The Past, Present and Future of Lead Abatement

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Department of Environmental Health
Healthy Homes Section

MDHHS
Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

Do you know the number of children in your community that have an elevated blood lead level (EBL)?

Would you know if a home is lead-safe?

Who has a lead hazard control program in their community?

Today's Outline

- Lead-Based Paint Education
- Healthy Homes Section
- Future of Lead-Safe Housing
- Steps to Lead-Safe Housing

Lead-Based Paint Education

Lead-Based Paint Education: Brief Background

Lead is a highly toxic metal.

Lead-based paint is a paint that has lead in it.

When we say **paint** it includes varnishes, lacquers, stains, enamels, glazes, primers, and coatings.

It was commonly used in household paint in homes built before **1978**. In 1978, the federal government banned the use of lead-based paint in homes (for consumers). *The older the home, the more likely it is to have lead-based paint.*

Lead-Based Paint Education : Brief Background

Older Homes are More Likely to Contain Lead-Based Paint

Before 1940

87%

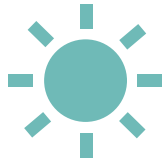
1940 – 1959

69%

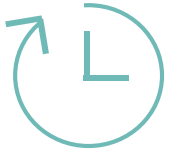
1960 – 1977

24%

Lead is used in paint to:



Brighten the color



Speed up drying time

Reduce corrosion (weathering / wear and tear)

Lead-Based Paint Education : Brief Background

Exposure to lead happens during the **removal and failure of integrity** (deterioration) of lead-based paint.

Lead-based paint breaks down over time into:

Paint chips

**Chips include paint that is peeling, chipping, chalking or cracked.*

Dust

**Dust is created when lead paint is scraped, dry sanded, heated or burned, or when painted surfaces rub together (opening / closing windows and doors).*

Dust is the most common source of lead exposure.

Lead chips and dust settle on surfaces and objects that people touch.

Lead-Based Paint Education : Brief Background

Settled lead dust can re-enter the air when people:

Vacuum

Sweep

They or their pet walk through it

Through air movement when windows or doors are opened

Dust from lead-based paint can contaminate the soil. This can be a source of exposure when children play on the ground, or when people bring soil into the house on their shoes.

Lead-Based Paint Education : Brief Background

There is no safe level of lead exposure.

Lead poisoning occurs when lead enters into the body through either: **inhalation** (breathing in) or **ingestion** (eating).

The health impact: Lead is a multi-system toxicant, causing:

- *Brain and nervous system damage*
- *Decreased IQ*
- *Learning difficulties*
- *Speech, language, and behavior problems*
- *Hearing problems*
- *Slow or reduced growth*
- *Muscle or joint pain*
- *Reproductive problems (adult)*
- *Digestive problems*
- *Kidney damage*
- *Anemia*
- *High blood pressure*

Lead-Based Paint Education : Brief Background

Children have a greater exposure to lead through:

Frequent hand-to-mouth activity mouthing objects

Digesting 4-5 times more lead from the gut than adults

Consuming more food and drink, and breathing more air per kilogram of body weight than adults

Nutritional deficiencies, such as an iron deficiency (which increases bioavailability of lead – meaning it makes lead more available to enter the body)

