavors between 2 or more coalition partners; increasing effectiveness and reducing duplication of efforts.

2021-2024 PRIORITY ACTION: ▫ Continue community organizing/outreach efforts to expand participation beyond local government and service agencies by increasing the number of members from groups most directly impacted by the effects of lead poisoning and environmental health hazards, such as representatives from neighborhood groups, block associations, grassroots movements, parent teacher organizations, etc.

- **System Development**

Lead-Free MV Staff

The Community Foundation will continue to provide backbone services for the LFMV Coalition, to generate comprehensive lead poisoning prevention and healthy homes strategies, including a pilot project development process.

2016-2020 UPDATE: ▫ The Community Foundation selected the HomeOwnershipCenter, as a sub-recipient, to act as the 'Backbone Organization' through 2024. Lead-Free MV staff is currently housed in their offices at 1611 Genesee Street in Utica.

▫ The Lead-Free MV project development process, using a stage gate mechanism, is firmly established and a LFMV Dashboard has been created to track project progress and spending.

▫ There are more than 30 LFMV supported projects underway with 20 of those completed as of January 2021.

2021-2024 PRIORITY ACTION: ▫ To assist the City of Utica in successfully completing their current U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Lead Hazard Reduction and Healthy Homes Grant, then to re-apply and secure funding again in 2023.

▫ Continue to support the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) Outcome Broker position, through Cornell Cooperative Extension Oneida County, to expand the GHHI Utica-Oneida County braided funding model to include additional energy efficiency measures, add asthma interventions and use performance based funding to enhance healthy housing for low-income, high-risk residents.

- **Data Collection**

Coalition Members

Develop, modify or use existing software and database systems (one-touch, Efforts to Outcomes (ETO), Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS), Wayne State, etc.) to better collect data and coordinate information to improve service delivery, direct funding, shape policy and streamline project implementation.

2016-2020 UPDATE: ▫ The City of Utica, through a NYS Senate Initiative secured by Sen. Griffo, has contracted with GHHI and Social Solutions to use the Efforts to Outcomes software. Coalition partners that are part of the GHHI Utica-Oneida County initiative are currently customizing the build-out of the software platform for coordinated case management, referrals, and data collection.

2021-2024 PRIORITY ACTION: ▫ Complete ETO build-out by April 2021 with a full launch before June 2021.

- **Demonstration Opportunities**

Coalition Members / Lead-Free MV Staff

Connect coalition partners with other community agencies and events to actively engage the community in lead poisoning prevention. Investigate ways to have a permanent physical presence in the high-needs target area.

2016-2020 UPDATE: ▫ *Coalition partners have increased their physical presence at a number of community based events focused on target audiences and locations.*

▫ *Staffing booths at community events, local home shows, professional membership organization workshops, along with anniversary announcements, literature packet distributions and public presentations have increased lead poisoning prevention awareness directly in the community.*

▫ *The City of Utica, the HomeOwnershipCenter, Lead-Free MV and the Community Foundation are exploring ways to better accommodate outreach activities, service delivery, and community building in the Cornhill neighborhood with a focus on social and environmental equity. Using a micro-hub located within the Empowerment Center at 230 James Street in Utica, multiple issues can be addressed holistically to achieve better outcomes.*

2021-2024 PRIORITY ACTION: ▫ *To get the proposed micro-hub established by the end of 2021 with the intention of eventually expanding the efforts to achieve a full-fledged Lead & Healthy Homes Impact Center.*

TECHNOLOGY

Use technology and social media to share information

- **Coalition Portal**

Lead-Free MV Staff

Create internal online mechanism(s) to collect and share collateral and reference materials for use by coalition members. A dashboard will track the LFMV budget, leverage and project progress. All coalition documents, agenda and minutes will be accessible.

2016-2020 UPDATE: ▫ *The LFMV Portal has been established as a repository of all LFMV materials and is being used by Coalition members. The LFMV Dashboard has been created and tracks project progress and spending.*

- **LFMV Website**

Lead-Free MV Staff

Create an external facing website or online presence to provide valuable information to the local community regarding lead poisoning prevention methods and resources. This will include mostly evergreen material.

2016-2020 UPDATE: ▫ *The main intention of the LeadFreeMV.org website is to offer resources for coalition members in order to provide accurate information to their program participants that may also be facing environmental health hazards in the home. This online site also provides basic information to the public.*

▫ *There have been 4,615 page views at LeadFreeMV.org providing lead poisoning prevention awareness directly to the community from April 2018 – January 2021.*

2021-2024 PRIORITY ACTION: ▫ *To increase the public resources portion of the website.*

- **Social Media**

Coalition Members

Use existing and emerging social media outlets to promote events, initiatives and campaigns that are more targeted and immediate in nature. Video and other multimedia will be highlighted using these platforms.

