



DEFEATING LEAD POISONING IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION

2023 Annual Report



ECOLOGYCENTER
Healthy People, Healthy Planet



GLLEN

GREAT LAKES LEAD ELIMINATION NETWORK

The Great Lakes Lead Elimination Network

Since 2019, the Great Lakes Lead Elimination Network (GLLEN), with leadership by the Ecology Center, has come together to prevent lead poisoning in children in the Great Lakes region. Our joint efforts have resulted in collaboration across eight states with **over 30** organizations, including five new parent-led organizations.

The Ecology Center thanks the JPB Foundation for a two-year continuation grant to facilitate GLLEN, allowing us to move our goals forward and to make supportive mini-grants to many of our partner organizations. The following are highlights from 2023.



Policy Success in 2023

As a network, GLLEN members:

- * Successfully advocated for **seven** new laws and ordinances to protect kids from lead.
- * Organized **three** legislative advocacy days in state capitals.
- * Reached **150** decision-makers via **60+** meetings and events.
- * Served as civic watchdogs for local and state policies.

7 new laws

3 lawmaker advocacy days

150 decision makers reached

State Policy Wins

MICHIGAN

Ecology Center, DLEAD, Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan, and Parents for Healthy Homes advocated for and celebrated the passage of two major bills in the state:

- 1) **Universal Lead Testing** requires lead testing of Michigan children at ages one and two and is expected to greatly improve the current abysmal childhood lead testing rates.
- 2) **Filter First** requires and provides funding for water filtration stations in all schools and childcare centers. Pennsylvania, a GLEEN-member state, is using this bill as a model.

CLEARCorps Detroit and Get the Lead Out Detroit Coalition successfully advocated for Governor Whitmer to proclaim October as Lead Awareness Month.

[Lead Water Pipes Replacement in Minnesota](#)

“Walz signs \$240 million bill to replace Minnesota’s lead water pipes”,
KARE 11, the NBC affiliate in Minneapolis 5/16/23

MINNESOTA

Clean Water Action-Minnesota provided testimony and met with lawmakers to help secure a legislative win to **replace all of the state’s 100,000 lead service lines** and also require testing for and remediation of lead in schools and daycare centers.

NEW YORK

Clean+Healthy, with partners like LDA of New York, successfully advocated for the passage of two legislative wins:

- 1) **Lead Pipes Right to Know Act** was signed by Governor Hochul in December and requires water utilities to publicly share the number and locations of lead service lines.
- 2) **Inclusion of “Part T” in the Health and Mental Hygiene budget policy** to create and fund a new program for lead testing and remediation in rental properties in the hardest hit communities in the state.

WISCONSIN

Coalition On Lead Emergency (COLE) successfully advocated for **Universal Lead Testing** requiring all children, two months to six years of age to have yearly lead testing.



Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan lead education event.



Ecology Center at lawmaker education day in Lansing, MI.



Ecology Center, DLEAD, and MEC join MI Gov. Whitmer for Universal Lead testing bill signing.

Municipal Wins

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Elevate successfully advocated for the Chicago City Council Chair of the Health Committee to introduce a proactive **rental inspection ordinance** for lead and healthy homes.

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

Parents for Healthy Homes of West Michigan successfully advocated for major changes to the rental code of the City of Grand Rapids to include a focus on lead testing.

Universal Testing in Michigan

"Universal lead testing requirement landmark moment for Michigan",
advocates say.
Detroit Free Press 10/3/23

Community Education & Outreach

- GLLLEN members sent out over 50 newsletters and e-blasts, shared over 820 social media posts and reached a total of 285,000 people electronically.
- Collectively, GLLLEN educated 200 families through seven webinars and also reached over 3,400 people via in person events.
- GLLLEN partners promoted, organized and hosted National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week activities and other activities throughout the year.



National / Regional

Learning Disabilities of America's Healthy Children Project co-produced the webinar **"Is Your Child at Risk for Lead Poisoning?"** with the Ecology Center focusing on parent advocacy and empowerment with over 60 people in attendance.

