

*\*LFNJ members contacted legislators but the resolution was not introduced by a sponsor.*

FY 2025 Budget Resolution

[sponsor]

### **DCA's Single Family Home Lead Hazard Remediation Fund grant program**

**\$1,000,000**

*A Sustainable fund for lead hazard remediation is essential for the health and wellbeing of New Jersey families, but availability of these funds are not guaranteed; instead there is a decrease in available funding.*

#### **Justification:**

[sponsor's] Office advocates for a \$1,000,000 allocation to the program in the FY25 budget, aiming to restore its funding to the annual level of \$5,000,000. While this may appear as a substantial investment, the demand for remediation far surpasses the available resources. These funds are needed to address pressing remediation projects across the State, ensuring residents benefit from a lead-safe environment.

In FY 2022 (the most recent year where data is available) 3,226 children were found to have an elevated blood lead level, the highest percentage of which live in environmental justice communities. Paint is the most common source of childhood lead exposure.

#### **Looking beyond the immediate need, a larger issue looms**

- lead paint assistance programs for income-eligible renters and property owners are temporarily funded from \$180 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding that must be spent by 2026, or is lost.
- Post-2026, it is imperative to sustain funding for lead paint assistance, catering to the significant requirements of New Jersey residents inhabiting older housing at risk of lead paint contamination.
- Continuous investments in state funds are essential to remediate lead paint in these homes, safeguarding the health and safety of communities across the state.