2016-2020 UPDATE: ▫ *Lead-Free MV staff and members develop, post and share content through partner social media accounts related to families, housing, and policy that greatly affect those living in poverty or facing barriers in our community. HomeOwnershipCenter's Constant Contact was used during National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week to distribute information directly to those beyond the Coalition that signed up to stay informed.*

ENGAGEMENT

Increase community awareness and outreach

- **Public Campaigns**

Coalition Members

Use traditional media, paid advertising and public service announcements to promote events, initiatives and calls to action broad in scope that need to reach large audiences.

2016-2020 UPDATE: ▫ Recent projects focused on public awareness include various press conferences and interviews with traditional media, participation in national campaigns for lead poisoning prevention week and healthy homes month, CLPPPP radio advertising, cinema advertising, articles in partner organization newsletters, a television segment on Utica City Limits, and LFMV/CLPPPP billboards in the target neighborhoods of Cornhill, East and West Utica.

▫ With an estimated viewership of 228,000 individuals during the three months of Cinema Advertising, more than 225 views on Utica's City Limits YouTube channel, and approximately 6,439 vehicles per day passed the billboard locations in the target neighborhoods. These efforts have increased lead poisoning prevention awareness directly in the community.

2021-2024 PRIORITY ACTION: ▫ Due to the lowering of the CDC action levels, OCHD CLPPPP funding has been diverted to address LPPP cases. Advertising, media, and awareness campaigns that had been conducted through the previous CCE subcontract may no longer be a priority, creating an increased need for public media campaigns to be designed and executed to continue issue awareness in the community.

- **Equity**

Address the effects of decade's long federal homeownership policies and redlining that concentrated minority and/or poverty-stricken families in neighborhoods where old, poorly maintained homes dominated the housing stock, resulting in a disproportionate exposure to environmental health hazards, including lead poisoning, among low-income children and children of color.

2016-2020 UPDATE: ▫ The Community Foundation, Lead-Free MV and the HomeOwnershipCenter are currently partnering to secure funding from Excellus, the Equity Fund, private donors and external funding streams to support Micro-hub development.

2021-2024 PRIORITY ACTION: ▫ Strengthen project coordination between the CF Equity and LFMV Initiatives to develop a Micro-hub at the Empowerment Center in Cornhill to improve access to program services in high need neighborhoods.

FUNDING

Increase funding mechanisms

NOTE: The status of projects, including leveraged funding, can be found in the Lead-Free MV project dashboard.

- **Leverage**

Coalition Members

Increase leveraging of dedicated local funds and existing funding streams through involvement of coalition partners and projects related to lead poisoning prevention.

2016-2020 UPDATE: ▫ As of December 2020, the Lead-Free MV project leverage expended to date has been \$737,600 with additional leverage of \$8,205,746 secured. The Initiative's total leverage is \$8,943,346; greatly exceeding the Community Foundation's 5:1 stretch goal for the initial commitment.

- **Outside Grants**

Coalition Members / Lead-Free MV Staff

Actively pursue outside funding streams and grants to scale pilot projects, to support large complex programs, and establish initiatives that do not currently exist in our region related to lead poisoning prevention.

2016-2020 UPDATE: ▫ As of December 2020, the portion of Lead-Free MV leverage contributed by partner grant investment has been \$478,372 expended to date with additional partner investment of \$7,413,219 secured. The Initiative's total partner grant investment is \$7,891,591.

- **Private Funding** **Coalition Members / Lead-Free MV Staff**

Create funds and increase funding opportunities for individuals, corporations and philanthropic partners to contribute to the work that the LFMV Coalition is undertaking to address childhood lead poisoning.

2016-2020 UPDATE: ▫ As of December 2020, the portion of Lead-Free MV outside grants secured from private foundations and philanthropy has been a total of \$194,700.

- **In-kind Support** **Coalition Members / Lead-Free MV Staff**

Identify ways that Coalition partners and project team members can provide in-kind support for coalition efforts.

2016-2020 UPDATE: ▫ As of December 2020, the value of in-kind time and services to date has been \$72,933 with an additional in-kind value of \$42,600 secured. The Initiative's total in-kind contribution is \$115,533.

- **Identified Funding Opportunities** **Coalition Members / Lead-Free MV Staff**

Future funding sources and grant funds that Coalition partners and project team members would like to pursue in support of coalition efforts.

2016-2020 UPDATE: ▫ Potential Asthma Interventions using pay for performance and/or community health benefit funding model through Health Insurance Providers (Excellus, Fidelis, MVP, etc.).

