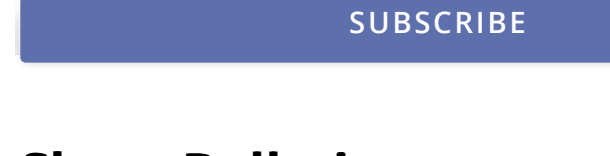


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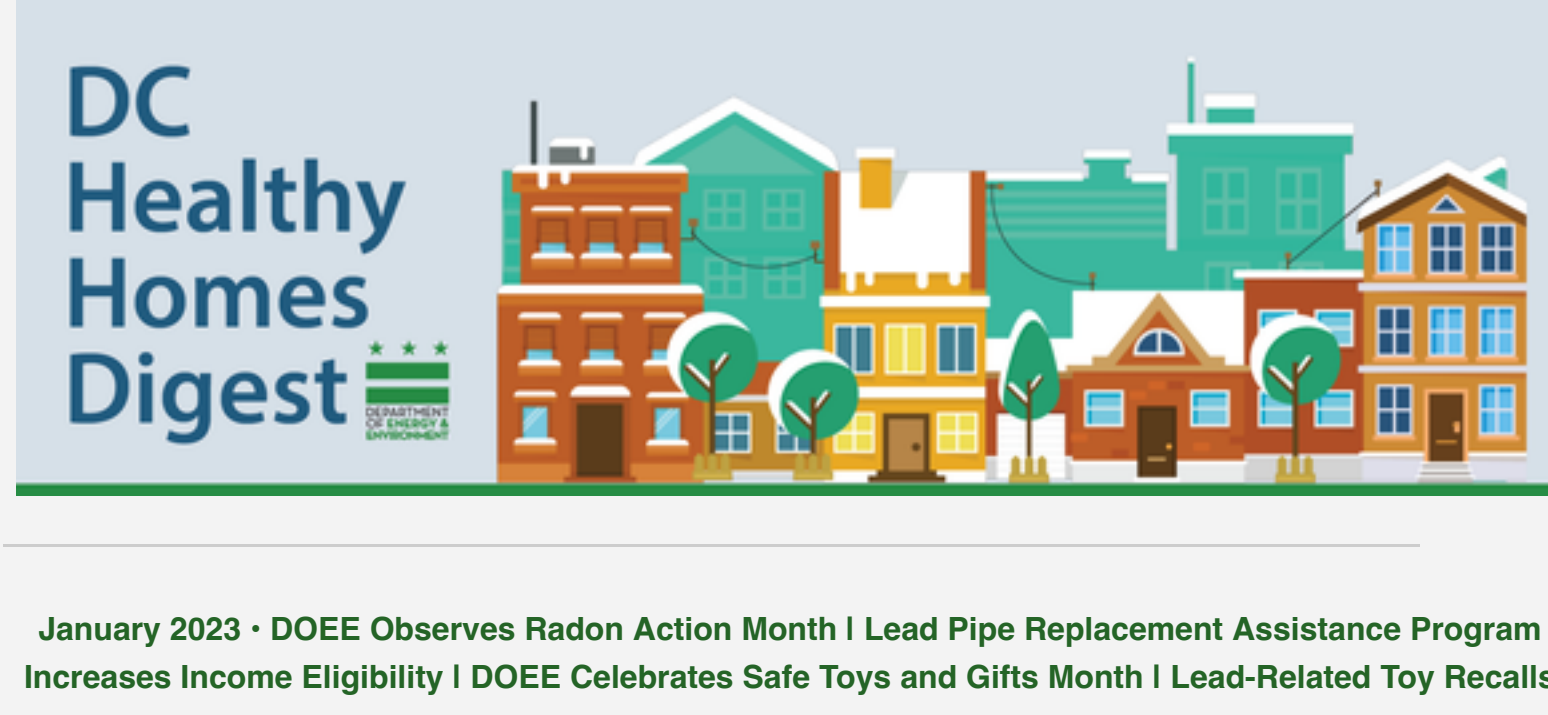
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DC Healthy Homes Digest: January 2023

District of Columbia sent this bulletin at 01/25/2023 09:45 AM EST

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January 2023 • DOEE Observes Radon Action Month | Lead Pipe Replacement Assistance Program Increases Income Eligibility | DOEE Celebrates Safe Toys and Gifts Month | Lead-Related Toy Recalls

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

Subscribe to the DC Healthy Homes Digest and forward it to your colleagues!