ILLINOIS

Elevate and **Learning Disabilities of America-Illinois Chapter** forged a strong, new collaboration, resulting in the creation of Chicago-specific fact sheets (in Spanish and English) to educate residents about the need to test rental homes for lead.

MICHIGAN

CLEARCorps Detroit created a new citywide coalition "Get the Lead Out Detroit" which will serve as a centralized community lead resource reaching thousands of Detroit families and professionals via in person events and a new information and referral website.

Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan co-authored an article to be published in the journal, American Public Health Association Pediatrics Supplemental, and created educational materials in Spanish and English for general audiences and also a poster for a pediatric doctor's office. **HHCWM** began a new program to educate parents, Community Outreach Family Individual (COFI), and graduated its first cohort.

Parents for Healthy Homes partnered with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to host their annual Strong Families Celebration providing lead health resources to 250 families and water filter pitchers to 50 families.

NEW YORK

Clean+Healthy and **Lead Free Kids NY** with the help of **LDA of New York** pushed five new laws forward and met with numerous legislators and city officials to educate about the importance of the legislation. They held an educational forum for communities on how lead inspections work and would be impacted by different policy proposals.

OHIO

Concerned Citizens Organized Against Lead (CCOAL) reached 150 lead professionals via the Ohio Regional Lead Healthy Homes Conference.

Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition helped renters and landlords navigate the city's lead-safe certification program and established "meet and greet" events to engage landlords and community stakeholders.

Ohio Healthy Homes Network/Ohio Lead Free Kids Coalition hosted a Spring Conference and organized a National Lead Poisoning Prevention Event attended by local, state, and federal decision-makers with presentations by Ohio Department of Health & Development.

