



# Action Plan 2026-27

## Overview

Our organization is a youth-led initiative dedicated to reducing lead exposure among children in Trenton and across New Jersey through policy advocacy, community engagement, research, and public education. Lead contamination remains a preventable public health crisis, particularly in older housing stock, schools, and environmentally burdened communities. This Action Plan outlines our strategic priorities and methods for creating sustainable, data-driven change in the upcoming year.

## Legislation

We focus on strengthening data transparency, prevention standards, and enforcement mechanisms related to lead exposure. Here are our propositions:

1. Advocating for the creation of a NJ Department of Health (DOH)-managed statewide tracking database for household and consumer products found to contain lead (modeled after New York City Department of Health's Non-Paint Sample Database)
2. Pushing for annual or bi-annual release of childhood lead poisoning data (such as screening rates, blood lead test results organized by level intervals etc.)
3. Proposing a NJDOH-managed publicly searchable lead-risk registry that integrates lead service line inventories, lead paint violations, abatement records, school testing results, and proximity to Superfund/other contaminated sites and hosting online/in-person informational sessions to teach residents about using registry

4. Advocating for mandatory disclosure of lead-containing materials at point of sale or lease of properties (including plumbing fixture materials, lead paint history, recent water test results) and definitions for minimum enforcement standards and penalties for lead testing and remediation noncompliance
5. Pushing for annual testing for high-risk schools (possible criteria to determine high-risk: built before 1986, located near high-lead soil or Superfund-adjacent areas, prior elevated lead results, recent construction or other plumbing changes, known or suspected lead service lines)

## Volunteering

1. Offering training to community volunteers in safe lead testing procedures under expert supervision which includes instructions on ethical data collection, contamination prevention, and personal safety
2. Organizing visits to partner universities and expert laboratories to learn about professional testing methods, data analysis and quality control, and assist in assembling and distributing testing kits

## Government Engagement

1. Attending Trenton City Council meetings to ask questions about state and federal fund allocations to critical lead programs (i.e lead abatement programs, testing and prevention efforts)
2. Creating a spreadsheet or dashboard to track bills, sponsors and committee chairs, and voting records to identify key allies
3. Submitting written testimony during legislative hearings and agency rule-making processes (NJDEP, NJDOE, DCA etc.) and considering establishment of youth testimony days for students to speak about environmental health impacts

## Local Community Engagement

1. Collaborating with local schools, pediatricians, and medical professionals to conduct interviews on impact of lead exposure and host community Q&A sessions
2. Distributing educational resources such as fact-sheets and infographics to families through online/in-person mediums, and reaching families by partnering with school nurses, PTA groups, and local childcare centers

## Media Outreach

1. Using short-form social media content and website blog posts to explain lead risks in accessible language targeted toward youth and families
2. Publishing a monthly newsletter to highlight policy updates, research findings, and volunteering/engagement opportunities for interested community members
3. Submitting articles and personal stories to local newspapers, school publications, and community radio stations

## Research & Data Collection

We conduct all research ethically, with proper permissions, privacy protections, and community engagement. Results are shared in aggregate to inform and protect families, schools, and policymakers.

1. Organizing community testing in previously untested green areas using kits provided by professors and environmental professions while acting under expert supervision and in compliance with regulations
2. Seeking partnerships with local universities to conduct environmental and medical research on lead, analyze data using rigorous scientific methods, and present findings through research papers, science fairs, or submissions to youth research journals and local government committees