- Events
- January is National Radon Action Month! Protect Your Health With a Radon Test
- DOEE's Lead Pipe Replacement Assistance Program Increases Income Eligibility
- DOEE's Lead-safe and Healthy Housing Division Celebrated Safe Toys and Gifts Awareness Month in December
- What's Buzzing at DOEE?
- Who's Buzzing at DOEE?
- Resources You Can Use
- Healthy Housing Happenings

Events

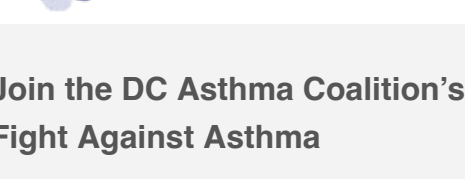
2023 Winter Virtual Conference on Lead, Healthy Housing, and Home Safety

February 20-23, 2023

Over 25 conference topics including "Use of Evidence Guided Strategies to Implement Smokefree Housing Rules," "Implementing Healthy Housing Action Framework" and "Engaging Community Youth in Environmental Justice Outreach for Lead Awareness and Prevention." Conference registration includes unlimited replays for six months. To register, visit the Lead and Healthy Housing Conferences webpage.

Connect with the DC Healthy Housing Collaborative

The DC Healthy Housing Collaborative is a multisector coalition seeking to address substandard housing conditions that contribute to significant health issues affecting District residents. Sign up to stay connected to the Collaborative and complete the DC Healthy Housing Collaborative Membership Survey. For more information about the DC Healthy Housing Collaborative, contact Abby Charles at the Institute for Public Health Innovation by email at acharles@instphigh.org or by telephone at (202) 450-3555.



Join the DC Asthma Coalition's Fight Against Asthma

The DC Asthma Coalition is a community partnership of local citizens, health care providers and nonprofit organizations united to fight asthma in the District of Columbia. Complete a DC Asthma Coalition Membership Application to join or contact the DC Asthma Coalition to learn more.



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 know more about Healthy Homes resources? Visit the Lead-Safe and Healthy Housing Division website, or call (202) 535-2900.

Media Inquiries: Contact the DOEE Public Information Officer

DISCLAIMER: Unless otherwise stated, any events, presentations and/or webinars mentioned in this email are not affiliated with the District of Columbia Government.

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January is National Radon Action Month: Protect Your Health With a Radon Test



PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR LOVED ONES FROM RADON

PROTECT YOUR HEALTH. GET YOUR HOME TESTED FOR RADON. Every January, DOEE observes National Radon Action Month to raise awareness about the dangerous impact of radon gas on health among DC residents. DOEE also urges prospective home buyers to test a home before buying it or asking sellers to share radon results of previous tests.

Radon is a dangerous, naturally-occurring gas sometimes found inside buildings. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. Long term exposure to elevated radon levels in homes, schools, daycares, and even offices can become a health hazard. Radon is produced by a breakdown of uranium in soil, rock and water that moves up through the ground into through cracks and holes in the foundation in a home or other building. Radon gas has been found in homes in every state in the United States. Radon is odorless, colorless, and tasteless, so the only way to know if your home has radon is to test.

