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**Ohio EPA Awards \$47,490 Environmental Education Grant to
LBS Consultants to Teach Lead-Safe Work Practices in Eastern Ohio**

Ohio EPA has awarded a \$47,490 environmental education grant to LBS Consultants to provide lead-safe work practice training in Belmont, Harrison, Jefferson and Monroe counties. Ten grants were awarded statewide for almost \$340,000.

This project will provide 30 local training sessions for 360 contractors, landlords and maintenance workers. The goal is to certify at least 125 firms in the U.S. EPA/HUD curriculum for lead safety related to renovation, repair and painting. The project also will provide six sessions for at least 48 people on U.S. EPA's lead clearance technician training, with the goal of having at least 75 percent of those attending become licensed by the Ohio Department of Health.

The project also includes outreach materials for eight public meetings on the dangers of lead poisoning. Only about 13 percent of contracting firms in the four target counties are certified to perform lead-safe renovation work. Nearly 70 percent of the housing stock was built prior to 1978. This presents the potential for workers and families to be exposed to lead poisoning during renovations and repairs.

The Ohio Environmental Education Fund is administered by Ohio EPA. Grants up to \$50,000 are funded from one-half of the civil penalties collected by the Agency for air and water pollution control violations. Eligible grant recipients include environmental groups, public and private schools, colleges and universities, trade or professional organizations, businesses and state and local governments. Approximately \$1 million is given each year.

The next OEEF application deadline is Jan. 17, 2012. An electronic letter of intent to apply is due on Jan. 10. For additional information, contact the Ohio Environmental Education Fund at (614) 644-2873 or visit www.epa.ohio.gov/oeef/.

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