



## Legislative Agenda 2019

- 1. Lead Safe Homes (HF 1007/SF 1798): A \$2 Million to fund pilot programs in an urban and rural area. Funding may be utilized to conduct lead testing and to make housing unit lead safe (must use other federal and state dollars first if available). Administered by MHFA.**

Lead exposure is dangerous for young children.

Preventing early-life exposure to lead is important for life-long health. Elevated blood lead levels (EBLLs) in young children are linked with adverse health effects, including learning problems, behavioral problems, and even death if exposures are very high. Children less than 6 years of age living in homes built before 1978 are most at risk for lead exposure. Younger children are at greater risk because their bodies absorb lead more easily and their brains are still developing.

Lead-based paint is a common source of lead exposure. People can be exposed to lead by breathing paint dust or accidentally eating paint chips or other materials contaminated with lead. Young children frequently put their hands or other objects, which may be contaminated with lead, into their mouths.

Each year there are still at least 700 Minnesota children who have elevated blood lead levels. Reducing this number to zero will require ongoing efforts to eliminate sources of lead in the environment, prevent exposure to lead, and to detect rising blood lead levels sooner.

Testing the blood lead levels of children can help catch lead exposure before it has the most harmful effects. Lead testing is not universal in Minnesota.

- 2. Equity in access to resources by and for diverse communities to address housing, services, prevention and homeless services including additional funds for HOME, Voice of East African Women domestic violence shelter, Somali Youth services.**
- 3. Support:**
  - a. Homes for All Legislative Agenda: <https://homesforallmn.org/our-agenda>**
  - b. Second Chance Coalition: Restore the Vote and Reduce impact of fines and fees. <http://www.mnsecondchance.org/legislative-priorities>**
  - c. Increases in public assistance programs to ensure families and individuals can afford housing. (HF 309/ SF 167)**