

WIIN 2107: Voluntary School and Childcare Lead Testing & Reduction Grant Program Guidelines

2024-2025 Grant Program



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Introduction

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is offering grant funding to eligible public schools and licensed childcare facilities located in Pennsylvania for activities to reduce lead in drinking water. These activities may include purchasing and installing hydration stations to remove lead, point-of-use (POU) devices, or replacement faucets. The primary goal of the Voluntary School and Childcare Lead Testing & Reduction Grant is to reduce children's exposure to lead in drinking water. Eligible applicants must have appropriate drinking water sample results showing an exceedance of the remediation trigger level (5 parts per billion) within 36 months prior to the date of application to qualify. Funding under this grant has been appropriated under 1464(d) of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), amended by section 2107 of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act. For more information on this opportunity, please visit <https://www.dep.pa.gov/Citizens/My-Water/PublicDrinkingWater/Pages/Lead-and-Drinking-Water.aspx>.

Before Applying

Applicants interested in applying for grant funding should consider the following **prior** to submitting an application:

- All applications will be submitted through the Commonwealth's Electronic Single Application (ESA) system. An account must be created if the applicant does not already have an existing Keystone Login. The application login can be found at <https://grants.pa.gov>.
- If the applicant is applying for funding for multiple water fixtures, only one application is needed. **Funding provided for any approved application will be up to \$3,000 per hydration station per 100 students in one building. Up to \$30,000 may be awarded per building / childcare facility location OR \$100,000 per school district / applicant Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN), whichever limit is reached first. Other POU devices or faucet replacements will be considered an allowable funding expense pending specific approval from DEP.**
- Applications must have sample results included as an attachment to demonstrate water fixture lead exceedances.
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to schedule a pre-application meeting to discuss their lead reduction plans to ensure they meet applicable criteria to receive funding.
- Applicants may only receive funding once for each water fixture exceeding the remediation trigger level – no double-dipping is allowed for cost matching with this or any other grant regarding this program.
- Approved applicants receive funding after the lead reduction project is completed; this grant program does not provide funding for upfront costs.

Program Eligibility

Eligible Applicants

Eligible project sites must be located in Pennsylvania and may include the following types of institutions:

- Childcare facilities (Pennsylvania-licensed or regulated childcare program)
 - Public or private
- Public schools (Local Educational Agency (LEA))
 - Elementary
 - Middle
 - High
 - Magnet schools that operate as an LEA under state law
 - Charter schools that operate as an LEA under state law

Schools and childcare facilities located in Pennsylvania may apply for this funding if they have the following:

- Sample results for lead in drinking water collected and analyzed by methods approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Results indicate an exceedance of the remediation trigger level (5 parts per billion)
- Sample result dates must be within 36 months prior to the date of your application

Eligible Projects

Eligible projects to be funded by this program include activities to reduce lead in drinking water for schools and childcare facilities. These lead reduction activities must follow the EPA’s 3Ts guidance (<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/3ts-reducing-lead-drinking-water>) and all applicable drinking water standards including National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) / American National Standards Institute (ANSI) 53 certification and Federal Buy America (BABA) requirements. A guide to choosing products with NSF 53 certification can be found at https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2018-12/documents/consumer_tool_for_identifying_drinking_water_filters_certified_to_reduce_lead.pdf. More information on BABA can be found at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/M-22-11.pdf>. Approved lead reduction activities may include purchasing and installing approved hydration stations, purchasing and installing approved POU devices certified to remove lead from faucets used for food preparation or drinking, and purchasing and installing approved, lead-free faucets to replace faucets used for food preparation or drinking. These costs include the purchase of the unit plus installation labor costs. Labor funded through this grant is subject to stipulations required by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Pre-application meetings are strongly suggested to be held prior to application submission to discuss eligibility. Pre-application meeting requests should be emailed to RA-EPWIINLEAD@pa.gov.

Ineligible Projects

Ineligible projects that will not be approved for funding include applications that do not have proper drinking water sample results exceeding the remediation trigger level. Applicants that do not meet the criteria stated under program eligibility will not be considered for funding under this program. This includes installation of hydration stations that do not have the NSF/ANSI 53 certification. Applicants seeking funding assistance for lead line replacements are not eligible under this program. Please reach out to your drinking water provider and/or your Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PennVEST) regional funding specialist for more details on any potential funding for projects. More

information can be found at <https://www.pennvest.pa.gov/Services/Pages/Regional-Assistance-New.aspx>. Applicants that have received funding from another program for the same project that they are applying for under this program are not eligible.

