



Working with Your Local Health Department:

Information for PHA Staff on EBLL Preparation and Response

In February 2017, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) issued new guidelines for addressing lead hazards in federally-assisted housing. The guidelines include new, lower thresholds for when HUD and public housing authorities (PHAs) must take action if a child under age six in federally-assisted housing has an elevated blood lead level (EBLL).

Your local public health department is an important partner in identifying and responding to EBLLs.

It is important to establish a contact person and communication agreements with your public health department in order to facilitate the following EBLL response steps:

- **Notification:** You should establish agreements for notifying and being notified by your public health department of EBLL cases.
- **Verification:** You should establish agreements for verifying possible EBLL cases with your public health department.
- **Environmental investigations and risk assessments:** Your public health department may conduct an environmental investigation when a child is found with an EBLL, and may also conduct their own risk assessments. You can rely on the results of their evaluations in these cases, so be sure to coordinate with them.

What if a public health department does not or is not able to participate in EBLL case verification? The PHA is obligated to attempt verification with the public health department at least twice. If attempts fail, maintain records of your attempts and contact your local HUD Field Office. They can help coordinate with HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes to provide assistance.

HCV-specific requirements

As already required by the LSHR, the HCV program requires quarterly data sharing and data matching with your local public health department.

Each quarter, your PHA should securely share an updated list of HCV-assisted addresses with the public health department. The public health department should use this information to match against their records to identify possible EBLL cases.

Alternatively, your public health department may share with you the addresses of children they have identified with an EBLL on an ongoing basis. Match this information against the names and addresses of families receiving HCV assistance. If a match occurs, begin EBLL response steps.

To make sure these data sharing and address matching procedures operate quickly and accurately:

- Ensure that you have identified a contact person at the public health department for communication and data sharing, and
- Ensure that you have proper data sharing procedures in place for sharing data with your public health department.

What if a public health department declines to participate in data sharing and address matching? If the public health department is unable or unwilling to receive these data, the PHA should document this for HUD compliance reviews.