Radon levels can change from day to day and season to season. A long-term test (greater than 90 days) is the best way to determine your home's annual average radon level. If your home's radon level is 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) or greater, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends that action be taken. Sometimes radon levels can be lowered by sealing or fixing cracks or holes in the foundation walls or floors where the radon gas may be entering the home. Sometimes a radon reduction system can be installed that can divert radon gas out of the home. Even very high radon levels can be reduced to acceptable levels. If you find that your home or daycare has high levels of radon, there is a solution, but the only way to know is to test.

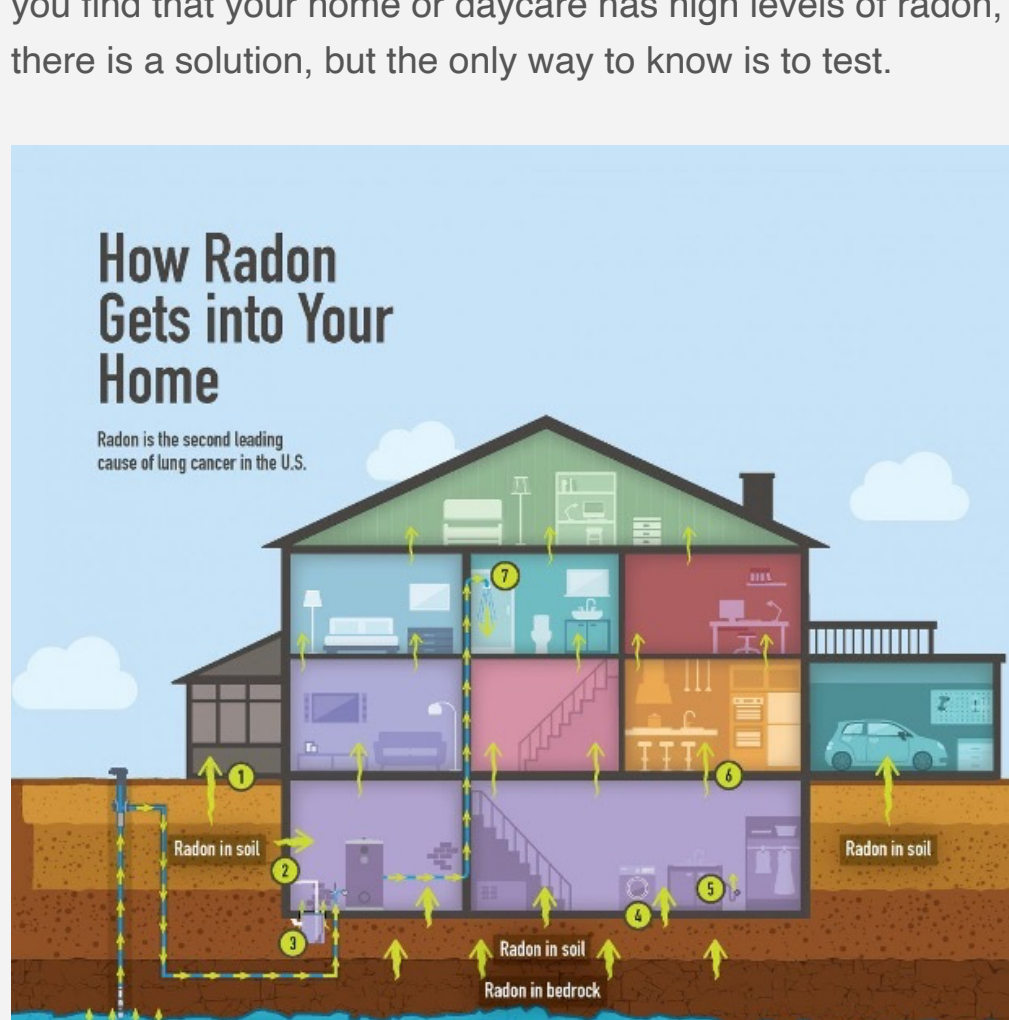


Photo Credit: <https://www.cdc.gov/radon/communications/index.htm>

It's time to make that New Year's resolution to protect your health and get your house tested for radon! To receive a free radon test kit from DOEE, call the Radon Hotline at (202) 535-2302. Also, on the DOEE website, you'll find useful information such as answers to common questions about radon, myths regarding radon (like houses without basements can't have radon), as well as a map showing different levels of radon gas found throughout the District over the past ten years. You can also follow DOEE on social media for the most information about radon and other agency initiatives. Follow DOEE on Twitter (@DOEE_DC) #NationalRadonActionMonth, on Facebook and Instagram (@DOEE_DC).