ADDRESS IT

Policy-By-Policy

COMPLIANCE

Improve environmental testing

- **HUD Lead Safe Housing Rule** **City / Local Municipalities**

Assist municipal and public housing programs including voucher assisted private housing units (Section 8, MHA, VASH, DSS, etc.) comply with updated Lead Safe Housing Rule procedures and timelines.

2016-2020 UPDATE: ▫ Lead-Free MV staff and coalition members coordinated a presentation and tour for EPA, HUD, and AG so community organizations could provide information to identify additional options for community level technical assistance around lead and healthy housing.

▫ In September 2017, Lead-Free MV staff and coalition members coordinated with the HUD Field Office in Buffalo to bring technical assistance to Utica in the form of two workshops held at the Empowerment Center on James Street in Utica. HUD and EPA staff provided information and materials to improve understanding and increase compliance of current lead regulations by landlords, agencies, housing authority staff, and government officials.

- **OLHCHH Sample Standards** **HUD Grant Partners**

Move toward stricter test sampling per guidance provided by HUD to Lead Based Paint Hazard Control / Reduction grantees. Comply with this guidance for any properties participating in a HUD lead grant.

2016-2020 UPDATE: ▫ Properties participating in the 2018 City of Utica HUD LHR Grant are now meeting this standard.

ENFORCEMENT

Improve regulatory and individual compliance

- **Repair, Renovate & Paint (RRP)**

Statewide Advocacy Network

Work with state and federal agencies to improve training, compliance and enforcement of RRP.

2016-2020 UPDATE: ▫ *Lead-Free MV, through the Community Foundation, is supporting the Lead-Free NY Campaign Fund in partnership with NY Community Trust, Central NY Community Foundation, and the Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo to advocate for legislation that establishes minimum standards and enforcement mechanisms for lead hazards in housing.*

▫ *CLPPPP and GMVLB can provide opportunities for RRP training as part of their grants.*

2021-2024 PRIORITY ACTION: ▫ *To have more individuals participate in local RRP training by Environmental Education Associates at the MVCC Construction and Trades Center.*

- **Codes and Housing**

City / Local Municipalities

Support coordination of enforcement entities to conduct more inspections, risk assessments, and citations.

2016-2020 UPDATE: ▫ *As part of the HUD LHR grant and the COVID rent/mortgage assistance programs, additional Lead and Healthy Homes in-home inspections are being conducted. The results of these inspections are being coordinated with the City of Utica to verify any outstanding codes citations for participating properties to ensure that those violations are being corrected as part of City funded HUD projects.*

▫ *Working with the City of Utica IT department to have a referral check box added to the Codes IPS inspection software to send an automatic email to the HUD Lead Safe Utica program at the HomeOwnershipCenter.*

▫ *The City of Utica and the HomeOwnershipCenter are working to coordinate outreach for properties cited for peeling/chipping paint or other home health hazards during ROP/1203 inspections to raise awareness by landlords and build a stronger pipeline for the Utica HUD Lead Hazard Reduction grant.*

2021-2024 PRIORITY ACTION: ▫ *Ensure that non-compliant properties that are being cited through City departments are being brought to GHHI Triage apparatus to help close their open cases.*

- **Health and Safety**

County Government

Work to support coordination of enforcement entities to conduct more interior and exterior visual inspections, risk assessments, and health related notice and demand at municipal level.

2016-2020 UPDATE: ▫ *The City of Utica, through a NYS Senate Initiative secured by Sen. Griffo, has secured additional XRF lead detection equipment for the Oneida County CLPPPP/LPPP program to be able to verify the presence of lead paint during in home environmental investigations.*

▫ *Unfortunately, due to the extreme demands and restrictions placed on OCHD to respond to the COVID pandemic, environmental investigations were suspended creating an open case waitlist for CLPPPP/LPPP services.*

2021-2024 PRIORITY ACTION: ▫ *Resume in-home investigations by the end of 2021 to address all properties on the open case list.*

▫ *Ensure that non-compliant properties that are being cited through County Departments are being brought to GHHI Triage apparatus to help close their open cases.*

LEGISLATION

Support lawmaking

- **Local Laws**

Local, City and County Partners

Encourage the adoption of policies that directly or indirectly addresses conditions conducive to lead poisoning.

2016-2020 UPDATE: ▫ *Legal Services of CNY received a technical assistance grant through the National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH) and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) to develop a work plan to increase community organizing and support for a Pre-Rental Inspection program/ordinance that includes leads, similar to the codes program in Rochester and the ordinance recently adopted in Syracuse.*

▫ Engage community members and stakeholders including parents of children affected by lead poisoning to advocate for local policy change.

