

Lead Safe Homes Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions

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The Lead Safe Home Grants program will support making homes safer through lead testing and hazard reduction.

Available for nonprofits and local governments, the program:

- Allows funding to be used for risk assessment and remediation of lead hazards
- Prioritizes areas with a high concentration of children with lead poisoning
- Requires 50% of units in multifamily properties to be occupied by renters at or below 60% area median income
- Allows up to 10% of award to be used for administration, education and outreach about lead hazards

The \$4 million one-time appropriation and this program are known as the Dustin Luke Shields Act.

The information in this Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document is supplementary to the [Lead Safe Homes Program Guide](#) and Grant Contract Agreements. In the event of any conflict between the information in this document and the [Lead Safe Homes Program Guide](#) and/or Grant Contract Agreement, the information in the Lead Safe Homes Guide and/or Grant Contract Agreement will govern and control.

Updates to this FAQ will be identified and dated accordingly.

Please review the Local Government Housing Programs webpage and [Lead Safe Homes Program Guide](#) for additional details, including program eligibility requirements, eligible uses, definitions and related information.

Request for Proposal Questions

Is a lead assessment by a lead professional required before applying for remediation?

No, a lead assessment report is not required for application. However, if you are applying for remediation, MHFA will need to see the lead assessment report before the remediation work begins.

What is the allocation per application for this money?

There is no minimum or maximum allocation per application. Funding amounts are dependent on the number of applications and proposed projects within each application.

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There is no minimum or maximum allocation per project. Funding amounts are dependent on the number of applications, proposed projects, and the project justification in application narrative.

Can grantees leverage this program with other programs that they are already using?

Yes, Lead Safe Homes funding can be used in combination with other funding sources

Is the presence of lead plumbing enough to qualify for remediation or is contamination testing required?

Grantees can apply for remediation of lead plumbing, but Minnesota Housing would need to see a lead assessment report showing that the lead plumbing is a health hazard prior to the remediation.

Is this funding available for a household that is vacant with no occupant yet?

The statute requires that the program serve low-income residents. If a project can demonstrate that the vacant home will serve a household that meets income eligibility, the project may be eligible for funding.

Can a grantee make the case for hiring a new employee with this funding?

The program allows up to 10% of the total award to be used for administration and education. Staffing costs would come out of that 10%.

Is it required that the contractor have HUD's Lead Supervisor Credential? If not, what certifications are required?

Any contractors who disturb paint in pre-1978 homes must have an EPA RRP certification, including MN lead firms. The HUD's Lead Supervisor credential is not required. Additionally, under [Minn. Stat. 144.9505](#), contractors presenting themselves as lead workers may be required to have certification and/or licensing from the Minnesota Department of Health. Please see the MDH website [here](#) for more information.

Can the program reimburse costs for lead assessment that has already been completed within the last year?

Minnesota Housing cannot reimburse any expenses that have been incurred before the grant contract agreement is signed.

Will Minnesota Housing provide guidance on remediation activities, internal controls, or abatement techniques?

Minnesota Housing will not provide guidance on remediation activities, internal controls, or abatement techniques. Note that If applications are proposing full abatement, there should be a compelling explanation for why the full abatement is necessary.

If the awarded funding or proposed number of projects is not fully utilized during the grant period, how is that handled?

The funding is provided to grantees on a reimbursement basis. If funding is not fully used during the grant period, it will not get disbursed to the grantee and will go back to the state pool of funds for the program.

If project costs are lower than anticipated and funds remain available, would additional projects be allowed beyond those identified in the original application?

Yes, this would be allowable if the additional project is similar to what is in the original grant application and workplan and supports the goals of the Lead Safe Homes Program. However, this change would require an amendment to the workplan and grant contract agreement.