**October 30, 2023**

**Galion City Health Department – Proposal for Funding for Lead Exposure Prevention & Healthy Homes Education Activities in April-May-June 2024**

The Galion City Health Department serves a population of approximately 10,400 people inside the city of Galion in Crawford County. GCHD functions to monitor health, assess risk, enforce laws, and inform, educate & empower the community. Our environmental health unit is involved with public health nuisance investigations in the city, and we are aware of the need to promote lead poisoning prevention to our public. Although our department is not a delegated authority for the lead poisoning prevention program, we greatly value the Ohio Lead Poisoning Prevention Program’s efforts. If GCHD is awarded the $10,000, our efforts will be shared with Crawford County Public Health to be more inclusive of the entire community.

In 2018, we looked at evidence-based data from ODH's website. The *Childhood Lead Poisoning Fact Sheet for Crawford County* highlighted our jurisdiction as the area for probability of BLL’s >5ug/dL. The City of Galion's predicted probability of Blood Lead Levels was 18-27% which was the highest section in the Crawford County (Galion’s primary location). Like many smaller cities, Galion is faced with many low income families living in an older housing stock in a high-risk zip code, 44833. Our Nursing Director implemented lead testing/screenings for children under the age of 6 in 2018. GCHD also obtained a loaner HEPA vacuum from ODH in May of 2018 (and recently renewed contract) to aide in lead safe clean-up practices. Although many of our efforts to promote lead poisoning prevention were greatly reduced in 2020 - 2023, we want to rebuild our efforts to educate the public and promote our lead screening services once again in 2024.

GCHD understands that it is essential to encourage families on the need for lead testing children under the age of 6. We would promote this by giving lead poisoning prevention information approved by the OHLPP out to families (with children under 6 years of age) at our clinics and remind local physicians of Ohio Laws during the months of April-May- June in 2023; informational material would be provided to physicians’ offices upon request. During the months of April-May-June, we will use our website and social media accounts to promote lead poisoning prevention. Our goal will be to reach a minimum of 150 families with children under the age of 6, living in pre-1978 housing. The Director of Environmental Health and the Director of Nursing will establish a community event in May or June to promote the importance of lead screening children twice before the age of 6 and the environmental lead hazards frequently found in older homes. Lead screenings are free at GCHD.

GCHD will use the $10,000 to provide Lead Exposure Prevention outreach with the three approved messaging themes: **Get the Facts, Get Your Home Tested and Get Your Child Tested** to the community. GCHD will purchase wet cleaning buckets/gloves/mops/paper towels (with written materials targeted for lead dust cleaning) for a minimum of 150 families with children under the age of 6. It is understood that $3,000 is permitted for staff time, and the remaining funds will be spent on wet cleaning materials for families as well as establishing a lead testing (where & when) billboard and media campaign in Crawford County in April/May/June, 2024.

Thank you for your consideration to raise our community’s awareness about Lead Exposure Prevention and the benefit of a Healthy Home in 2024. Our outreach efforts would not be possible without these monies. The Crawford County community will benefit from our continuous and expanding lead outreach *if* our department is awarded the monies in 2024. Please feel free to contact me at [andrea.barnes@galionhealth.org](mailto:andrea.barnes@galionhealth.org) or 419-468-1075 ext. 1265.