



ALLEGHENY COUNTY

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Redevelopment Authority Offering Lead Safe Homes Contractor Training

PITTSBURGH – The Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County (RAAC) announced today that it is offering [Lead Safe Homes Contractor Training](#), a program which will reimburse contractors for the costs associated with obtaining the necessary certifications to control lead-based paint hazards. The reimbursement program is being done in conjunction with the Allegheny Lead Safe Homes Program, an effort that received \$3.4 million in funding last June from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Safe Homes Program is intended to reduce the number of lead-poisoned children and protect families by targeting significant lead and other home health and safety hazards.

“I’m thrilled that we’re able to provide funding to allow more contractors to become certified in this specialized field. This is a particular concern here in Allegheny County, where approximately 89 percent of homes were built before 1978, when lead paints were banned,” said County Executive Rich Fitzgerald. “We’re being proactive in testing more children’s blood lead levels, and the numbers of children exceeding the EPA blood lead levels is decreasing. The most common source of exposure and elevated blood levels in children is from deteriorated paint and contaminated household dust, making a program like this one even more impactful in our community.”

In preparation for the launch of the Allegheny Lead Safe Homes Program, RAAC is looking to build the pool of qualified contractors. Specifically, the program will identify and control lead-based paint hazards in approximately 175 eligible units throughout the county. RAAC will contract with residential renovation and remodeling companies to perform the lead hazard control work. Contractors must meet all training and certification requirements set by the PA Department of Labor & Industry (PA DLI) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

“As RAAC ramps up our pool of contractors, our sub-grantee partners ACTION Housing and the Urban Redevelopment Authority are also staffing up to oversee the day to day operations of the Lead Safe Homes Program,” said Economic Development Director Bob Hurley. “With our partners, we will capitalize on the experiences of lead poisoning prevention staff in the Health Department and housing intervention program staff in Economic Development to have a significant impact on reducing potential sources of lead in our community.”

To be eligible, firms must (1) be a licensed contractor with at least two years of experience in residential renovation/remodeling; (2) be registered with the Bureau of Consumer Protection of the PA Attorney General; and, (3) hold requisite insurance per the program [application](#).

Participating firms will be reimbursed for course costs, testing and license fees for:

- PA DLI Lead Worker Certification (up to six workers)
- PA DLI Lead Supervisor Certification (up to two supervisors)
- PA DLI Firm Certification
- EPA Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) Renovator Certification (up to two employees)
- EPA RRP Firm Certification

Contractors with some of the certifications, that need to complete others, would also be eligible for the program. Contractors with all five certifications will be eligible to respond to the authority’s [Request for Qualifications \(RFQ\)](#), also issued today. The RFQ will be used to immediately establish a pool of

certified contractors, while those that obtain all required certifications through this training will have the opportunity to be hired as a lead hazard control contractor for two units for the program. All jobs will pay competitively. Upon successfully completing two units, contractors may be eligible to be added to the permanent contractor pool.

Interested parties can find full details of the program, including eligibility and reimbursement requirements, in the program application available at www.alleghenycounty.us/leadsafeprogram. For further information or questions, please contact Jennifer Saks at 412.350.1032 or via email at jennifer.saks@alleghenycounty.us.

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