2021-2024 PRIORITY ACTION: ▫ Get a Pre-Rental Inspection mechanism in place for the City of Utica.

- **Statewide Policies**

Statewide Advocacy Network

Strengthen involvement and relationships with entities across NYS that are working to reduce lead poisoning.

2016-2020 UPDATE: ▫ In 2018, Lead-Free MV began facilitating the Lead Poisoning Prevention Statewide Action Network with regional representative from across NYS. In May 2019, a one day convening was hosted at the Community Foundation facilitated by Amy Murphy, National Center for Healthy Housing, using a consensus decision making process to set a strategic agenda for statewide lead and healthy housing priority agenda.

2021-2024 PRIORITY ACTION: ▫ Continue to engage with stakeholders across NYS that are working to change state lead policy.

- **Community Organizing**

Coalition Members / Lead-Free MV Staff

Dedicate resources to engage community members to raise awareness, become involved in the coalition and bring issues to the attention of policy makers.

2016-2020 UPDATE: ▫ Legal Services of CNY received funding to hire a community organizer to expand participation beyond local government and service agencies by increasing the number of Coalition members from groups most directly impacted by the effects of lead poisoning and environmental health hazards, such as representatives from neighborhood groups, block associations, grassroots movements, parent teacher organizations, etc. Also, to increase community support for a Pre-Rental Inspection program/ordinance that includes lead, similar to the codes program in Rochester and the ordinance recently adopted in Syracuse.

▫ Legal Services of CNY has developed a work plan to support community organizing for lead poisoning prevention through technical assistance from National Center for Healthy Housing, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundations and ChangeLabs.

2021-2024 PRIORITY ACTION: ▫ Strengthen the “Take the Lead” Utica campaign, support Coalition outreach activities and develop public service announcements.

▫ Help the community activate its power by developing strong leaders from the community at large and specifically from the neighborhoods that are most effected by environmental health hazards including lead.

▫ Engage community members and stakeholders, including parents of children affected by lead, in the Environmental Justice movement.

- **Federal Regulations**

Federal Agency Representatives

Strengthen local reputation and reinforce commitments to housing and lead hazard reduction with federal agencies.

2016-2020 UPDATE: ▫ Continue to participate in monthly HUD Lead Hazard Reduction grantee regional conference calls.

▫ New EPA Dust Wipe Clearance Levels (DWCL) effective March 8, 2021 went “...from 40 micrograms of per square foot (mg/ft²) to 10 mg/ft² for floors, and from 250 mg/ft² to 100 mg/ft² for window Sills”

2021-2024 PRIORITY ACTION: ▫ Make sure efforts continue to inform the community, contractors, and abatement firms about EPA risk assessment requirements and lead clearance levels.

- **Rental Housing Tenants Rights**

Landlords / Housing Agencies

Support opportunities for landlords and tenants to learn about their rights and responsibilities related to lead disclosure and lead hazards in pre-1978 housing.

2016-2020 UPDATE: ▫ The Statewide Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act of 2019 took effect to protect tenants from unlawful eviction, including retaliation from lead being identified in rental housing units.

2021-2024 PRIORITY ACTION: ▫ Continue to keep the community informed about changes to housing laws.

KNOWLEDGE

Encourage assessment and disclosure

- **Lead Risk Assessment** **OCHD / HUD Grantee**
Work to educate the public about the importance of household lead risk assessments and that the private sector has access to trained lead risk assessors for initial and clearance testing.
***2016-2020 UPDATE:** ▫ Currently, there are only two firms (both located outside the Mohawk Valley) that will perform Lead Inspection Risk Assessments (LIRA). They are also the firms HOC is actively working with to meet the requirements for the City of Utica HUD grant.*
***2021-2024 PRIORITY ACTION:** ▫ To increase awareness, funding, and demand for lead testing that justifies having a LIRA firm or satellite office locate in Utica so more housing units can be inspected for lead hazards in order to better protect children and families.*
- **Healthy Housing Assessments** **GHHI Utica-Oneida County Partners**
Adopt a standardized healthy housing assessment tool and process across partner agencies involved in housing renovation, environmental abatement and energy efficiency work.
***2016-2020 UPDATE:** ▫ As part of the GHHI Utica-Oneida County onboarding and training process, a combined intake and assessment form was developed as part of the Healthy Homes component of the HUD LHR grant by GHHI.*
***2021-2024 PRIORITY ACTION:** ▫ Increase use of the form by all GHHI Utica–Oneida County partner organizations that provide in-home services.*
- **Real Estate Disclosure** **Sellers / Realtors**
Motivate real estate agents to convey the importance of household lead risk assessments and property disclosures to their clients, including the personal and professional liability related to completing and signing EPA disclosure forms.
***2016-2020 UPDATE:** ▫ Since 2017 Lead-Free MV staff has provided training, guidance, and resources to local realtors during the annual Mohawk Valley Association of Realtors' conference.*
▫ For City of Utica down payment only programs, the lead inspection is reviewed and any findings are pointed out to both the buyer and seller by the HomeOwnershipCenter.
***2021-2024 PRIORITY ACTION:** ▫ Make lead testing and hazard control measures a priority for the first time homebuyer down payment with housing rehabilitation program in West Utica and for the Affordable Housing Corporation programs in Oneida and Madison Counties. Also consider making lead testing and hazard control measures a priority for any City of Utica down payment with housing rehabilitation programs.*

