



1,000 Hours a Year Initiative Frequently Asked Questions

Grant Information Background

With the generous support of The Heinz Endowments, Women for a Healthy Environment (WHE) is re-launching the 1000 Hours a Year Project to help offset costs associated with testing and remediation of lead and radon in schools and early learning centers. This program is open to learning facilities in Allegheny County.

Before you apply

What do I need to know before I apply?

You will need to gather information about each building you are applying for, including the total square footage of each building; history of previous testing, if any, for lead and radon; total enrollment; and student demographic data.

How do I apply for the grant?

To apply for the lead and radon mini-grant program, please [complete a submission form](#). You must submit one form for every building.

Who is eligible to apply?

All public school districts; charter, private, and parochial schools; and licensed childcare providers in Allegheny County are welcome to apply. Grant awards will be prioritized for schools and childcare centers with demonstrated need, including those that serve children from environmental justice communities in Allegheny County, areas most at risk for lead and radon exposure through aging infrastructure and geographic location.

To see a map of radon risk for the state of PA, [click here](#). To see a map of Environmental Justice communities for Allegheny County, [click here](#). To see a map for Environmental Justice communities across PA, [click here](#).

How much is the grant?

Grant awards range from \$500 to \$5,000 per building. There is no matching requirement; however, it is likely the mini grants may not cover the full cost of testing and remediation.

How are the grants structured?

Once a grant is awarded, funds will be dispersed upon verification of services performed. Funding may be delivered as 1) payment made directly to the contractor performing the testing and/or remediation.



What activities does the grant fund?

Lead*: Grants for addressing lead cover the following activities for **ELC's ONLY**:

- Testing for lead in soil
- Testing for lead in dust/paint
- Lead remediation

WHE recommends testing lead in soil and lead in dust and paint if your facility was constructed prior to 1978.

**WHE is no longer offering Testing for lead in drinking water. Schools and ELC's should utilize the PA DEP Lead Reduction Grant <https://www.padepleadtestingprogram.org/>*

Radon: Grants for addressing radon cover the following activities:

- Radon testing
- Radon remediation (childcare centers only)

WHE recommends testing for radon if your facility has a basement level that children access.

Can I apply for a grant for lead and radon?

Yes, you may apply for a grant for lead, radon, and air quality testing at one time within the same application.

What are the requirements of the grant?

Facilities will be required to share the results of testing to receive reimbursement and to submit a brief one-page report after grant funds have been disbursed. As part of the grant agreement, these results must be shared with the general public. Program staff will assist with communication and remediation plans as necessary. Applicants can use the grant for one time only.

What is the application process?

[Complete the online application here.](#)

Questions? Email pecola@whepa.org or call 412-404-2872. X 104





After you apply

How long does it take to hear about my grant application's status?

After you submit an online application, you will receive a confirmation email indicating your grant submission has been received and will be reviewed by the grant program staff. Please allow 2-4 weeks for your grant submission to be reviewed and a final decision made about the grant award. If you have not heard back from the program staff within 30 days, please contact us directly.

What happens after I receive a grant?

After you receive a grant, the program staff will email the contact a grant agreement. The grant contact must review and return a signed grant agreement. No funds will be disbursed until this step is completed.

You will need to contact a certified testing company to schedule environmental hazards testing for your space. Program staff can assist with this process and provide recommendations for companies in your area.

The certified testing company will provide a report with the environmental testing results completed at the facility. If your facility needs remediation, program staff will work with you to put together a remediation and communication plan and assist with product and vendor selection.

Does the testing and remediation need to be completed by a certain timeline?

Yes. All grant activities must be completed within 1 calendar year of the signed grant agreement.

Will my school or childcare center's results be shared to the public?

As part of the grant requirements, all grant partners must share testing results with parents and guardians within the school or ELC's community.

What technical assistance is available?

Free technical assistance is provided to all grant recipients by program staff and includes:

- Referrals to certified lead and radon testing and remediation companies
- Building walk-throughs
- Sampling plan for lead in drinking water testing aligned to EPA standards
- Communication plan and parent letter templates
- Remediation plan if necessary
- Retesting plan if necessary
- Training and professional development workshops for custodial and facilities staff

Who do I contact for further questions?

Please contact Pecola Abele, pecola@whepa.org with any questions.