

# DC Healthy Homes Digest



August 2018 • GZEP, Lead Disclosure, Lead Service Pipes

## WELCOME TO THE DC HEALTHY HOMES DIGEST!

*This publication connects you to organizations and community members dedicated to creating and maintaining safe and healthy housing in the District of Columbia.*

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## From GZEP to Gee Whiz! Introducing District Youth to Careers in Energy and the Environment.

**WHAT DID YOU DO THIS SUMMER? FOR NEARLY 200 YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS IN THE DISTRICT, THE ANSWER IS THE GREEN ZONE ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM (GZEP)** • Administered and implemented by the Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE), in partnership with the [Marion Barry Summer Youth Employment Program](#) (MBSYEP), GZEP is one of the largest summer green jobs training programs for youth and young adults in the nation. DOEE provides GZEP participants, ages 14 to 24 years old, with training, education, and hands-on experience in environmental projects, such as installing rain gardens and storm drain markers. DOEE staff members participate in the program to share information about the day-to-day responsibilities, education and certification requirements, and salary ranges for various positions in the environmental field. Participants are exposed to valuable and meaningful work in this specialized field and are able to connect to industry professionals who help them further explore this career path.

- [Healthy Housing Happenings](#)
- [Community Connections](#)

## Events



National Health Center Week (NHCW), sponsored by the National Association of Community Health Centers, raises awareness about the work, services, and accomplishments of America's Health Centers. Each day of NHCW 2018 is dedicated to a particular focus area: Legislative Appreciation, Honoring Health Center Heroes, Public Housing Health Centers, Healthcare for the Homeless, Agricultural Worker Health, Patient Appreciation, and Children's Health.

Date: August 12, 2018 – August 18, 2018

Click [here](#) for more information.



[Black Millennials for Flint](#) is launching the Inaugural Cohort of the Lead Prevention Ambassador Leadership Program for 2018–2019.

This leadership program is designed for African American & Latino millennial college students, young professionals,



*GZEP participants have fun learning about careers in energy and the environment.*

In addition, DOEE hires and trains about 40 summer staff to help coordinate and supervise GZEP activities and participants. As a current intern with DOEE's Environmental Services Administration (ESA), Jazmene Stewart uses the management and leadership skills she developed in previous years as a GZEP Ward Manager, Site Manager and Team Leader. Another former GZEP Team Leader, Cameron Sherr, is also gaining career skills as an intern with DOEE's ESA.

Moreover, GZEP and MBSYEP participants, ages 18 to 24 years old, are eligible to apply for DOEE's Solar Works DC, the District's solar installation and job training program. Selected applicants gain experience installing solar systems for low-income households. They also earn certifications in OSHA 10, as an introduction to workplace safety and health; CPR/First Aid; and Installation Basics Training (IBT).

DOEE staff members enjoy interacting with GZEP participants at local schools and community sites. Amanda Ri'Chard and BritTaney Simon of ESA's Lead-Safe and Healthy Housing Division noted, "This year, our team made it a point to include multiple activities that allowed students to feel like ESA members. Students tried out dust sampling techniques and the types of outfits that we wear in the field. By doing this program, we have encouraged many participants to become more aware of lead, environmental asthma

and parents ages 18-35. The program will build millennial leaders' capacity to become advocates for the eradication of lead through political advocacy, activism, and organizing.

Applications will be accepted until August 31, 2018

[Use This Link to Apply](#)



National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (NLPPW) is October 21-27, 2018. NLPPW aims to help individuals, organizations, and state and local governments to work together to reduce childhood exposure to lead. [The National Center for Healthy Homes NLPPW2017 toolkit](#) can help you to get the word out on social media.

Date: Sunday, October 21 – Saturday, October 27

[Click here for more information](#)



[DC Open Doors Homebuyers' Informational Sessions](#) are FREE and co-hosted by the [District of Columbia Housing Finance Agency](#) (DCHFA).

Statistics prove that homebuyer

triggers, and other health and safety hazards in and around their homes."



*GZEP participants try out the types of outfits worn by DOEE professionals in the field.*

To learn more applying for GZEP, Solar Works DC, and other career, fellowship, internship, summer job, or volunteer opportunities at DOEE, visit <https://doee.dc.gov/greenpathways>.

