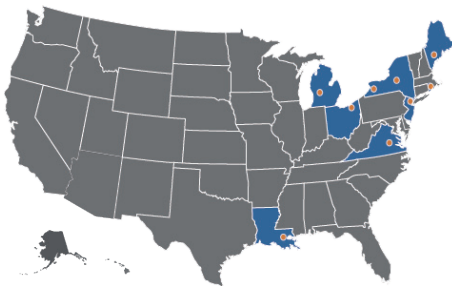


# Equipping Communities for Action Through the National Lead Poisoning Prevention Network

In June 2019, as part of an ongoing effort to prevent and respond to childhood lead exposure, NCHH awarded grants to nine localities\* as part of its Equipping Communities for Action initiative. Under the initiative, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation with additional support from The New York Community Trust, the grantees each received 20 months of coaching and support including access to national experts, engagement in a peer learning network, a customized analysis calculating the cost of childhood lead exposure and the economic benefits of interventions, and a \$27,500 grant. The grantees worked with the support of NCHH and a network of partners to build local capacity and advance evidence-based lead poisoning prevention efforts through policy and systems change.

We commend the exceptional impact that the National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH) has had on our efforts to address lead poisoning. [P]rogress... over the last two years would not have been possible without [them].

– City of Buffalo



## Our Strategy

- 9 community grants totaling \$247,500
- 7 national organizations
- 217 coaching calls over 20 months
- 2,100 hours of customized coaching
- 12 peer-to-peer webinars and convenings
- 6 new TA tools

## Our Impact

- **100% of grantees reported advancement of new policies/services** during the project period (15 new policies or services either in place or in progress).
- Assisted communities in securing **two new lead grants worth \$5.4 million and leveraged an additional \$21,000** in funding.
- 89% of communities moved up at least one level on the ladder of engagement, **89% reported improved capacity**, and 100% were at the silver level or above by the end of the project period.
- Despite significant challenges (e.g., COVID-19 restrictions), **96% of project indicators were met, exceeded, or showing active progress** at the end of the project period.

Selected highlights of new policy or service initiatives in place or in progress during the project period included:

- Passage of a proactive rental inspection ordinance (City of Buffalo, NY)
- Mayor and city council agreement and involvement in advancing conversations to incorporate RRP certification into the city building permit process (Lewiston/Healthy Androscoggin)
- HUD Lead Hazard Control Grant programs and resources/supports newly awarded (City of Buffalo, NY, and City of Paterson, NJ)
- Launch of an online lead-safe housing registry (City of Paterson, NJ)
- Progressing efforts to secure legislative support to establish a state revolving loan fund for full lead service line replacement, including the owner's portion (New Orleans, LA/Southern United Neighborhoods)
- City agreement to pilot incorporating proactive lead inspection/testing into their rental registry program (Grand Rapids, MI/Healthy Homes Coalition of Western Michigan)
- Launch of a new Lead Resource Center and training of additional community action teams (Cleveland, OH/Environmental Health Watch)
- Establishment of a revolving loan fund for low-income landlords to address lead hazards (City of Buffalo, NY)

*“The main benefits of the flexible coaching have been the willingness to meet us where we are as a community and to help us adapt to drastically fluctuating local conditions... **We move forward with the ability to ask and answer the question, ‘How would NCHH handle this?’ and to continue to utilize that advice. This has been one of the most positive grant experiences we have had** because of NCHH’s focus on bottom-up approaches, while remaining a helpful resource every step of the way.”*

– Healthy Androscoggin

\* Read more about the nine communities at [https://nchh.org/build-the-movement/grants-and-scholarships/2019-lead-poisoning-prevention-grants\\_equipping-communities/](https://nchh.org/build-the-movement/grants-and-scholarships/2019-lead-poisoning-prevention-grants_equipping-communities/)