

# GOVERNOR EVERS' 2021-23 BIENNIAL BUDGET

## Protecting Wisconsin's Children from Lead Poisoning

Lead poisoning poses a significant health risk, especially to children; however, with the right amount of investment and commitment Wisconsin could significantly reduce this public health threat. Governor Evers' 21-23 budget makes strategic investments to address Wisconsin's childhood lead poisoning crisis, building off the foundation laid by the previous budget.

### LEAD SAFE HOMES PROGRAM (\$28.4 MILLION)

The Governor's budget invests in the Lead Safe Homes Program, which is a Health Services Initiative operated under the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The program abates lead hazards in eligible homes of children and pregnant women and is projected to abate hazards in over 800 homes over the biennium.

### WINDOWS PLUS PROGRAM (\$2.1 MILLION)

The Windows Plus Program provides lead-safe renovation focused on replacing windows and other high-risk lead hazards in a home. The program is projected to reach 100 homes in the upcoming biennium.

With the Lead-Safe Homes Program, Windows Plus forms a comprehensive strategy that address lead hazards in Wisconsin's older housing stock, which is estimated to be 350,000 homes.

### BIRTH TO 3 PROGRAM (\$9.9 MILLION)

To ensure timely and appropriate response for all children with lead poisoning, the Governor has proposed expanding eligibility in the Birth to 3 program children whose blood lead levels meet the CDC definition of elevated levels but are too low to currently qualify for the program. Participation in Birth to 3 improves child developmental outcomes, helping families avoid the need for long-term supports for their child later in life, and also reduces Medicaid costs for long-term supports. Expanding the eligibility would provide services to an additional 2,000 children.

### REPLACEMENT OF LEAD SERVICE LINES (\$40 MILLION)

The budget invests in safe drinking water by targeting lead service lines. This dedicated source of funding would allow the Department of Natural Resources to replace lead service lines in communities throughout the state. Potential contamination from lead service lines affects an estimated 170,000 households in the state.

**For more information on all of Governor Evers' proposed investments in Wisconsin's health, visit [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/budget](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/budget)**