Healthy Homes Section

Healthy Homes Section

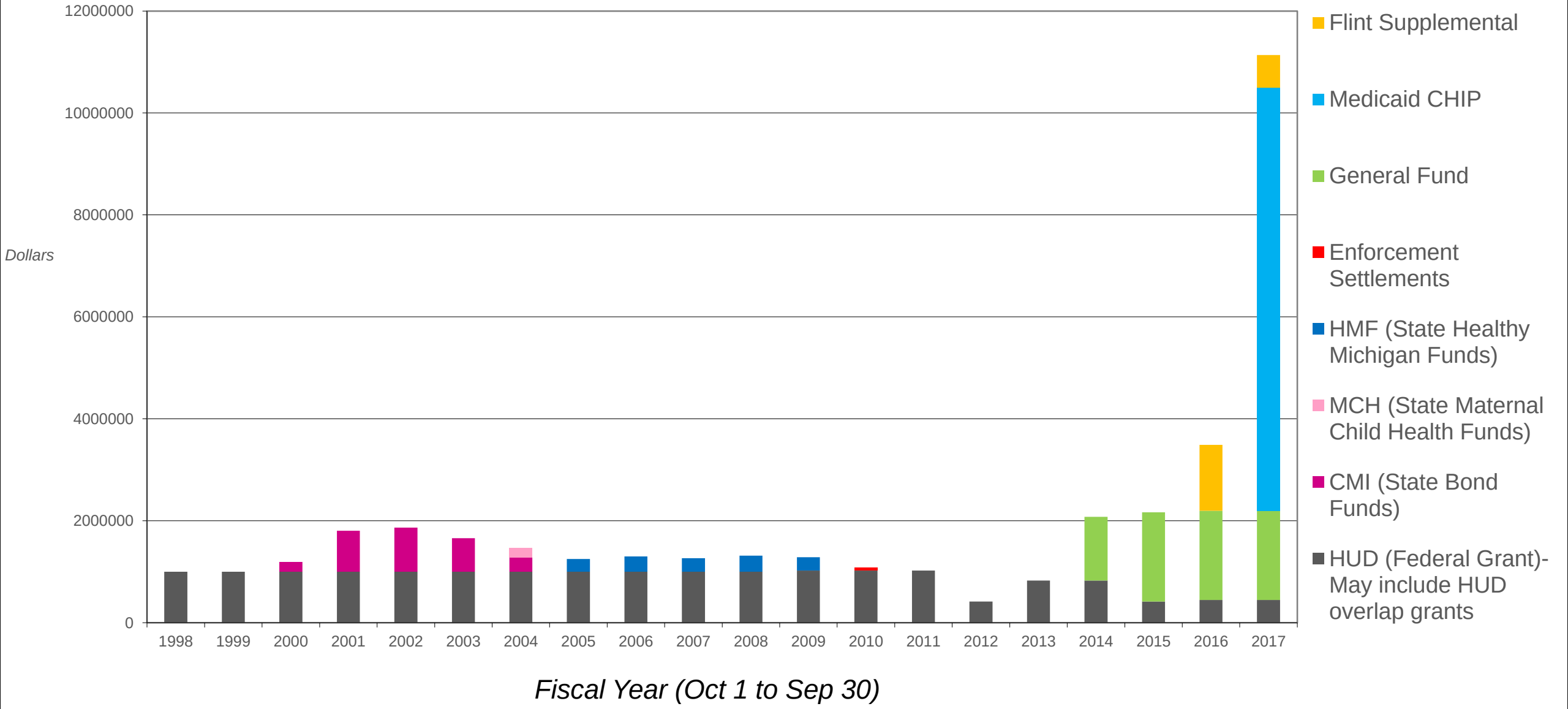
We serve the entire State of Michigan

Our program provides environmental lead identification and remediation services

3,200

Remediated over 3,200 homes to date

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Funding History for Lead Abatement