DOEE's Lead Pipe Replacement Assistance Program Increases Income Eligibility

DOEE created the Lead Pipe Replacement Assistance Program (LPRAP) to provide assistance to DC residents who have lead pipes on their private property and the pipes in the public space are not lead. Owners of qualifying properties can receive 50% of their costs covered (up to \$2,500), regardless of income. Depending on household size and income, some residents will qualify for 100% assistance.

Prior to the recent adjustment, the income limit for a household size of one was \$57,950. Now, the income limit for a household size of one is now \$96,600. This allows more District residents to be eligible for 100% assistance.

The table below provides the dollar figures for income limits by household size, from now through September 30, 2023:

| Household Size | Income-Eligible Assistance | Standard Assistance |
|----------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | \$99,600 | No Income Limit |
| 2 | \$113,800 | |
| 3 | \$128,100 | |
| 4 | \$142,300 | |
| 5 | \$153,700 | |
| 6 | \$165,100 | |
| 7 | \$176,500 | |
| 8 | \$187,800 | |

Assistance Provided:

| Assistance Level | Percentage of costs covered |
|----------------------------|--|
| Income-Eligible Assistance | 100% of costs, up to the established cap |
| Standard Assistance | 50% of costs, not to exceed \$2,500 |

To determine if your household is eligible for LPRAP, search for your address. If your private side pipes are lead, galvanized, or brass and the public spaces pipes are not, you are eligible for this program.

- You can apply online, by email, or through mail:
- Online LPRAP Application
 - Email your application and documentation to leadpipereplacement@dc.gov
 - Mail your LPRAP Application to DOEE, Attn: Lead Pipe Replacement Assistance Program, 1200 First Street NE, 5th Floor, Washington DC 20002.

DOEE's Lead-safe and Healthy Housing Division Celebrated Safe Toys and Gifts Awareness Month in December

DOEE STATIONED AT COSTCO TO SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT TOY AND GIFT SAFETY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The Lead-Safe and Healthy Housing Division (LSHHD) observed Safe Toys and Gifts Awareness Month by spreading the word about common items that are known to contain lead, and recalled toys with lead hazards. Members from the Division partnered with COSTCO to provide education to shoppers about toy and gift safety. Staff also conducted trivia games, and provided resources and reusable shopping bags filled with fun giveaways. The LSHHD also displayed toys and common household items that have tested positive for lead.

If you would like the LSHHD to table at your next health, housing, or community event and provide information about lead and healthy homes related topics, contact Gift Obote-Ukpolo at gift_obote@dc.gov or 202-308-4263.



What's Buzzing at DOEE?

DOEE'S SEEKS APPLICANTS FOR NEW HOME VISIT GRANT: "REDUCING INDOOR ASTHMA TRIGGERS THROUGH ASTHMA EDUCATOR HOME VISITS"

DOEE seeks eligible entities to improve children's long-term asthma control and to reduce COVID-19 transmission by conducting virtual home visits with housing and asthma experts, delivering asthma management supply kits, and providing online content to educate and equip the target population to address home environmental hazards. Approximately \$100,000 is available. One may obtain a copy of the application by any of the following means:

- Download from the Attachments at the bottom of the Notice of Funding Availability website.
- Email a request to grants@dc.gov with "Request copy of RFA-FY23-AQD-803 Asthma Educator Home Visits RFA" in the subject line.