QUALIFICATIONS

Adopt national renovation standards

- **HUD, EPA, OSHA, BPI and RRP Certifications** **GHHI Utica-Oneida County Partners**
Increase awareness of and participation in certification courses and licensing to ensure lead-safe work practices.
***2016-2020 UPDATE:** ▫ Environmental Education Associates continues to provide Renovate/Repair/Paint (RRP) training on lead safe work practices monthly at the MVCC Construction and Trades Center.*
▫ 22 individuals completed EPA RRP certification training as part of the Window Replacement Program; 5 construction firms sent employees to the HUD Lead Abatement Supervisor training facilitated by LeadSafe at

the Empowerment Center in July 2019; employees from 2 local firms were able to successfully pass the training and third party exam to become certified.

2021-2024 PRIORITY ACTION: ▫ *Increase the number of certified lead abatement contractors (training paid for by HUD Lead Grant) and the number of property managers that are RRP certified in the Mohawk Valley.*

- **Risk Assessor Training**

HUD Grantee / OCHD

Work to ensure that local agencies have access to trained lead risk assessors for initial and clearance testing.

2016-2020 UPDATE: ▫ *City of Utica Urban & Economic Development staff, HomeOwnershipCenter staff and construction contractors participating in the 2018 City of Utica HUD LHR Grant have received HUD-EPA lead supervisor and/or lead worker training.*

▫ *The City of Utica HOME specialist and the HomeOwnershipCenter Home Improvement Specialist both became supervisor certified for Lead Inspection Risk Assessment and Clearance by January 2020.*

2021-2024 PRIORITY ACTION: ▫ *Have all HomeOwnershipCenter Home Improvement Specialists, particularly newly hired staff, become supervisor certified for Lead Inspection Risk Assessment and Clearance in 2021.*

RENOVATION

Increase housing interventions

- **Renovation and Demolition Practices**

GHHI Utica-Oneida County Partners

Encourage the use of national best practices based on federal and state regulations and enforcement for renovation and demolition to reduce lead exposure in homes and communities.

2016-2020 UPDATE: ▫ *Policies and procedures have been updated to meet the new EPA Dust Wipe Clearance Levels that went into effect March 8, 2021.*

▫ *With technical assistance from Lead-Free MV staff, Utica Municipal Housing Authority was awarded \$2 Million in HUD Lead-Based Paint Capital Funds (LBPCF) to implement lead control measures to meet the current lead standards for public housing.*

2021-2024 PRIORITY ACTION: ▫ *To advocate for New York State to oversee RRP enforcement locally.*

- **Window Replacement**

GHHI Utica-Oneida County Partners

Encourage projects, programs and incentives that involve window and door replacement to reduce friction-related lead dust hazards in the home.

2016-2020 UPDATE: ▫ *Cornell Cooperative Extension Oneida County (CCE Oneida), administering CLPPPP, implemented a Community Cost-Sharing Window Replacement Program (WRP) that provided incentives and educational benefits for landlords who demonstrated willingness to invest time and resources in correcting lead paint hazards in Utica, NY rental housing.*

▫ *Completed outreach to everyone that participated in the Window Replacement Pilot to try to get participants enrolled in the HUD Lead Grant.*

▫ *35 housing units received 344 new windows; 22 individuals completed EPA Renovate/Repair/Paint certification training and 24 individuals completed an Energy Efficiency/Window Replacement Workshop; 43 children under the age of 6 directly benefited (as full-time residents) from healthier/safer housing created through this program; 66% of participating property owners made additional property investments (varying amounts) within 23 out of 35 housing units; improved property aesthetics and property values in Utica's most at-risk neighborhoods; interior citation closure timeline declining from an average 163 days to 118 days (using a subset of similar CLPPPP cases for comparison).*

2021-2024 PRIORITY ACTION: ▫ *Explore ways for the Oneida County Health Department or CCE Oneida to assist with replicating the Window Replacement Pilot, now that CCE no longer administers the CLPPPP program.*

- **Residential Remediation**

GHHI Utica-Oneida County Partners

When possible, conduct multiple housing improvements and interventions using an integrated whole house or “Healthy Homes” approach to address numerous health and safety hazards to create safe housing units for low-income residents.

