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# HEALTH EFFECTS OF LEAD POISONING

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Lead is a toxin that can be especially harmful to children under the age of 6. As one of Maine's oldest mill towns, Biddeford is one of five High-Risk Areas designated by the Maine Center for Disease Control (CDC) for having the greatest burden of children with lead poisoning.

Before the health risks associated with lead were known, it was used in many products, including in paint before 1978. Lead dust from old paint is the most common way children get lead poisoning.

Lead can have a very serious and permanent effect on a child's growth and development. Lead can cause:

- Learning disabilities
- Behavioral problems
- Hearing damage
- Language or speech delays
- Lower intelligence

City of Biddeford  
205 Main Street  
P.O. Box 586  
Biddeford, Maine 04005



**Safe Homes  
For Healthy Families**

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CITY OF  
BIDDEFORD'S  
LEAD-BASED  
PAINT HAZARD  
REDUCTION  
PROGRAM

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# AVAILABLE ASSISTANCE

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## FREE Professional Services

- Lead Inspection
- Lead Risk Assessment
- Lead Remediation Design
- Lead Clearance Certification
- Essential Maintenance Plan

## Forgivable Loan

Applicants can receive a 0%-interest loan of up to \$10,000 per unit for lead remediation work. A 10% owner match per unit is required. *Note: match of 25% is required for buildings under a lead abatement order.*

The loan will be 100% forgiven after 3 years if the property is available to low- or moderate-income families, not sold or refinanced during the loan period, and remains lead safe and code compliant.

A maximum of ten units (or \$100,000) can be financed per application.

## "Healthy Homes" Grants

Properties remediated under this program may also be eligible for a grant of up to \$5,000 to address health & safety issues, such as the replacement of fire doors and egress windows.

## Eligible Properties

Eligible properties must be located in Biddeford's downtown area, be built before 1978, and have lead-based paint in deteriorated condition. Only multi-unit properties are eligible for this program.

## Occupancy Requirements

The property owner must give rental priority to low- or moderate-income families with children under age 6 for at least three years following lead remediation.

## Funding Priorities

Funding priority will be in the following order:

1. Buildings under a Lead Abatement Order.
2. Buildings occupied by families with:
  - a. A child with an elevated blood lead level,
  - b. A child under age 6, OR
  - c. A pregnant woman.
3. All OTHER multi-unit buildings.



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## LEARN MORE

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## APPLY TODAY

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