## DOEE Presents at NEHA/HUD Conference on Creation of New Lead Disclosure Form at DC's Form-a-Palooza



Can redesigning government forms really be more exciting than watching paint dry?

If you've ever attended the District's Form-a-Palooza, the answer is a resounding yes!

education contributes to successful home ownership. Come learn what it takes to buy your first place in DC, and learn about awesome programs like Home Ready, DC Open Doors, Home Possible and Welcome Home - that can help qualified buyers get into a home in Washington, DC.

Date/Time: The free sessions take place on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 6:00PM-8:00PM unless otherwise indicated,

[Register Here](#)

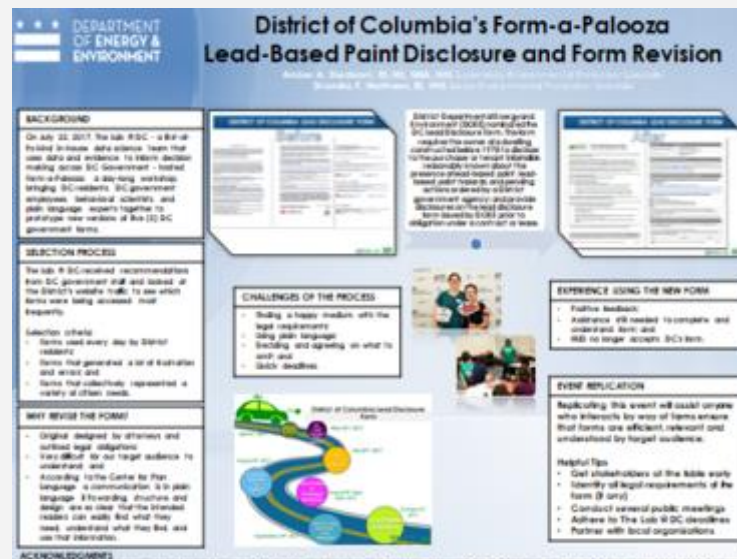
## Connect with The Collaborative

**Are you a pediatrician, public health professional, environmental advocate, property owner, contractor, or real estate professional looking to advance the dialogue around healthy housing in the District?**

The DC Healthy Homes Collaborative is forming working groups with the Institute of Public Health Innovation to promote public health strategies, facilitate cross-sector partnerships, and support effective policy to improve housing conditions.

[Click Here to Submit an Interest Form](#)

That's how Amber A. Sturdivant, Branch Chief, and Shamika P. Matthews, Senior Environmental Protection Specialist, in DOEE's Lead-Safe and Healthy Housing Division described the enthusiastic response of residents who shared their time and ideas to help the agency redesign its Lead-Based Paint Disclosure Form during the District's first-ever Form-a-Palooza. They outlined the form's journey in their poster presentation at the [NEHA 2018 AEC and HUD Healthy Homes Conference](#) conducted on June 25–28, 2018 in Anaheim, California. This annual training and networking event, hosted by the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), brings together environmental health professionals from across the country.



The form, based on the District's Lead-Hazard Prevention and Elimination Act, requires owners of residential properties built before 1978 to disclose any information reasonably known to the property owner about the presence of lead-based paint, lead-based paint hazards, and any pending actions related to lead ordered by a District government agency. The disclosures must be provided to prospective buyers or tenants before they contract to purchase or lease the property.

“We wanted to make the form easy for everyone to use and understand,” stated Ms. Sturdivant. “So when [The Lab @ DC](#) announced its Form-a-Palooza, we quickly submitted our form for consideration.” The Lab





Stay up to date on all things Healthy Housing in the District. **Subscribe** and forward to your colleagues!

For questions, comments or additions, [contact our Editor](#).

Want to get more involved? Contact the [Lead-Safe and Healthy Housing Division](#), (202) 535-2600

**Media Inquiries:** Contact the [DOEE Public Information Officer](#)

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@ DC, a data science team based in the Office of the City Administrator, hosted its first Form-a-Palooza on July 22, 2017. The daylong workshop brought together District residents, government employees, behavioral scientists, and plain language experts. They drafted new versions of five government forms, including DOEE's.