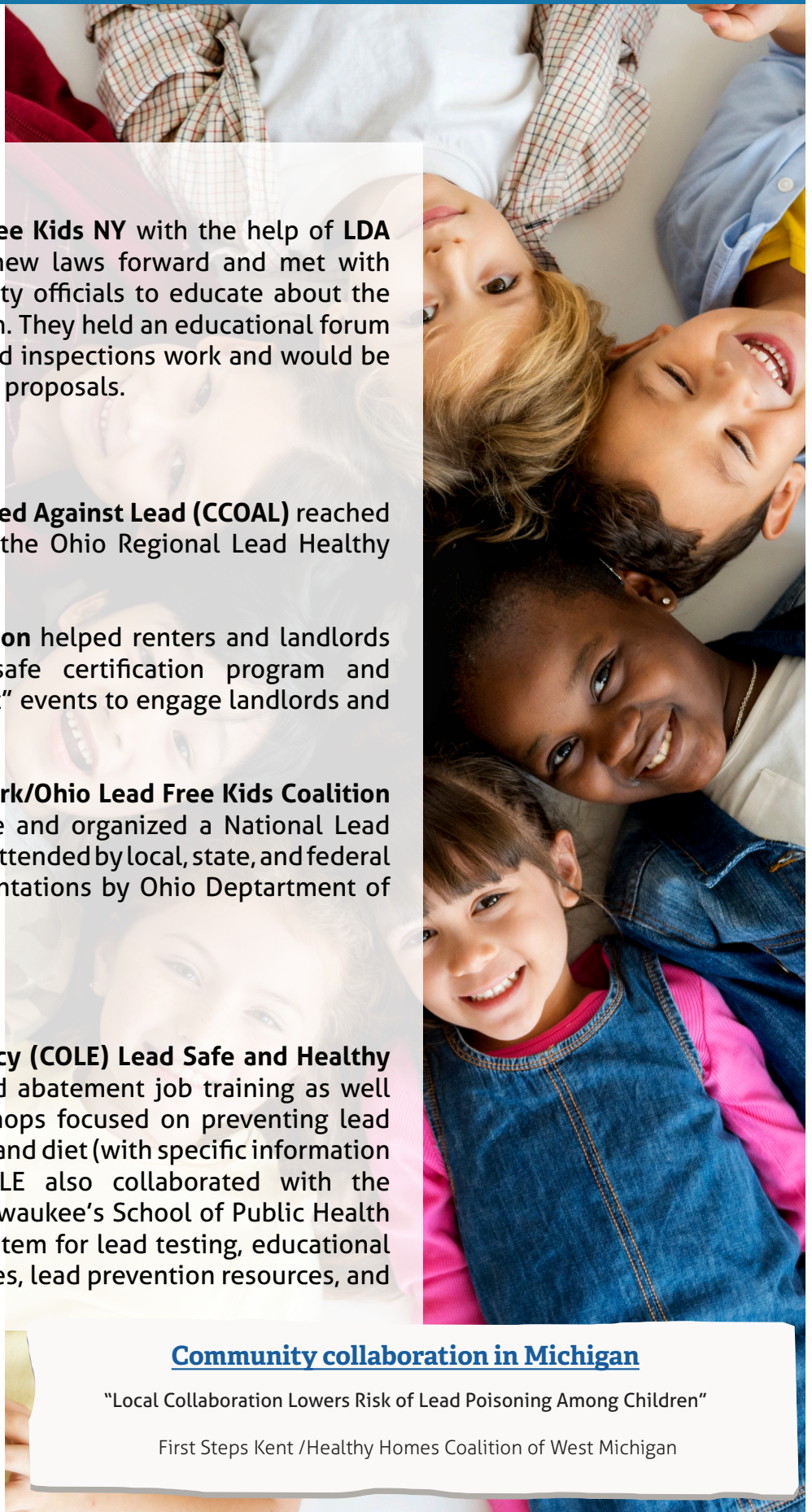
WISCONSIN

Coalition on Lead Emergency (COLE) Lead Safe and Healthy Home Project hosted a lead abatement job training as well as meal preparation workshops focused on preventing lead poisoning through nutrition and diet (with specific information for lactating parents). COLE also collaborated with the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee's School of Public Health to create a data tracking system for lead testing, educational and job training opportunities, lead prevention resources, and physician referrals.

Community collaboration in Michigan

"Local Collaboration Lowers Risk of Lead Poisoning Among Children"

First Steps Kent /Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan



Securing Governmental Funds Through Advocacy

Over \$500 Million was secured in governmental funding to fight lead poisoning in 6 GLEEN member states.

MINNESOTA

Clean Water Action-Minnesota worked successfully with partners including LDA of Minnesota to secure \$240M in state funding to match the federal funds focused on replacing all lead service lines in the state.

*Over \$500
million secured
in 6 GLEEN
member states*

OHIO

Ohio Healthy Homes Network won an allocation of \$150M in federal ARPA funds for lead poisoning prevention in the state and then worked closely with the Ohio Department of Development to direct those funds. OHHN received a grant from the Ohio Department of Health to establish 10 Lead Safe Collaboratives around the state of Ohio.

Lead Safe Cleveland raised \$117M from four levels of government towards eradication of lead poisoning through stakeholder community events and lawmaker education/ outreach.

PENNSYLVANIA

Women for a Healthy Environment (WHE) helped secure funds for two new additional risk assessors at the state's health department to increase capacity to conduct home investigations for lead. Also successfully maintained funding from the City Council to expand lead home investigations.

ILLINOIS

Elevate leveraged \$30M in ARPA money to conduct lead abatement, energy efficiency, and water conservation upgrades in suburban Cook County communities over the next 4 years.

MICHIGAN

Leveraged \$50M from the state budget to help fund the Filter First Law.

NEW YORK

Secured \$20M to support landlords in addressing inspection and remediation in houses with lead paint.

On to 2024

As 2024 begins we look forward to celebrating our wins, adding new members, and setting new priorities. Each GLEN member organization has ambitious goals and as a network, we will continue to move the needle on lead poisoning prevention and lead hazard removal.

New in 2024, we plan to establish work groups to take a deep dive on rental property code enforcement and to share best practices and move agendas forward within parent-led groups.



Trunk or treat event hosted by Healthy Homes of West Michigan to educate families and share resources on lead poisoning prevention.

Thanks to all the GLEN Members for fighting the good fight to keep all of our kids safe from lead.

Produced by the Ecology Center

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