

# STATE OF DELAWARE



## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT DOVER

EXECUTIVE ORDER  
NUMBER SIXTEEN

TO: HEADS OF ALL STATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES  
RE: FORMATION OF TASK FORCE ON CHILDHOOD LEAD  
POISONING PREVENTION

WHEREAS, the health and well-being of children and the prevention of childhood diseases is of utmost concern to the people of Delaware; and

WHEREAS, childhood lead poisoning continues to be a pediatric health problem in the United States; and

WHEREAS, childhood lead poisoning is preventable through the elimination of lead hazards in the living environment; and

WHEREAS, according to 1990 U.S. census figures, the majority of Delaware's 58,000 children aged five and younger reside in homes built before 1980, and such homes are more likely to contain lead-based hazards; and

WHEREAS, a 1993 blood screening campaign by the Division of Public Health's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program revealed that 42 percent of the children screened had blood lead levels in the danger zone; and

WHEREAS, while the continued identification and treatment of children with elevated blood lead levels through blood screening programs is important, as it will continue to lower the average blood lead level in Delaware's children, it is in the public interest to focus lead poisoning prevention efforts on the elimination of lead hazards before children are poisoned; and

WHEREAS, the elimination of lead hazards from Delaware's living environment will require a cooperative effort among governmental agencies, pediatric health care providers, public housing and economic development agencies, civic and community organizations, public and private housing owners, the real estate industry, and parents; and

WHEREAS, the coordination and supplementation of existing resources, rather than the creation of new layers of government, will enable Delaware to direct the maximum amount of resources toward lead hazard reduction in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THOMAS R. CARPER, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Delaware, do hereby declare and order that:

1. A special task force is created to be called the Task Force on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention, the membership of which shall be appointed by me within thirty days of the issuance of this Order.

2. The goal of the Task Force is to spearhead the development of a comprehensive statewide primary prevention program to eliminate lead hazards from Delaware's living environment, thereby preventing the occurrence of lead poisoning.
3. The Task Force will meet over a six-month period to develop an integrated and coordinated lead poisoning primary prevention plan for Delaware. This plan should identify key roles for State and local government agencies, as well as the private sector. Areas of concern to be addressed by the Task Force include:
  - (a) Identification, coordination, and supplementation of existing State resources required to shift emphasis to primary prevention;
  - (b) Development of a legislative and regulatory package designed to augment existing laws which will support a comprehensive primary prevention program;
  - (c) Development of a mandatory certification program for lead paint removal workers;
  - (d) Establishment of a community-based public awareness program on lead hazards; and
  - (e) Identification of resources for abatement funds in low- and moderate-income housing.

4. The Task Force shall prepare a final plan to be submitted to the Governor on or before August 15, 1994, which shall prescribe the legislation and regulations needed to implement a comprehensive primary prevention program for Delaware and set forth a general timetable for implementation of that program.



APPROVED this 22<sup>ND</sup> day  
of December, 1993.

Thomas R. Carper  
Governor

ATTEST:

William J. Zullen  
Secretary of State