2016-2020 UPDATE: ▫ *Lead-Free MV supported a successful demonstration, the West Utica Healthy Homes Pilot Project (WUHHPP), to prepare for the implementation of a HUD Lead Hazard Reduction (LHR) Grant and the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI).*

▫ *Lead-Free MV assisted Utica to secure a HUD LHR grant with Healthy Homes Supplemental Funding (HHSF) for \$3.54M to address hazards in up to 180 housing units within the City through 2022.*

▫ *GHHI Utica-Oneida County received official site designation in June 2019; since then partners are using the integrated funding model – braided intervention for all properties participating in the current City of Utica HUD programs.*

▫ *The Mohawk Valley Housing & Homeless Coalition through the Continuum of Care (CoC) supported the development of fully renovated or newly constructed housing units for low-income or homeless individuals that are safe and affordable.*

▫ *10 housing units received lead hazard control and healthy homes interventions through WUHHPP; more than 100 new or fully renovated units that are lead-safe for low-income individuals through the CoC; and the GHHI model using HUD funding is currently working in 10 units.*

2021-2024 PRIORITY ACTION: ▫ *Identify additional funds to address asthma triggers by working with local hospitals and health insurance providers including community health funds, Medicaid, Medicare and CHIP allocations for healthy home interventions.*

▫ *Work with the City of Rome to replicate a demonstration similar to the West Utica Healthy Homes Pilot Project.*

- **Energy Efficiency**

NYSERDA Contractors (EmPower, CEEP) / HCR (WAP)

When possible, conduct energy related improvements and interventions to support housing conditions that allow lead interim controls to have greater impact and longevity.

2016-2020 UPDATE: ▫ *Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) energy efficiency measures were incorporated into the West Utica Healthy Homes Pilot Project (WUHHPP) and housing units that are currently part of the HUD LHR grant are being referred to the WAP.*

2016-2021 ▫ *24 individuals completed energy efficiency training as part of WRP; 8 housing units received weatherization assistance through WUHHPP.*

2021-2024 PRIORITY ACTION: ▫ *Work with private partners to get EmPower energy efficiency measures incorporated into the GHHI braided funding stream for properties participating in the HUD lead grant.*

▫ *Provide referrals to the Oneida County DSS HEAP program to replace or provide new heating and cooling equipment when existing equipment failure occurs and cannot be repaired.*

- **Lead Service Lines**

Municipalities / MVWA

Encourage the replacement, maintenance, and corrosion management of lead fixtures and service lines to ensure that residents have safe drinking water.

2016-2020 UPDATE: ▫ *The HomeOwnershipCenter is coordinating with Mohawk Valley Water Authority to provide water sampling kits to properties participating in the current City of Utica HUD LHR grant, then developing a plan of action to reduce risks to families if lead is identified in their water.*

2021-2024 PRIORITY ACTION: ▫ *Try to incorporate water sampling for lead into all housing rehabilitation projects in the City of Utica, not just those properties receiving HUD lead grant funding.*

SCREENING

Use national best practices

- **CDC Action Level** **Statewide Advocacy Network**

Move local programs, policies and activities toward the current CDC action level when possible. Treat at lowest level vs. higher level.

2016-2020 UPDATE: ▫ A presentation was hosted by LFMV coalition members to provide information to 25 attendees regarding support available through the NYS Department of Environmental Health. NYS DOH followed up by providing additional community level technical assistance to community organizations

▫ In January 2019, New York State adopted the CDC reference value (action level) of 5 micrograms per deciliter [5 µg/dL]. In response to the lower action level, the Oneida County Health Department (OCHD) made the decision to bring administration of the Childhood Lead Primary Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPPP) back into the department rather than by subcontract. The need to perform additional in-home environmental investigations required by Secondary Prevention through OCHD Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (LPPP) required the combined staff and financial resources of both programs.

▫ Unfortunately, due to the demands and restrictions placed on OCHD to respond to the COVID pandemic, environmental investigations were suspended creating an extensive open case list for CLPPPP/LPPP services.

2021-2024 PRIORITY ACTION: ▫ Resume in-home investigations by the end of 2021 to address all properties on the open case list.