The deadline for application submissions is 2/13/2023. The online application must be time-stamped by 11:59 p.m. on the date the application is due.

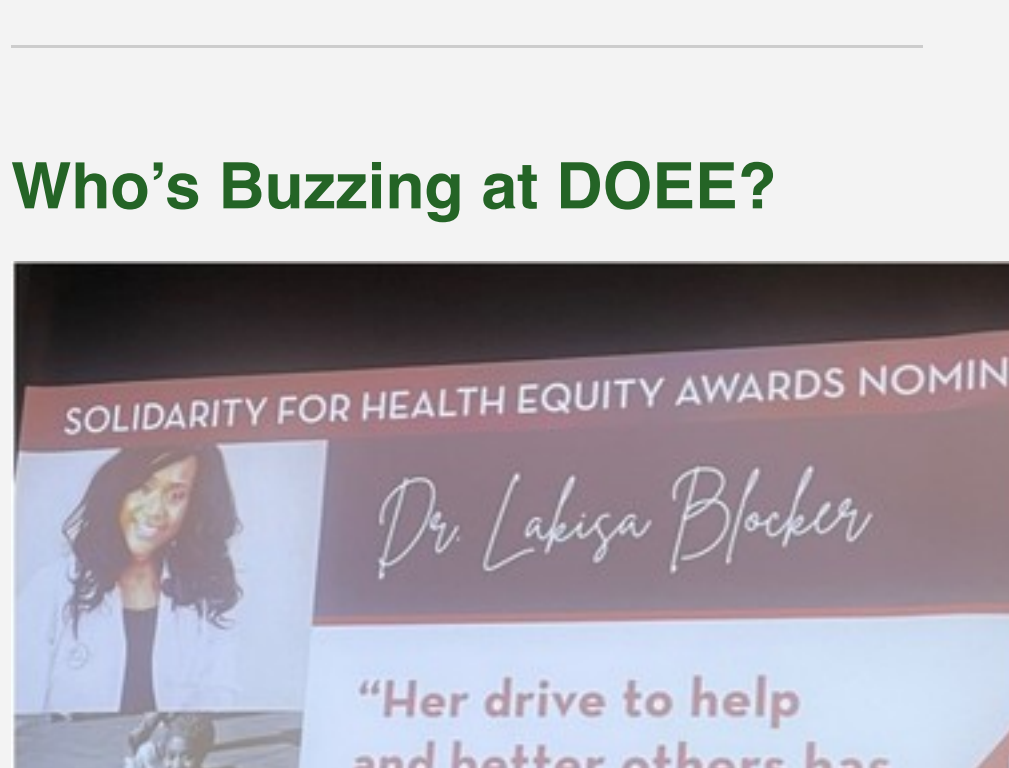
Eligibility: The institutions below may apply for these grant funds:

- Nonprofit organizations, including those with IRS 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) determinations;
- Faith-based organizations;
- Government agencies;
- Universities/educational institutions; and
- Private Enterprises.

For additional information regarding this RFA, write to: 2022ReducingHouseholdAsthmaTriggers.grants@dc.gov.

Submit an application through the Grants Application Portal.

Who's Buzzing at DOEE?



CHIEF OF RADON RECIEVES NOMINATION FOR A PUBLIC HEALTH AWARD

The Branch Chief of the licensing and certification Branch, Dr. Lakisha Blocker, has led the Branch for 4.5 years, overseeing five programs that support the health, environment, and the well-being of all District residents and overseeing millions of dollars in EPA grants to strengthen the Branch. Now, she has been recognized for her community work in public health.

On World AIDS day, Thursday December 1, 2022, Dr. Lakisha Blocker was presented with a nomination for the Solidarity for Health Equity by the Montgomery County HIV/STI Services. The 2022 Solidarity for Health Equity Awards celebrated individuals, organizations, and networks dedicated to alleviating racial, ethnic, and other health disparities that impede progress and thwart public health efforts in Montgomery County.