Funding

Funding may be granted if all criteria are met for the grant program. Applicants will enter into a full grant agreement. Successful applicants are responsible for the initial purchase of the hydration stations, POU devices, replacement faucets, and the associated labor costs for installation. Once the work is completed and meets all grant program criteria, approved work may then be granted reimbursement funding. Funding will be available on a first-come, first-served basis as funds are available. The following limitations apply regarding funding projects:

- For each water fixture that exceeds the remediation trigger level, the applicant may receive **up to \$3,000** per hydration station including labor to install
 - Funding will not be granted in exceedance of \$3,000 to replace the affected water fixture
- Funding may be granted for each affected water fixture to install hydration stations following the ratio of one hydration station per 100 students enrolled per school or childcare facility location
- For each water fixture that exceeds the remediation trigger level, the applicant may receive **up to \$500** per faucet replacement including labor to install
 - Funding will not be granted in exceedance of \$500 to replace the affected water fixture
- For each water fixture that exceeds the remediation trigger level, the applicant may receive **up to \$500** per POU device including labor to install
 - Funding will not be granted in exceedance of \$500 to replace the affected water fixture
- A maximum allocation of any of the following situations will be applied, whichever is reached first:
 - A maximum of one hydration station per 100 students **OR**
 - A maximum of \$30,000 may be awarded per building / childcare facility location **OR**
 - A maximum of \$100,000 may be awarded per school district / applicant FEIN for childcare facilities.
- All receipts for product and labor costs must be retained and submitted to RA-EPWIINLead@pa.gov for reimbursement along with the Application for Reimbursement and Application for Reimbursement Supplemental Sheet.
- Once reduction activities are completed, confirmation samples may be required indicating lead in drinking water results are below the remediation trigger level.

How to Apply

- **Applicants are strongly encouraged to schedule a pre-application meeting to discuss their lead reduction plans to ensure they meet applicable program criteria. Meetings can be scheduled by emailing RA-EPWIINLEAD@pa.gov.**
- Applications will only be accepted through submissions to the Commonwealth's Electronic Single Application (<https://grants.pa.gov>)

- Create a Keystone Login account if your facility does not have a current registered user
- A user may submit one application for multiple LEAs within one school district or multiple childcare facilities under one FEIN
- Information required for a complete application:
 1. Applicant name, address, contact information, North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code, Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN) or Social Security Number (SSN), and Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) obtained from SAM.gov
 2. Project locations – include the location of **each** water fixture the applicant is applying for funding
 3. Description of the project including the age range of children served by the facilities applying for funding, the number of affected water fixtures exceeding the remediation trigger level (5 parts per billion), the chosen lead reduction corrective actions being pursued, and whether labor costs are being included
 4. Budget of estimated costs of lead reduction activities (such as cost of hydration stations to remove lead) with estimated labor costs, if applicable
 - **NOTE:** Budget may not exceed the limitations listed under “Funding”
 5. Type of facility funding is being applied
 6. School district the facility is within, if applicable
 7. Entity is public or private (private schools are not eligible)
 8. Number of enrolled students
 9. Number of full-time faculty
 10. Facility building construction date
 11. Copies of all drinking water sample results that exceed the lead remediation trigger level for all water fixtures that funding is being requested
 12. Percent of students enrolled in free or reduced lunch program, if applicable
 13. Percent of families receiving subsidized tuitions, if applicable. Include families enrolled in Child Care Works, Infant Toddler Contracted Slots, Pre-K Counts, Early Head Start, military assistance, or the provider’s own tuition assistance program.
 14. Documentation on any construction or materials related to the lead reduction activities for affected water fixtures
 15. Estimated costs of lead reduction activities and installation labor costs.

Application Evaluation

Applications will be reviewed and initial comments will be shared with the applicant within 30 days following the end of the application submission month. For example, an applicant that submits their application in the month of June can anticipate a response by July 31. An initial administrative completeness review will be conducted for all applications received. Pending that review, applications will undergo a technical review. Application review will be conducted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Minor mistakes on an application will not automatically deny a facility of funding. Applicants will have an opportunity to correct the mistakes. Significant mistakes or gaps in information may automatically deny the application, however, the applicant will have an opportunity to reapply.

Open Enrollment

Applicants may apply for funding from the open solicitation date and will remain open until funds are exhausted. If funds are no longer available for the grant program, the enrollment period will close, and an announcement will be posted on the program's webpage.

Grant Award and Contract Conditions

- Applicants will be notified of grant award determination.
- If an applicant is approved for an award, they will receive the grant agreement to complete and return; only individuals with legal authority on behalf of the facility may complete this agreement.
- Once a grant agreement is awarded, applicants will have up to one (1) year to complete lead reduction activities and submit receipts and applicable documentation to the DEP. If lead reduction activities have not been completed within that year, the grant agreement may be subject to termination. Special permission may be granted to extend the deadline with prior written approval from DEP.
- In order to receive reimbursement, all receipts of purchase must be maintained and submitted to DEP.

Conditions

Applicants must follow the requirements set in the Voluntary School and Childcare Lead Testing & Reduction Grant Program Implementation Document. If lead reduction activities include a filter, the filter must have the NSF/ANSI 53 certification. NSF 42 is also recommended but not required. Applicants may be subject to follow Buy America Build America (BABA) requirements.

Questions

If you have any questions regarding the grant program requirements, application requirement, or any other inquiries, please direct questions via email to RA-EPWIINLEAD@pa.gov.