

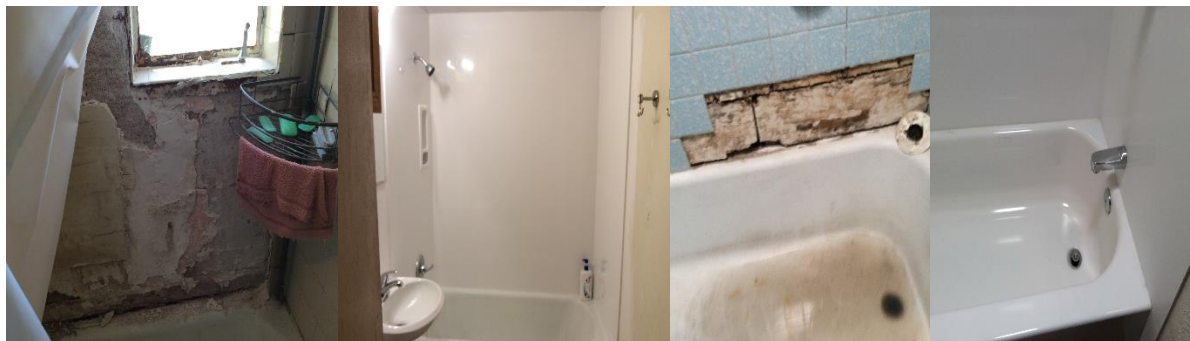
HUD's OLHCHH would like to recognize our **Healthy Home Heroes!**

Laura Smith and the Lead Safe Phoenix Team

Laura is the current Project Manager for the Lead Safe Phoenix Program, commonly known as the Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes Program, in the City of Phoenix. Laura's team consists of: Brenda Hope, Project Management Assistant; Rebecca Larios, Community Worker; Josue Perez, Housing Rehabilitation Specialist; and, Alice Brummett, Community Health Nurse with grant partner Maricopa County Department of Public Health.

For the past 20 years, the city of Phoenix has received funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH) to increase awareness of the connection between health and housing and to remedy home health and lead-based paint hazards within the most needed targeted areas in Phoenix.

During this time, the Lead Safe Phoenix Program has tested and assessed more than 2,200 homes, conducted lead remediation and Healthy Homes activities in more than 1,800 homes and provided services to more than 2,700 children. In addition, the Lead Safe Phoenix Program has trained and provided Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Lead Supervisor, Worker, and Risk Assessor certifications to more than 600 individuals and local abatement firms. Furthermore, the program has conducted education and outreach activities on the effects of lead hazards and the association between health and housing to more than 30,000 residents.



Lead Safe Phoenix is the past recipient of two Healthy Homes Demonstration grants that utilized a comprehensive approach to healthy homes activities. By focusing on housing-related hazards in a coordinated fashion, rather than addressing a single hazard at a time, the Program has consistently exceeded benchmarks, while remaining within budget. This approach has been integrated into the housing rehabilitation division where every house enrolled, regardless of funding source, receives a whole house assessment, including the Healthy Homes 29 Hazards. Integrating Healthy Homes concepts into a detailed scope of work allows for opportunities to reduce health and safety hazards in a comprehensive and cost-effective manner. Additionally, Housing Rehab Specialists are required to successfully complete Healthy Homes Specialist and Healthy Homes Rating System (HHRS) training, obtain EPA Lead Inspector, Risk Assessor, and Supervisor certification, and weatherization energy efficiencies certifications.

In order to develop and build local capacity, educate residents, and deliver community-based education, Laura and the Lead Safe team has fostered mutually beneficial relationships within the community by developing long-term commitments from the Arizona Department of Health Services, Maricopa County

Department of Public Health, Wilson Elementary School District, Roosevelt School District, Phoenix Union School District, Primera Iglesia Metodista Unida (faith-based), and the Arizona Smoke-Free Living Coalition. In addition, the team works closely with other city of Phoenix departments such as the Housing Department, Human Services (Head Start and Early Head Start), and Historic Preservation.

Laura has spent the last decade of her 12 year career with the City of Phoenix working with the Lead Safe Phoenix Program. Laura supervises the day-to-day operations and has hands on experience in recruitment, enrollment, community outreach, risk assessment, remediation, Healthy Homes assessments and interventions, relocation, contractor management and capacity building. Her role includes review and supervision of scopes of work, development of contract documents and generation of community partnerships. Laura is an EPA certified Risk Assessor, Healthy Homes Specialist and proficient in the use of Healthy Homes Rating System. Laura has successfully submitted five grant applications to HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes, most notably, receiving the maximum award of \$3.4 million for the 2014 funding cycle. Due to Laura's experience and knowledge, OLHCHH staff often recommends and encourages new grantees to seek Laura's expertise. Laura has consulted with grantees, other local and federal agencies in a number of states, including Tennessee, New Jersey, Nevada, and Arizona.

Laura and her team are truly committed to the Lead Safe Phoenix Program and the residents of Phoenix. Although not all of the homes they come across will qualify for their programs, Laura and her staff will always try to provide education and alternative resources, if possible. For example, a mother with a young child with an elevated blood level did not qualify for the program, but Laura and her team found resources that helped the mother identify the source of the lead hazards and removed it. Also, her team found a mother living with her daughter and granddaughter in unacceptable and unsafe housing. Her team, working with other City departments, found the family temporary housing while their home was demolished and re-built. There are many other examples, but it is certain that Laura and her team care about the families and communities in the city of Phoenix.