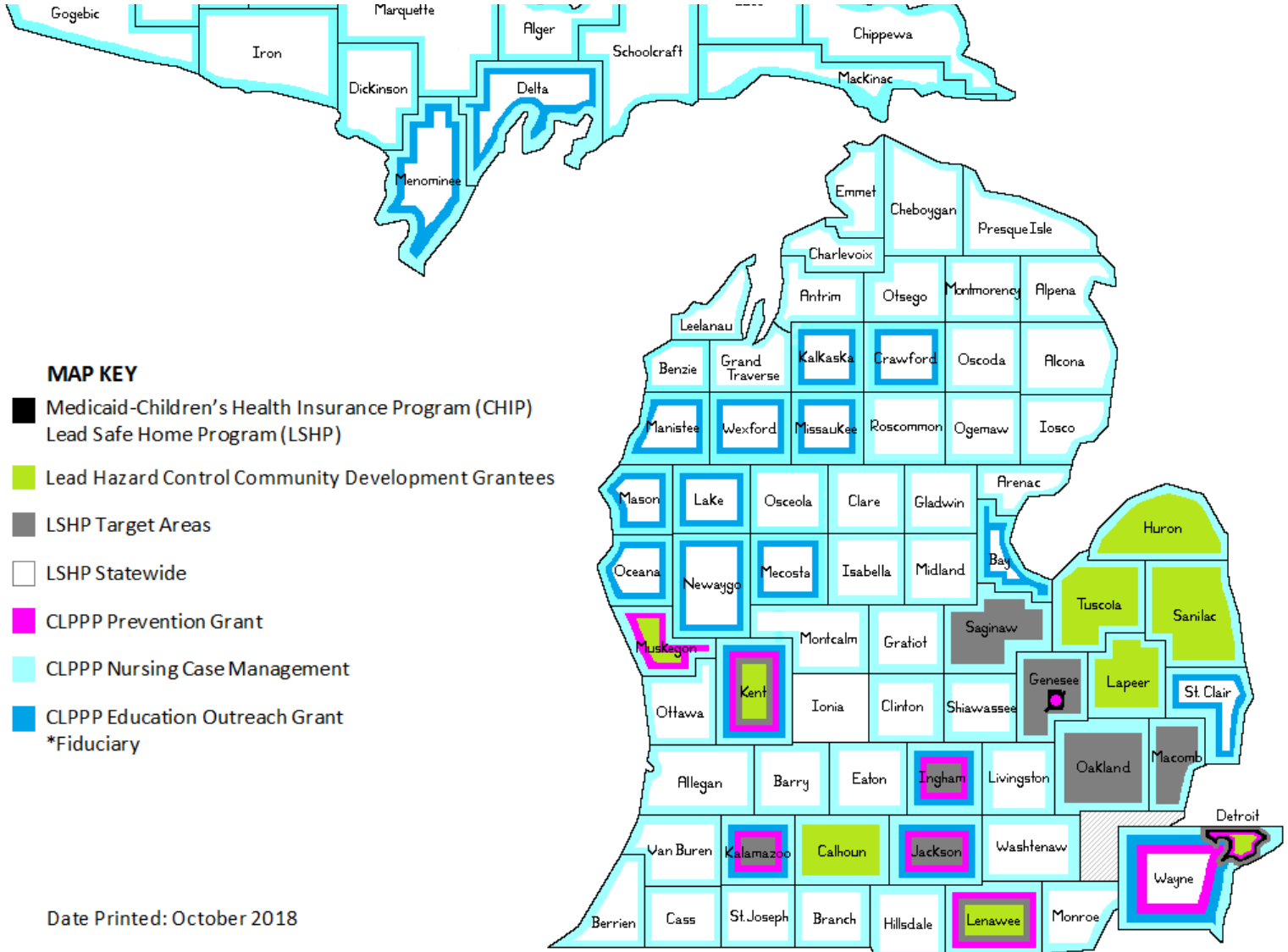
Healthy Homes Section

Priority is abating homes of children with Elevated Blood Lead (EBL)

Serve non-EBL in select communities (target areas)

Provide lead hazard control grants through Medicaid Community Development Program

Healthy Homes Section: Target Areas FY18



Healthy Homes Section: Eligibility

- Medicaid enrollee under age 19 or pregnant female living in the home → Flint & Detroit; Grantees
- Low-income household with child under age 6 or pregnant female living in pre-1978 home → Flint & Detroit; Select Target Areas
- Medicaid or low-income household with child under age 19 or pregnant female with Elevated Blood Lead (EBL) of <5 micrograms per deciliter (µg/dL) → Statewide

When to Refer to Lead Safe Home Program

- No local lead program
- Child with Elevated Blood Lead (EBL) of <5 micrograms per deciliter (µg/dL)
- Residence is in LSHP target area

Healthy Homes Section

Steps to Lead-Safe Housing

Steps to Lead-Safe Housing

- Identify the age of the residence (pre-1978)
- Identify if children age(s) reside in the home
- Blood lead testing prior to application
- If yes, connect with a local lead program

Steps to Lead-Safe Housing: LSHP Process

- Resident and/or owner complete LSHP application
- If approved, LSHP schedules Environmental Investigation (EI)
- EI conducted by Certified Risk Assessor and results sent to resident and/or owner
- Regional Field Consultant writes the project specifications (work needed to be done)
- Regional Field Consultant holds a contractor “walk-through”

