

COMMUNITY PARTNER

Public Citizens for Children and Youth (PCCY) is a child advocacy organization based in Southeastern Pennsylvania. PCCY works to improve the lives of our region's children by developing initiatives and advocating for quality health care, childcare, public education, and family stability. On one hand, PCCY offers direct help to children, and with the other hand they apply pressure to government officials to persuade them to do what is necessary to give every child the basic ingredients for a lifetime of success. PCCY combines comprehensive research and the tools of advocacy to mobilize partner organizations and citizens across the region to change the lives of children for the better.

PROJECT

The student interns joined the Delaware County Lead Poisoning Prevention Coalition at PCCY this summer. The Coalition strives to protect children from the detrimental effects of lead poisoning. The Coalition has two main goals: to get lead out of homes and to ensure that all children are screened for lead poisoning twice before the age of two. Over the summer, the interns:

- researched the approaches that health departments bordering Delaware County employ in tackling lead poisoning and prevention in order to make recommendations to the new Delaware County Health Department.
- researched strategies used by pediatric/family medicine practices to encourage lead testing and strategies health insurance plans use to support providers to do more testing.
- analyzed the location of the HUD Lead Hazard Reduction grants in Pennsylvania to determine how Delaware County can distribute the grants to landlords and homeowners.
- created a spreadsheet of Doulas, OBGYNs, Pediatric Practices and Family Medicine practices in Delaware County and contacted them to offer lead poison prevention training from PCCY.
- found organizations and events in Delaware county and Philadelphia as a potential outreach opportunity to promote awareness about lead poisoning and PCCY's Insurance Helpline.
- outlined Korfmacher's Bridging Silos book to determine how the Rochester, NY coalition combated the lead poisoning epidemic.
- had the opportunity to meet with local legislators and community leaders at events such as lead coalition panel discussions.

PROJECT RESULTS



DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE LEAD POISONING?

7 WAYS YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD GET HEALTHIER

- 1 Get Your Home Tested**
Do you have Medical Assistance? Your health plan will test your home for FREE! Call your child's health plan to request a test.
Aetra Better Health 1-855-345-9828 Keystone First 1-800-521-6860
Health Partners 1-215-967-4990 United Healthcare 1-877-844-8844
*See other providers near you.
- 2 Remove the Lead in Your Home**
If you don't have Medical Assistance, find a free or low-cost solution to test your home for lead.
Find a certified lead removal company to remove the lead.
- 3 Get Your Child Health Insurance**
Almost every child in Delaware County qualifies for free or low-cost health insurance from Medical Assistance or CHIP.
Get free help to apply over the phone and in any language from Public Citizens for Children and Youth's Helpline at 215-563-5848x17.
- 4 Get Your Child Follow Up Blood Lead Tests**
Your child's doctor will want your child to have follow up blood lead tests to see if the lead level is going up or down. Make sure to schedule and keep these appointments.
- 5 Get Your Child Screened**
Children with lead poisoning should get a free screening for special services called Early Intervention. These services can include speech and language therapy, physical or occupational therapy, nutrition services and hearing or vision services.
The Delaware County Department of Human Services provides these services for free for children 0-3 years old. Make an appointment by calling 610-713-2406 or email humanervices@delcohs.org.
- 6 Apply For Healthy Food Benefits**
A healthy diet makes it possible for a child's body to absorb less lead.
The Delaware County Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC) provides nutritious foods and other support to families with limited incomes that have children under five years old and mothers who are pregnant.
Contact the Delaware County WIC Call Center at 484-473-3320.
- 7 If Other Young Children Spend Time In Your Home, Get Them Tested For Lead**
Children with Medicaid or CHIP health insurance are required to have a blood lead test when they are one year old and when they are two years old.
If you don't have a health care provider or health insurance, your child can get a low-cost lead test starting at \$10 at a CherPENN Health Center in Upper Darby (call 610-352-4585) or Chester City (call 610-872-4131).

Check out the enclosed Delaware County Lead Resource Directory of FREE or LOW-COST solutions to get the lead out!

Lead poisoning can cause permanent brain damage to children especially babies and kids six and under.

FREE AND LOW-COST PROGRAM INFORMATION INSIDE

7 THINGS YOU CAN DO RIGHT NOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD

- 1 Make sure your child can't get near peeling paint or chewable surfaces, such as window sills.
- 2 Wet-mop floors and flat surfaces once a week because household dust can contain lead. Window sills and wells can also contain high levels of lead dust, so they should also be kept free of dust.
- 3 Regularly wash children's hands and their toys that can become covered with household dust or exterior soil.
- 4 Make sure to renovate safely. Common renovation activities like sanding, cutting, replacing windows, and more can create hazardous lead dust. If you're planning renovations, use contractors certified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Go to www.pccy.org/EPAcertified/renov
- 5 Apply contact paper or duct tape to cover holes in walls or chipping paint to temporarily block children's ability to reach sources of lead.
- 6 Lead can also be found in soil, so take off shoes when entering the house.
- 7 Eat a healthy diet that includes iron, calcium, and foods low in fat. Foods rich in iron include eggs, some nuts, and beans. A healthy diet causes the body to absorb less lead.

To download this flyer and for more information go to pccy.org/lead

The Lead Toolkit created by staff at PCCY. The interns found many community events, doctors offices, Doulas, and OBGYNs in the Delaware County area to distribute the toolkit to parents and families whose children may be affected by lead. (Left and Above)

The Helpline Flyer has been created in 10 languages to reach the Southeastern Pennsylvania Community to help sign up for Free or Low-Cost Health Insurance. (Right)

Call us to sign up for **FREE** or **LOW-COST HEALTH INSURANCE** up to age 19.

YOU QUALIFY!

- No family makes too little or too much money to get insurance.
- We will help you for free, over the phone and in your language.
- Can't find a dentist, eye doctor, therapist or other medical provider? We will help!

215-563-5848 x17



REFLECTION

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience working for PCCY through Bridging The Gaps this summer. I have gained a deeper insight into the public health issue of childhood lead poisoning and its long-lasting impact on many aspects in communities. Additionally, I now have a better understanding of how non-profit organizations are run and how they conduct advocacy work. I am grateful that I was able to learn a lot this summer and believe that this awareness will be beneficial to me as a future healthcare provider" – Shaheen Jaisingh

"I am very thankful for my time at PCCY this past summer. I never thought I would even have had the opportunity to make an impact in the community outside of my specific discipline, so I am grateful for this experience of working with a diverse group of people towards a common goal. It showed me that despite unique backgrounds and areas of expertise, we as a society are able to come together as one and make a difference."- Anahita Sabet-Payman