Through her personal experience watching beloved family members suffer from the effects of HIV/AIDS, Dr. Blocker has been devoted to destigmatizing the disease and increasing awareness of its ongoing prevalence. In addition to her work researching, educating, and coordinating linkage to care for HIV positive individuals in Montgomery County, Dr. Blocker currently serves as a Health and HIV Commissioner for suburban Maryland, appointed by DC's Department of Health. As a Health Commissioner, Dr. Blocker is passionate about ensuring no human is left behind and healthcare services are Accessible to all people. As a Health and HIV Commissioner, Dr. Blocker creates primary prevention medical plans and allocates funds towards HIV/AIDS related care and research.

A big congratulations to Dr. Blocker on her accomplishments!

Resources You Can Use

HEALTHY HOMES GUIDE TO CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

Flu season is here and we are still in the midst of a pandemic. Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) has also had an unprecedented effect on children. With all of this, now is perfect time to get the home clean and disinfected.

The National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH), in collaboration with the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA), has compiled resources and curated a new webpage to provide comprehensive and up-to-date information on cleaning and disinfection specific to COVID-19. With the help of the content and resources collected from federal agencies, national partners, and state and local agencies and organizations, the guide is intended to serve as advice for the public to safely and effectively navigate the cleaning and disinfection processes in their homes and daily lives.

While this resource was designed for response to COVID-19, many of the strategies and resources listed here will also be helpful for prevention of the flu and other infectious diseases.

Throughout this resource, you'll find cleaning and disinfecting guidance specific to these topics:

1. General Information and Best Practices
2. Hand Hygiene and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
3. Products
4. Green Cleaning
5. Ventilation
6. Homes
7. Facilities
8. Reopening

Healthy Housing Happenings

RECENT LEAD-RELATED RECALLS - The Consumer Product Safety Commission has reported at least three (3) recent toy recalls due to the presence of lead:

Anker Play Products Recalls Bolt Foldable Children's Scooters

The paint on the recalled scooters contains levels of lead that exceed the federal lead paint ban, posing a lead poisoning hazard. This recall involves Bolt Foldable Scooters for children. They are painted black with a blue or purple standing platform.

"APPLLC12080218142" is printed in white letters on the top left corner of the blue or purple standing platform. "Bot" is printed on a blue or purple sticker on the front of the scooter in white lettering. More information about this recall including specific items being recalled is available on the CPSC's website.

Tangame Busy Toy Houses. This recall involves the Tangame busy houses. The Montessori toy house is a wooden activity center cube shaped toy that measures 20 inches high by 12.5 inches wide by 12.5 inches deep with storage. It has four, black castor wheels at the bottom.

Activities on the sides of the house include a xylophone, an abacus, a telephone, a clock, a wheel, lights, gears, latches and others.

The yellow-painted metal zipper ban, posing a lead poisoning hazard; the orange plastic phone cord contains levels of lead that exceed the federal lead content ban; and the horn's blue plastic bulb contains a regulated phthalate that exceed the prohibition of specific phthalates. More information about this recall including specific items being recalled is available on the CPSC's website.

BS Interactive Recalls Stashables Children's Ramp Sets. Surface paint on the miniature skateboard and scooter toys in the ramp sets contain levels of lead that exceed the federal lead paint ban, posing a risk of lead poisoning. The miniature scooter toy also fails to comply with the federal lead content ban.

This recall involves Stashables-branded finger skateboard ramp sets. Each 6 or 11-piece toy set consists of miniature skateboard plastic ramps with graffiti art and include a mixture of toy skates, skateboards, caster boards, scooters, and bicycles. Only the scooters and skateboards are included in this recall. Stashables, 5+ years and the horn's blue pieces is printed on the front of the product packaging. More information about this recall including specific items being recalled is available on the CPSC's website.



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