

## Prevent another Flint

Good Evening Council Members - I am Queen Zakia Shabazz, Mother of a lead poisoned son, Founder of United Parents Against Lead (UPAL) and a member of the Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) Collaborative. I am here this evening to appeal to you to join us in protecting our most vulnerable and dependent population; the CHILDREN. As a parent who lives daily with the ravages of child lead poisoning I say that we must collectively do all that we can to protect children from lead's devastating and permanent effects. As elected officials we hold you accountable to apply for and secure federal, state and local funding that is available for lead hazard control, lead awareness and education. Twenty years ago when UPAL was founded our major foe was found in lead based paint. Today, in efforts to ensure that we all have access to potable water, we make a national call for the full and complete replacement of all lead service lines. In Richmond alone there are 14,000 lead service lines bringing water into our homes. Everyone needs water to live, let's be proactive in making sure our drinking water is safe. We can prevent another Flint. While we have seen the faces of some of the children of Flint Michigan, today I share with you the faces of three UPAL children, victims of environmental racism and injustice right here in Virginia. I share with you the LSLR Collaborative's brochure and invite you to visit our website. As you look at the faces of lead poisoned children please make a conscious decision to say NO MORE. A CHILD IS A TERRIBLE THING TO WASTE!

Sergio – EBL 60  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$   
Poisoned in 1991 – Norfolk, VA



Zaki - EBL 30  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$   
Poisoned in 1994 – Richmond, VA



Michael – EBL 89  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$   
Poisoned in 2015 – Petersburg, VA



## Members of the LSL Replacement Collaborative include:

(\*Steering Committee members)

- American Public Health Association
- American Water Works Association\*
- Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies\*
- Association of State Drinking Water Administrators
- Blue Green Alliance
- Children's Environmental Health Network\*
- Clean Water Action\*
- Environmental Defense Fund\*
- Justice and Sustainability Associates
- Learning Disabilities Association of America
- National Center for Healthy Housing
- National Association of County and City Health Officials
- National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates
- National Association of Water Companies\*
- National Conference of State Legislatures
- National Environmental Health Association
- National Rural Water Association
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- RESOLVE\*
- Rural Community Assistance Partnership
- Trust for America's Health
- United Parents Against Lead
- Water Research Foundation



### LSLR-COLLABORATIVE.ORG

The goal of the Collaborative is to accelerate voluntary LSL replacement in communities across the United States.

Funding has been provided by the following organizations:



W.K. KELLOGG FOUNDATION\*



PISCES FOUNDATION

The Collaborative is currently being and will continue to be funded by in-kind contributions from its members.

The Collaborative is not an advocacy organization. Its members may advocate for federal and state policy changes as individual organizations and not as representatives of the Collaborative.



# LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT COLLABORATIVE

Please direct any questions or comments about the Collaborative to [feedback@slr-collaborative.org](mailto:feedback@slr-collaborative.org)

## The work of the Lead Service Line (LSL) Replacement Collaborative is grounded in the following principles:

- Removal of lead service lines in contact with drinking water provides an opportunity to significantly reduce the risk of exposure to lead in drinking water.
- LSL replacement initiatives must be designed to ensure residents are protected during and after the removal and that the work is done in a cost effective manner.
- LSL replacement initiatives should address barriers to participation so that consumers served by LSLs can benefit equitably, regardless of income, race or ethnicity.
- A collaborative, community-based approach, built on contributions from residents, health officers, utilities, community leaders, and local elected officials, can help provide the strong foundation needed for successful action.
- Innovative models are needed to help communities find the tools, strategies and resources needed to replace LSLs based on the latest science and current best practices.
- By providing models for LSL replacement, it is possible to advance support for initiatives at all levels of government and in different types of communities.
- Successful LSL replacement initiatives will take careful planning and time.
- This effort is focused on mechanisms to support local action, not on EPA's efforts to revise the Lead and Copper Rule.

**The LSL Replacement Collaborative is a diverse group of public health, water utility, environmental, labor, consumer, and housing organizations from across the country working together to encourage communities to accelerate the full replacement of LSLs through collaborative efforts at the local level.**

The goal of the Collaborative is to accelerate voluntary LSL replacement in communities across the United States. To achieve this goal, the Collaborative is:

- Preparing information, tools, and models for LSL replacement
- Providing information on achievable, cost-effective, safe LSL replacement options
- Capturing and sharing lessons learned in communities
- Offering technical assistance and facilitation in forming LSL replacement initiatives

**To explore these tools, please visit:  
[WWW.LSLR-COLLABORATIVE.ORG](http://WWW.LSLR-COLLABORATIVE.ORG)**

The Collaborative encourages ongoing feedback to improve its tools and resources. To offer feedback, please visit:  
[www.lslr-collaborative.org/feedback](http://www.lslr-collaborative.org/feedback)

The Collaborative has developed web-based tools and resources intended to support an accelerate LSL replacement initiatives, including:

- A roadmap to help local communities formulate a plan for LSL replacement and tailor initiatives to local circumstances
- A series of replacement practices with technical information and tools to successfully carry out LSL replacement
- A compilation of policy opportunities to consider to better support local utility and community efforts to find and replace LSLs
- A compilation of other resources and information that may be useful to community leaders, elected officials, drinking water professionals, public health professionals, and concerned consumers.

