

Starting in 2018, Portland, Maine partnered with Head Start Cumberland County to provide education, materials, and expertise on the topic of childhood lead poisoning to teachers and families within the program.

Karlene Hafemann, City of Portland's Lead Safe Housing Program Coordinator, formalized this partnership when elected to sit on Head Start's Policy Council as a Community Representative and the newly formed Health Advisory Committee.

Head Start Policy Council is the overarching body that determines priorities, policies, and program goals. It is staffed and operated by families within the program and members of the community. Through this work, we ensure that preventing childhood lead poisoning stays at the forefront of the discussion.

"We continue to learn how valuable our community partnerships are in getting information out to community members," said Hafemann. "We know families that may be vulnerable to lead poisoning already have trusted relationships with Head Start staff and we can get vital information out to these families through Head Start."

Our mission is to continue paving paths to trusted community providers and to piggyback on their hard work.

For more information about this program, contact:

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HEALTHY HOMES. HEALTHY FAMILIES.