DOEE conducted several rounds of additional user testing and revision before releasing the updated [District of Columbia Lead Paint Disclosure Form](#) on September 29, 2017. The form was also featured at The Lab @ DC's TransFORMed exhibition on October 3, 2017.



Would they do it again? "Yes, definitely," agreed Ms. Parker. "So far we've received positive feedback about the form. Although simplifying a legal form is challenging, we learned that getting stakeholders involved early made the form work better for everyone."

For additional information about the District's lead regulations and forms, visit <https://doee.dc.gov/lead>.

## What's Buzzing at DOEE? National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, October 21– 27, 2018

HELP RAISE AWARENESS TO INCREASE LEAD

**SCREENING AND PREVENTION** • October is just a stone's throw away, and DOEE's Lead-Safe and Healthy Housing Division is eager to get out into the community for National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (NLPPW)! We encourage individuals and organizations to join this effort to raise awareness among District residents about the need to detect and prevent exposure to lead.



*Amanda Ri'Chard, DOEE, conducts outreach during 2017's NLPPW.*

Lead poisoning remains a serious health concern in the District, and children under age six are most at risk. Children exposed to lead-contaminated paint, dust, soil, or water may suffer problems with learning, behavior, and growth that can't be reversed.

What's the good news? Lead poisoning is preventable.

Each year during NLPPW, DOEE uses social media and community events to educate parents, health care providers, landlords, contractors, property managers, retailers, and others on how they can protect children from lead exposure. In past years, we've conducted educational outreach at recreation centers, child development facilities, faith-based organizations, home improvement stores, thrift stores, and public transit stations. We also partner with the Department of Health Care Finance on an annual reminder to health care providers of the [District's requirements for lead screening and reporting](#).

How can you help?

- **Get Your Home Tested.** Know your rights under the District's lead law and how to hire a lead inspector or risk assessor to identify lead-based paint hazards in the home. When renovating, follow lead-safe work practices and requirements for the District.
- **Get Your Child Tested.** A simple blood test is the only way to know if your child has been exposed to lead. District law requires lead testing of all young children. Ask your doctor to test your child for lead at age 6 to 14 months, and again at age 22 to 26 months. An easy way to remember: Test every child, twice by two.
- **Learn about Drinking Water.** To request a free lead test kit, call DC Water at (202) 612-3440 or email [leadtest@dcwater.com](mailto:leadtest@dcwater.com). Remember to use only cold water for drinking and cooking.
- **Understand the Facts.** Learn how to protect you and your family from lead exposure. Raise awareness with others about the importance of lead testing and prevention.

Visit the NLPPW website for more information and a free toolkit. If you're interested in partnering with DOEE in a NLPPW activity, contact Gift Oboite-Ukpolo at (202) 535-2264 or at [gift.oboite@dc.gov](mailto:gift.oboite@dc.gov).

See you in October!

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## Resources You Can Use



Throughout September, DC Water is reaching out directly to customers with known lead service pipes to encourage the full replacement of lead service pipes in public space and on private property through our voluntary lead service pipe replacement program. The District's distribution system and water mains are lead free and are connected to your home by a water service pipe. In the District, like many other communities, the homeowner owns the entire service pipe.

#### Why replace my lead service pipe?

Lead can be released when water comes in contact with pipes that contain lead. If present, elevated lead levels can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children.

#### How do I replace my lead service pipe?

DC Water will replace the public portion of your lead service pipe at no cost to you, if the homeowner pays for replacement on private property. You may use DC Water's contractors or your own for work on private property. DC Water will coordinate and replace the portion in public space at the same time.

#### What construction work is required?

Crews will shut the water off to your home for approximately 4-6 hours. Crews will excavate holes approximately 4 ft. by 6 ft. in the street, in the tree space (area between the sidewalk and the curb), and in the yard at the property line. Work is completed within one day.

#### How much will it cost?

The cost of lead service pipe replacement on private property varies from home to home and is negotiated between the property owner and the contractor.