▫ With CLPPPP and LPPP data being collected within OCHD, there should be opportunities to combine and de-identify Personal Health Information (PHI) in order to provide address only referrals for the HUD LHR grant to meet the suggested federal data sharing requirements.
- **Blood Lead Testing Rates** **Coalition Members / Lead-Free MV Staff**

Raise awareness of and increase opportunities for lead testing for children under age 6 in the two-county region.

2016-2020 UPDATE: ▫ In partnership with Excellus BlueCross/BlueShield and Herkimer County HealthNet, 8 medical practices were provided LeadCare II equipment and supplies to conduct clinic point of care testing to help increase testing rates for underperforming providers. This project also expanded to provide the Upstate Family Health clinic located at MLK School in Cornhill with LeadCare II equipment and supplies.

▫ Unfortunately, the OCHD no longer provides Blood Lead Level (BLL) testing at their Elizabeth Street clinic.

2021-2024 PRIORITY ACTION: ▫ To have OCHD resume some form of BLL testing, either venous or finger stick with LeadCare II equipment.

▫ Explore ways to expand funding to provide additional clinics with point of care testing equipment/supplies.
- **Limited English Proficiency** **Coalition Members / Lead-Free MV Staff**

Raise awareness of lead hazards within immigrant and refugee populations. Increase opportunities for lead testing for foreign born children (up to age 16 for refugees) in the high-risk target areas.

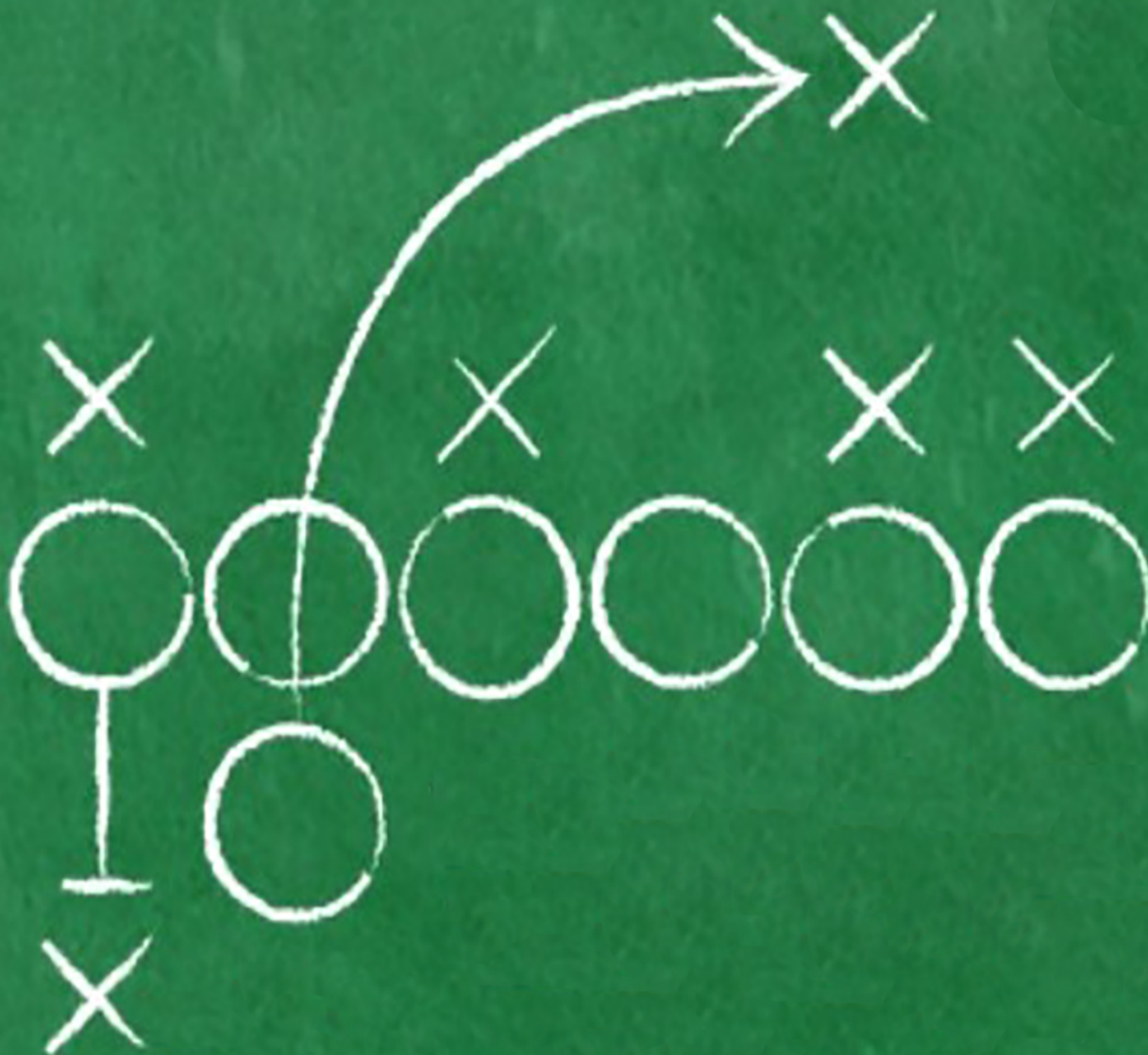
2016-2020 UPDATE: ▫ Provided PDFs of all translated materials to staff at The Center and MUCC for their use.

