

MODEL LEAD-SAFE CITY AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF THE PUBLIC ADVOCATE AND
THE CITY OF ENGLEWOOD

WHEREAS lead poisoning can cause irreversible, life-long, serious harm including neurological and behavioral problems, developmental disabilities, decreased I.Q., growth problems, hearing loss, coma, and even death; and

WHEREAS lead poisoning is preventable; and

WHEREAS a blood lead test is the only method by which to diagnose a child as lead-poisoned; and

WHEREAS paint that is deteriorating leaves children vulnerable to harmful lead exposure; and

WHEREAS lead can be found in paint, dust, soil, water, certain industries, candies, toys, and folk remedies; and

WHEREAS the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention currently have identified 10 micrograms per deciliter of whole blood ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$) as the level of concern for lead poisoning and have acknowledged that there is no safe blood lead level; and

WHEREAS the Department of the Public Advocate has undertaken an investigation of lead paint poisoning in this State and has uncovered families at high risk for exposure to lead; and

WHEREAS Governor Jon S. Corzine has issued Executive Order #100 to address the serious issue of childhood lead poisoning; and

WHEREAS the lead poisoning problem in New Jersey is significant and statewide, but falls most heavily on the poor and on minorities in the State's older urban areas; and

WHEREAS there are approximately 2,201 children under the age of six in the City of Englewood; and

WHEREAS approximately 81% of Englewood's housing was built before 1978, when the national ban on the sale of lead paint went into effect, and approximately 31% of the housing in Englewood was built before 1950 when the level of lead in paint was at its highest;

WHEREAS there are exorbitant medical, educational, and social costs to both the City of Englewood and to the State associated with lead poisoning;

WHEREAS the City of Englewood has demonstrated a commitment to ensuring that its children are protected from the dangers of lead poisoning;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY OF ENGLEWOOD IS A MODEL LEAD-SAFE CITY THAT SHALL TAKE OR CONTINUE TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING STEPS REGARDING EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH, SCREENING, INSPECTION, ABATEMENT, RELOCATION, AND GRANTS:

- I. The Mayor of Englewood shall designate one City Official as the Englewood Model Lead-Safe City Coordinator (“Coordinator”) for all efforts related to the prevention of and response to lead poisoning. The Coordinator shall serve as the point person for all intra-City lead efforts and shall be the liaison with State agencies, including but not limited to, the Department of the Public Advocate (“DPA”), the Department of Community Affairs (“DCA”), the Department of Health and Senior Services (“DHSS”), and the Department of Education (“DOE”). The Coordinator shall also collaborate with community-based organizations (“CBOs”) and local hospitals and medical associations, including those listed in Appendix A, that deal with the treatment and prevention of lead poisoning.
- II. The City of Englewood (“Englewood” or “City”) shall ensure that educational materials concerning the dangers of lead poisoning and the need for blood lead screening are made available to all families with children in Head Start programs; City- or State-sponsored nursery and pre-schools; and public, private, and charter grammar schools.
- III. In collaboration with Bergen Family Center/Family Success Centers and other CBOs, Englewood shall undertake efforts to increase blood screening rates in areas within the City where, according to the New Jersey Poison Control Center at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) mapping results, children are most at-risk of lead poisoning. The City will also increase efforts to blood lead test pregnant women who are part of the WIC program at the FQHCs in Garfield and Hackensack. The City will also make it more publicly known that lead screening can be performed at the Immunization Clinic in the Department of Health and FQHCs in Garfield and Hackensack.
- IV. Englewood agrees to offer lead safe work practice training for contractors, home owners, demolition experts, and redevelopment contractors doing work on pre-1978 housing. The training shall include not only how to remove materials with lead paint safely, but also how to dispose of the material properly.
- V. Englewood will meet with landlords and tenants to advise them of the dangers of lead paint hazards, the availability of State relocation and abatement funds, the use of specialized cleaning techniques to minimize exposure to lead hazards, and the existence of disclosure laws.
- VI. Englewood shall contact the DHSS and determine the advisability and feasibility of having the City’s inspectors become cross-trained State-licensed lead inspectors/risk assessors.
- VII. When Englewood determines that there is a lead hazard in one unit of a multi-unit dwelling, the residents of the multi-unit dwelling shall be notified of this risk and urged to get their children between the ages of six months old and six years old blood screened for lead. Englewood will, if feasible, require landlords of a property where a child has been lead poisoned to attend a forum on lead poisoning prevention education.
- VIII. Englewood shall assess the desirability and feasibility of conducting follow-up inspections on residences that had at least one lead paint hazard in the past year.
- IX. Englewood shall continue its current practice of ensuring that a lead inspector/risk assessor is dispatched to a child’s home within 48-hours of the City having received notification of the child’s poisoning.