Steps to Lead-Safe Housing: LSHP Process

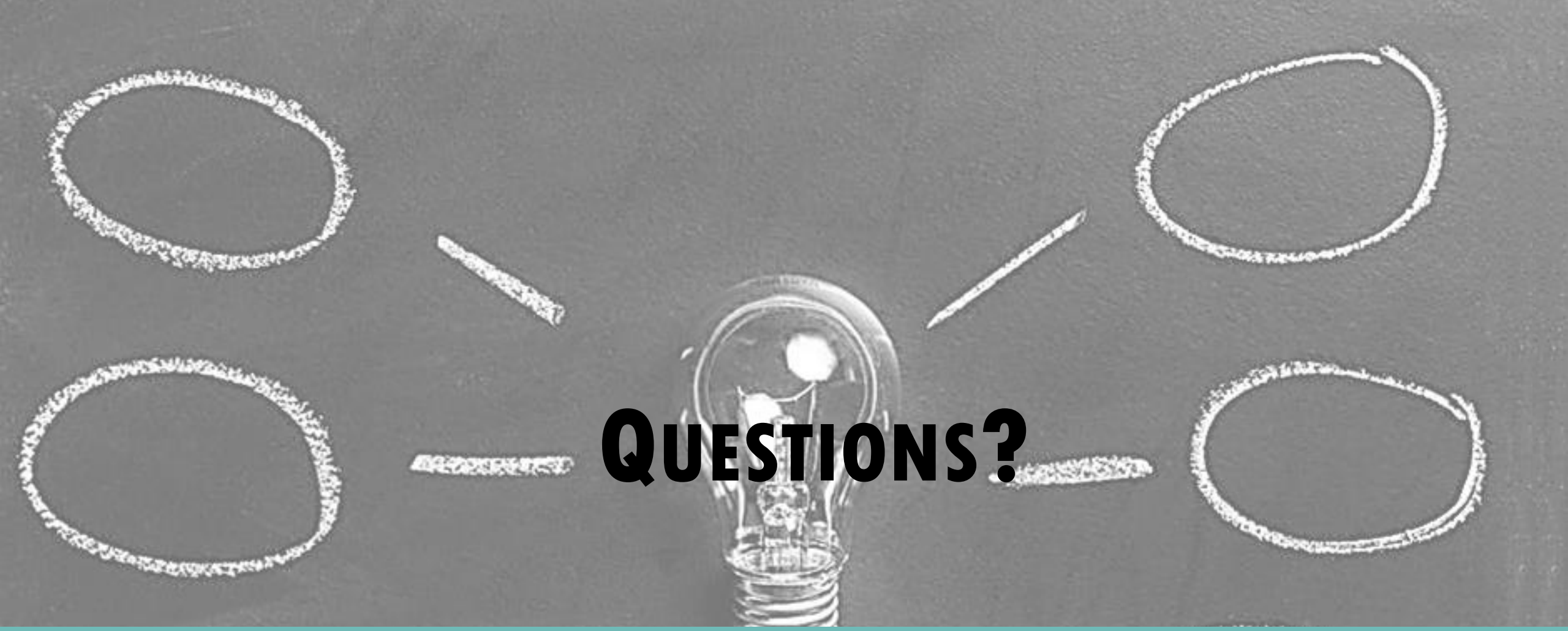
- Contractors submit bids for the project
- LSHP awards contractor to perform work
- Contractor follows project specifications to create a lead-safe environment

  All work performed follows lead-safe work practices and all workers hold current certification(s)

- Risk Assessor performs clearance test to ensure lead-safe work practices were followed and lead dust is not present

Your Steps to Lead-Safe Housing

- Identify the age of the residence (pre-1978)
- Hire a certified Lead Inspector/Risk Assessor to perform Environmental Investigation (EI) – Ensure they are certified by visiting www.michigan.gov/leadsafe or call 517-335-9390
- Receive the results (report)
- If lead hazards are identified, hire a certified lead abatement company to correct the hazards
- Obtain a clearance test to ensure lead-safe work practices were followed and lead dust is not present



Questions?

Melissa Steiner
SteinerM@Michigan.gov
517-284-4822

Courtney Wisinski
WisinskiC@Michigan.gov
517-284-4825