▫ The HomeOwnershipCenter (NeighborWorks® affiliate in Utica) is developing training videos in Spanish as part of the HUD LHR Grant. Lead-Free MV has also provided contact information so The Center / Office of New Americans, MUCC, Perinatal Network, LSCNY, MVLA, can receive educational videos for parents and caregivers in multiple languages developed by Home Headquarters (NeighborWorks® affiliate in Syracuse), with financial support from the Health Foundation of Western and Central New York.

2021-2024 PRIORITY ACTION: ▫ Identify additional translated materials from NYS DOH, HUD, and EPA that can be offered to medical clinics and displayed in high traffic location within target neighborhoods.

ABBREVIATIONS AND GLOSSARY

BLL	Blood Lead Level <i>Blood lead level (BLL), is a measure of the amount of lead in the blood.</i>
CCE	Cornell Cooperative Extension <i>Cornell University System brings local experience and research-based solutions together across New York State through county associations</i>
CDC	Centers for Disease Control & Prevention <i>Federal agency that protects people from health, safety, and security threats.</i>
CF	The Community Foundation of Herkimer & Oneida Counties, Inc. <i>Philanthropic organization and place-based funder in the Mohawk Valley</i>
CLPPPP	Childhood Lead Poisoning Primary Prevention Program <i>New York State primary prevention program to end childhood lead poisoning</i>
CoC	Continuum of Care - Mohawk Valley Housing & Homeless Coalition <i>Members work together to prevent and end homelessness in the Mohawk Valley</i>
DSS	Department of Social Services <i>Department of the New York state government in charge of social programs</i>
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency <i>Agency of the federal government responsible for protecting the environment</i>
GHHI	Green and Healthy Homes Initiative <i>Nonprofit that addresses the needs of a home through holistic interventions</i>
HCR	New York State Homes and Community Renewal <i>Department of the New York state government responsible for affordable housing</i>
HOCCPP	Herkimer-Oneida Counties Comprehensive Planning Program <i>Serves as regional planning board for Herkimer and Oneida Counties</i>
HUD	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development <i>The Federal department that assists with housing and community development</i>
LBPHC / LHR	Lead Based Paint Hazard Control / Lead Hazard Reduction <i>Identification, interim controls and abatement of lead-based paint hazards</i>
Lead-Free MV/ LFMV	Lead-Free Mohawk Valley Coalition <i>Organizations working to reduce lead poisoning in Oneida and Herkimer Counties</i>
LPPP	Lead Poisoning Prevention Program <i>Program to develop, implement, and evaluate lead poisoning prevention activities</i>
MHA	Municipal Housing Authority <i>Provides housing and resources for very low-income individuals and families.</i>
MVCAA / WAP	Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency - Weatherization Assistance Program <i>Assists income-eligible persons to reduce energy usage costs and address health</i>
MVCC	Mohawk Valley Community College <i>Two-year college that is part of the State University of New York system</i>
MVWA	Mohawk Valley Water Authority <i>Delivers potable water that meets or exceeds all water quality standards</i>
NYSERDA	NYS Energy Research and Development Authority <i>Public benefit corporation to advance innovative energy solutions in New York</i>
NYS DOH / OCHD	NYS Department of Health / Oneida County Health Department <i>Department of New York State / County government responsible for public health.</i>
OLHCHH	HUD Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Housing <i>Funds local governments to develop ways to reduce lead-based paint hazards</i>
RRP	Renovation, Repair and Painting Program <i>Requirements for performing renovations that disturb painted surfaces</i>
Section 8 / TBRA	Housing Choice Vouchers / Tenant Based Rental Assistance Programs <i>Assist low-income families to choose safe, decent, and affordable rental housing</i>
UNHS / HOC	Utica Neighborhood Housing Services / NeighborWorks® HomeOwnershipCenter <i>Resource for home ownership, financial empowerment and community engagement</i>
VA / VASH	Veterans Affairs / HUD Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Voucher Program <i>Supportive services to help Veterans find and sustain permanent housing</i>



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2021