- X. Englewood shall continue its current practice of having case management meetings every two weeks to review all cases of lead poisoned children in the City. When determining which company is the “lowest responsible bidder” on public contracts for abatement services, Englewood shall consider other, quality criteria.
- XI. Englewood shall continue its efforts to use tax records, school records, and other public records to locate dilatory landlords who refuse to comply with abatement orders.
- XII. Englewood shall, as appropriate, collaborate with CBOs, other non-profit agencies, and cooperating landlords to attempt to secure permanent and temporary relocation housing for families with lead poisoned children.
- XIII. Englewood shall investigate and apply for lead grants from, among others, DHSS, DCA, DEP, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency.
- XIV. Englewood shall review whether to adopt municipal ordinances that deal with lead hazards. The review shall include consideration of ordinances that require mandatory penalty provisions against recalcitrant landlords, allow for payment of lead-related fines into a special lead abatement fund that would permit the local health department or poor homeowners to abate property at no cost, and provide rent remedies for tenants. Sample ordinances are included as Appendix B.
- XV. Englewood shall examine the feasibility of having a forum that would be comprised of the local prosecutor, the judges who handle lead cases, and representatives of the Planning, Property Maintenance, and Health departments. The purpose would be to provide members with the opportunity to become more familiar with the issues surrounding lead poisoning, relocation, and abatement and to share ideas for solving identified problems.
- XVI. Englewood shall work with the Local School Districts to identify its usage of the following products that may contain lead: oil-based paints, ceramic glazes, lead solder for shop classes and/or art classes, lead sheets for chemistry projects, lead shot for physics experiments, and sidewalk chalks.
- XVII. Englewood shall continue its efforts to check stores that may be selling recalled toys and other merchandise containing lead.
- XVIII. Englewood shall coordinate with the DCA towards developing an up-to-date list of all lead-safe properties in Englewood. The City shall ensure that this list is consulted when a family with a lead-burdened child is temporarily or permanently relocated.
- XIX. Englewood Health Department will collaborate with the Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health in addition to the New Jersey Poison Control Center at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) to ensure that data analysis continues to take place to identify areas in the City where children have elevated blood lead levels or are not being tested and initiate the most clinically appropriate corrective actions for the safety of all children living in the City of Englewood.

XX. The City of Englewood shall increase its enforcement of lead-based paint hazard reduction and/or abatement orders and to prosecute uncooperative and/or absentee Landlords.

THEREFORE, THE FOLLOWING PARTIES HAVE AGREED UPON THE FOREGOING MODEL LEAD-SAFE CITY PRINCIPLES FOR THE CITY OF ENGLEWOOD ON THIS 10TH DAY OF JULY, TWO THOUSAND AND NINE.

Hon. Michael Wildes
Mayor, City of Englewood

Ronald K. Chen
New Jersey Public Advocate

The City of Englewood agrees to work cooperatively with the following community partners for the purpose of responding to and preventing childhood lead poisoning in Englewood:

University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ)
Englewood Hospital and Medical Center
Bergen Family Centers
Family Success Centers
FQHC at Hackensack (North Hudson Community Action Corporation)
FQHC at Garfield (North Hudson Community Action Corporation)
Ability School, Inc.
Cleveland Elementary School
Donald A. Quarles Elementary School
Dwight Englewood School
Englewood on the Palisades Charter School
First Presbyterian Pre and Kindergarten School
Moriah School of Englewood
St. Cecilia Interparochial School
Elisabeth Morrow School
Vincent Tibbs Day Care Center