On average, replacement costs \$720 to bore a hole for the new pipe through the basement wall, and \$120 per foot from the house wall to the property line. The property line of many homes in the District are at the house front wall, in which case, the cost will only be for boring the hole and bringing the new pipe inside the home.

#### Sign me up! Who should I contact?



Email [lead@dcwater.com](mailto:lead@dcwater.com) with your name, address, and contact information. Alternatively, call Customer Service at 202-354-3600 and tell them you are interested in the lead service line replacement program.

To determine if you have a lead service pipe, please review DC Water's map of service pipes in the District at [www.dewater.com/servicemap](http://www.dewater.com/servicemap) and read the information about how to identify the pipe material such as looking at your service pipe where it enters the home, usually located in the basement: [www.dewater.com/lead-sources](http://www.dewater.com/lead-sources).

DC Water will help you determine if lead is present in your home's water. To determine if your property contains sources of lead, please request a free lead test kit by contacting the Drinking Water at 202-612-3440 or [leadtest@dcwater.com](mailto:leadtest@dcwater.com). For more information about lead sources and preventing lead exposure, please visit our lead information page at [www.dewater.com/lead](http://www.dewater.com/lead).

We also invite you to visit our website at [www.dewater.com](http://www.dewater.com) to learn more about our services and projects that benefit you as a customer.

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## Healthy Housing Happenings



**DHCD SPECIAL ALERT FOR SMALL HOUSING OWNERS: APPLY TODAY FOR PROPERTY REPAIR GRANT** • Mayor Muriel Bowser announced that the DC Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is now accepting applications for a pilot program that will provide funds for small residential building owners to make key repairs to their properties.

The [Small Buildings Grant Program](#), formerly known as Great Spaces Healthy Places, will assist with limited

systems replacement and other key repairs to buildings where at least 50 percent of the households earn no more than 80 percent of the median family income.

In addition, the building must have between five and 20 units, be at least 75 percent occupied, and meet certain other criteria. Grants are available up to \$25,000 per dwelling unit, with a maximum of \$200,000 per project. Find out more about the program criteria by clicking [here](#).

The guidelines and application can be found by clicking [here](#). Applications will be processed starting September 1, 2018. Funds will be awarded after October 1, 2018.

For more information, contact [SBP.DHCD@dc.gov](mailto:SBP.DHCD@dc.gov) or (202) 442-8392.



**DCHA IS GOING SMOKE-FREE** • The District of Columbia Housing Authority's counting down to being smoke-free.

DCHA's Board of Commissioners approved the final regulations to comply with a new rule from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that requires all public housing communities nationwide to go smoke-free by July 30, 2018. The new rule applies to all household members and DCHA employees.

Residents, visitors, and staff are not permitted to smoke within 25 feet of public housing buildings. Several DCHA employees have been trained to be Smoke Free Facilitators and will begin leading cessation classes at each property for those customers who are interested in quitting smoking.

During the months of June and July, DCHA property

managers have been contacting customers to sign a lease addendum related to this new rule. All heads of household must sign this addendum.

For those interested in quitting smoking, [click here for a list of resources](#).

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## Community Connections

**THE DC HEALTHY HOMES COLLABORATIVE (DCHHC) HAS LAUNCHED!** • DCHHC is a new multi-sector coalition seeking to prioritize healthy housing for residents of the District by looking at the intersections of health and housing as critical public health and social justice issues. Its goal is to work in partnership with government, nonprofit and private organizations, and affected communities to improve individuals' health by addressing housing conditions. Anticipated strategies include medical and legal interventions, workforce development, housing remediation, and policy advocacy.

The DCHHC's inaugural organizing committee includes representatives from local health care, legal, advocacy, and service organizations, such as the American Lung Association of the District of Columbia, Children's Law Center, Children's National Health System, DC Appleseed Center for Law and Justice, DC Asthma Coalition, George Washington University Rodham Institute, Institute for Public Health Innovation (IHPI), LISC DC, and Yachad. Their first task is to engage stakeholders in reviewing the DCHHC's draft vision statement and purpose.

For more information about the DCHHC, [click here to submit an interest form](#), or send an email to Abby Charles, IPHI, at [acharles@institutephi.org](mailto:acharles@institutephi.org).



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