

**Lead Technical  
Greg Putka, RS  
Lorain County Public Health**

The healthy homes and lead community was treated to some great news recently. The press release on March 23, 2018 from Green & Healthy Homes Initiative read “Congress passes omnibus budget bill with substantial increases to support healthy, lead-safe and energy efficient homes.” In a nut shell, the Budget includes substantial increases in lead, healthy homes and weatherization related funding. The highlights of the funding:

- \$230 million allocated for HUD’s Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes for lead hazard control and healthy homes interventions – this is an \$85 million increase. \$45 million is included for the Healthy Homes Initiatives.
- \$35 million in funding for CDC’s Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program – this is an \$18 million increase.
- \$246 million in funding for Department of Energy’s (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program – this is a \$23 million increase.

Some other noteworthy funding for programs:

- Increased funding for the HUD’s HOME Program by \$412 million and the CDBG Program by \$300 million.
- The Budget maintains funding for the EPA’s healthy homes programs, CDC’s National Asthma Control Program and CDC’s National Environmental Health Tracking Network.

Again, this is excellent news for not only public health officials, housing agencies, communities, and health sector partners, but also for the children, seniors, and residents in our state (and nationally). With this increased funding, we can strive to make sure our children, seniors and residents live in a healthy, safe and energy efficient home.

Finally, we are always looking for new members to become involved in lead or healthy homes related issues within OEHA. If you are interested in becoming a member of the OEHA Lead Committee, I encourage you to contact me either by phone at 440-284-3281 or by email at [gputka@loraincountyhealth.com](mailto:gputka@loraincountyhealth.com).