

**WIIN 2107 Grant Program**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**  
October 21, 2019

**What does the WIIN Act, section 2107, authorize?**

Section 1464(d) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), as amended by section 2107 of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN), authorizes EPA to award grants to states for assistance in voluntary testing for lead in drinking water at schools and child care programs. As defined in SDWA section 1464(d)(1)

**What is the objective of the grant program?**

The principal objective of the program is to assist schools and child care programs to test for lead in drinking water, utilizing EPA's [3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities](#) guidance. The goals of the grant program are to:

- Reduce children's exposure to lead in drinking water
- Help states target funding toward schools unable to pay for testing
- Utilize the 3Ts model to establish best practices for a lead in drinking water prevention program
- Foster sustainable partnerships at the state and local level to allow for more efficient use of existing resources and exchange of information among experts in various education and health sectors
- Enhance community, parent, and teacher cooperation and trust

**What does the grant requirement mean when it says, "the grantee must utilize EPA's 3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities guidance?"**

The grantee must utilize EPA's [3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities](#) guidance (**3Ts Guidance**) when implementing the program to test for lead in drinking water in schools and child care facilities. 3T's Guidance includes the following elements:

1. **Communication** should be integrated throughout the development and implementation of the lead testing in drinking water in school and child care program. Communication should establish key partnerships to support the program as well as keeping the public informed.
2. **Training** school officials to raise awareness of the potential occurrences, causes and health effects of lead in drinking water. Utilize established partnerships to develop program plans and to assign responsibilities that provide the framework for an effective program.

3. **Testing** drinking water in schools and child care facilities to identify potential problems utilizing existing states guidance for testing or, when not established, utilizing 3T's guidance for testing.
4. **Taking Action** by developing and implementing a plan to reduce lead in drinking water and communicate to parents, staff, and the larger school community.

### **What is considered an eligible project?**

Grant funds shall be expended in accordance with:

- The EPA's 3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities guidance.

Under this grant local education agencies must also:

- Make available a copy of the results of any testing for lead in drinking water carried out using grant funds, if applicable, in the administration offices and, to the extent practicable, on the internet website of the local educational agency for inspection by the public and
- Notify parent, teacher, and employee organizations of the availability of the results.

### **How much money will Florida receive?**

EPA will award approximately \$1.752 million for the Lead Testing in School and Child Care Program Drinking Water Grant Program in Florida.

### **Is this one-time funding?**

EPA will award approximately \$43.7 million for the 2019 Lead Testing in School and Child Care Program Drinking Water Grant Program. In accordance with 33 U.S.C. 2201, subject to the availability of appropriations, the Program is authorized to be appropriated \$20 million for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021 to be made available to states, tribes and territories participating in the Program.

### **Can all schools' facilities use grant funding for testing, including private or charter schools?**

The award to states will provide assistance in voluntary testing for lead contamination in drinking water at schools and child care programs as defined in SDWA section 1464(d)(1):

(A) Child Care Program- The term 'child care program' has the meaning given the term 'early childhood education program' in section 103(8) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1003(8)).

(B) Local Education Agency- The term 'local education agency' means:

1. a local education agency (as defined in section 8101 of Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801));
2. a tribal education agency (as defined in section 3 of the National Environmental Education Act (20 U.S.C. 5502)); and
3. a person that owns or operates a child care program facility.

The term "local education agency" (**LEA**) as defined in section 8101 of Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801) means a public board of education or other public authority legally constituted within a state to administer a service for: public elementary schools or secondary schools in a city, county, township, school district, or other political subdivision of a state, or recognized in a state as an administrative agency for its public elementary schools or secondary schools. For example, this would include public school districts, Educational Service Agencies, such as Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (**BOCES**), Intermediate Educational Units, and those charter schools that operate as LEAs under state law. Private schools are not included within the definition of LEA.

States can also use grant funding to test lead in drinking water at public and private child care facilities.

The program is designed to reduce exposure of children to lead in drinking water at schools and child care facilities. EPA recognizes that states may not be able to test all schools and child care facilities through this grant; as such, EPA recommends prioritizing those facilities where children may be more vulnerable to lead exposure. Grant funding to child care programs and local education agencies should be prioritized to target the following:

1. Schools and child care programs in underserved and/or low-income communities [e.g., schools with at least 50% of the children receiving free and reduced lunch and Head Start facilities];
2. Elementary and child care facilities that primarily care for children 6 and under; and
3. Older facilities that are more likely to contain lead plumbing; schools built before 1986 are more likely to have lead pipes, fixtures and solder.

### **Can tribal private schools receive money to test for lead in drinking water?**

The term "tribal education agency" is defined in the National Environmental Education Act as a school or community college which is controlled by an Indian tribe, band, or nation, including any Alaska Native village, which is recognized as eligible for special programs and services provided by the US to Indians because of their status as Indians and which is not administered by the Bureau of India Affairs (**BIA**). Therefore, any school, public or private, that serves federally recognized Native populations, and is not BIA, is eligible.

### **Can grant funds be used to replace water fountains or to remediate lead contamination in school or child care drinking water?**

No. Grant funding can only be used to establish and implement a lead testing program utilizing EPA's 3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities guidance.

However, section 2105 of the WIIN Act, Reducing Lead in Drinking Water, creates a new grant program for lead reduction projects. Eligible entities include community water systems, non-governmental organizations, tribal water systems, nontransient noncommunity water systems, and municipality or state, interstate, or inter-municipal agencies. Eligible projects include projects or activities the primary purpose of which is to reduce the concentration of lead in water for human consumption. Priority will be given to disadvantaged communities with an action level exceedance in the last three years or to address lead levels in school, daycare, or other facility that primarily serves children. The grant will be solicited in a Request for Applications (**RFA**), which will be released in the summer of 2019. To learn more, contact [WIINDrinkingWaterGrants@epa.gov](mailto:WIINDrinkingWaterGrants@epa.gov).

### ***What is EPA's 3T's for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities?***

EPA's [3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities](#) was developed to assist schools and child care facilities with lead in their drinking water, implement prevention programs using a "3Ts" approach: Training, Testing, and Taking Action. It is intended for use by school personnel interested in reducing lead exposure.

### **Do schools and child care facilities that are considered public water systems (PWS) qualify for this grant funding?**

Yes

**What is the remediation level for lead in schools and child care facilities?**

There is no recommended remediation level in the updated guidance. EPA encourages schools to prioritize remediation efforts based on the highest lead sample results and to use the steps in the toolkit to pinpoint potential lead sources to reduce their lead levels.

**Is there a time limit to use the funds allocated for this grant?**

Yes, funds should be obligated by the state no later than two years from the beginning of the project period.