

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)



Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities



EPA Lead Strategy



October 27, 2022: EPA Released First-ever Agency-Wide Strategy to Reduce Lead Exposures and Disparities in U.S. Communities

- This work is supported by the unprecedented level of resources flowing to EPA through President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which includes \$15 billion in dedicated funding to replace lead pipes and service lines and remove lead from soil and contaminated sites
- New actions in the strategy include:
 - **Lead Service Line Replacement Accelerators**, which will provide targeted technical assistance and develop best practices to help address the barriers disadvantaged communities face in replacing lead service lines.
 - **New federal agency collaboration** with the Food and Drug Administration and the Consumer Product Safety Commission to address lead in food, cosmetics, and other consumer goods.
 - **Development of new educational and engagement materials** on children's health and maternal health regarding lead and heavy metals in cultural products and cookware.

EPA Initiatives for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities



EPA Voluntary Program for Lead Testing and Remediation

- ✓ MOU on Reducing Lead Levels in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities
- ✓ 3Ts Program (Training, Testing and Taking Action)
- ✓ Voluntary School and Child Care Lead Testing and Reduction Grant Program

EPA Regulation for Public Water Systems

- ✓ Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR)
- ✓ **New regulation under development Lead and Copper Rule Improvements**



EPA MOU on Reducing Lead Levels in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities

- Partners -



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water

U.S. Depart. of Agriculture, Rural Development Agency

U.S. Depart. of Education

U.S. Depart. of Health and Human Services, Agency for Children and Families' Office of Head Start and Office of Early Childhood Development

U.S. Depart. of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

U.S. Depart. of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service

U.S. Depart. of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education

American Water Works Association

American School Health Association

Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies

Association of State Drinking Water Administrators

Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc.

National Association of Water Companies

National Rural Water Association

Rural Community Assistance Partnership

United South and Eastern Tribes

LCRR Sampling for Lead in Schools



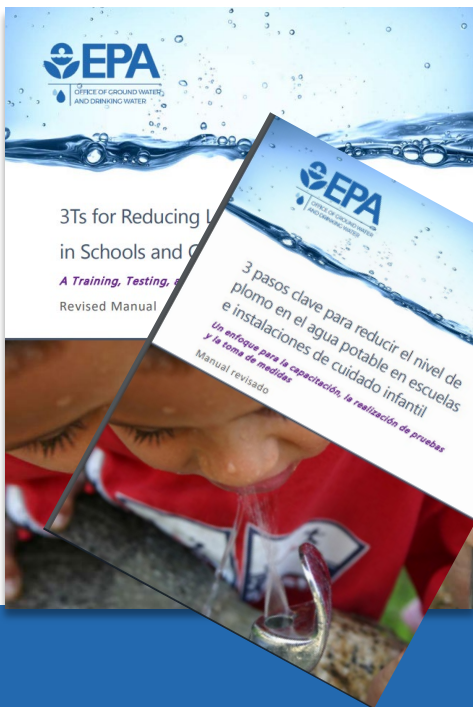
- Requires community water systems to test for lead in elementary schools and child care facilities.
 - Develop a list of all licensed schools and child care facilities they serve.
 - Elementary schools and child care facilities are sampled once over a 5-year period.
 - Secondary schools are sampled if they request it.
- After one 5-year period, the water system must sample for lead in any school or child care facility on request
- Systems must provide a copy of EPA's *3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities*.
- EPA does not have the statutory authority under the Safe Drinking Water Act to require schools and child care facilities to take remediation actions or conduct additional sampling.

EPA 3Ts Program for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water for Schools and Child Care Facilities



TRAINING – TESTING – TAKING ACTION

3Ts Manual (English and Spanish)



Training school and child care officials to raise awareness of lead in drinking water.

Testing drinking water in schools and child care facilities to identify potential lead problems.

Taking action to reduce lead in drinking water.



3Ts 7-Module Toolkit



View
School-specific
Resources

View
Child Care-specific
Resources

View
Additional
Resources

EPA 3Ts tools and outreach materials to Train, Test & Take Action



3Ts Tools

(Published from 2020-2022)

- 1) Ensuring Drinking Water Quality in Child Care Facilities During and After Extended Closures*
- 2) Ensuring Drinking Water Quality in Schools During and After Extended Closures*
- 3) Parent Communication Template Letter*
- 4) Webinar: EPA & USDA Grants and Loans
- 5) Data eTrackers – Tracks Inventory, testing results, and Actions*
- 6) Toolkit (Manual)*
- 7) Sampling Collection Field Guide*
- 8) Sampling video (7 mins.)*
- 9) Sampling Poster for Child Care Facilities*
- 10) Plan eBuilder for Child Care*
- 11) Plan eBuilder for Schools

Published in August 2022



EPA 3Ts Webpage: <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/3Ts>

*Spanish translation in progress



Potential Funding Sources for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities



- Assist schools and child care facilities identify potential funding sources for lead testing and remediation plus water quality-related projects
- Information on national foundations, corporations, state, and federal agencies that have a strong commitment to support school and child care improvement initiatives
- This guide includes:
 - 4 federal programs
 - 79 state programs
 - 115 foundations/companies providing funding opportunities



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Water

Grant Funding



Priority areas of the Voluntary School and Child Care Lead Testing and Reduction Grant Program



- Disadvantaged, low-income, and underserved communities (under SDWA, those that lack household water or wastewater services)
- Small communities (under SDWA, population of less than 10,000 individuals and lacks the capacity to incur debt sufficient to finance a project)
- Schools with at least 50% of the children receiving free and reduced lunch and Head Start facilities
- Older facilities that are more likely to contain lead plumbing
- Tribal elementary and child care facilities that primarily care for children six years and under
- Tribal communities and Indian Nations

More details -- WIIN Grant: Voluntary School and Child Care Lead Testing and Reduction Grant Program: <https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/wiin-grant-voluntary-school-and-child-care-lead-testing-and-reduction-grant-program>

State Voluntary School and Child Care Lead Testing and Reduction Grant Program



Purpose of Grant

- Reduce children’s exposure to lead in drinking water
- Utilizing EPA’s 3Ts (Training, Testing, and Taking Action) model or another model no less stringent to establish best practices

Who Receives Funding

- States & Territories that have identified participation through a call for a *Notice of Intent to Participate*

Total Funds Allocated

- ~\$43 million in FY 2018 & 2019
- ~\$26 million in FY 2020
- ~\$26.5 million in FY 2021
- ~\$36 million in FY 2022 (estimated)
- ~\$35 million in FY 2023 (estimated)

Contact Information:

EPA Regional and State agency contacts: <https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/wiin-2107-lead-testing-school-and-child-care-program-drinking-water-state-grant-program>

Tribal Voluntary School and Child Care Lead Testing and Reduction Grant Program



Who Receives Funding?

Seven tribal consortia are participating

- The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
- Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council
- Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona
- Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan
- Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board
- Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council
- United South and Eastern Tribes

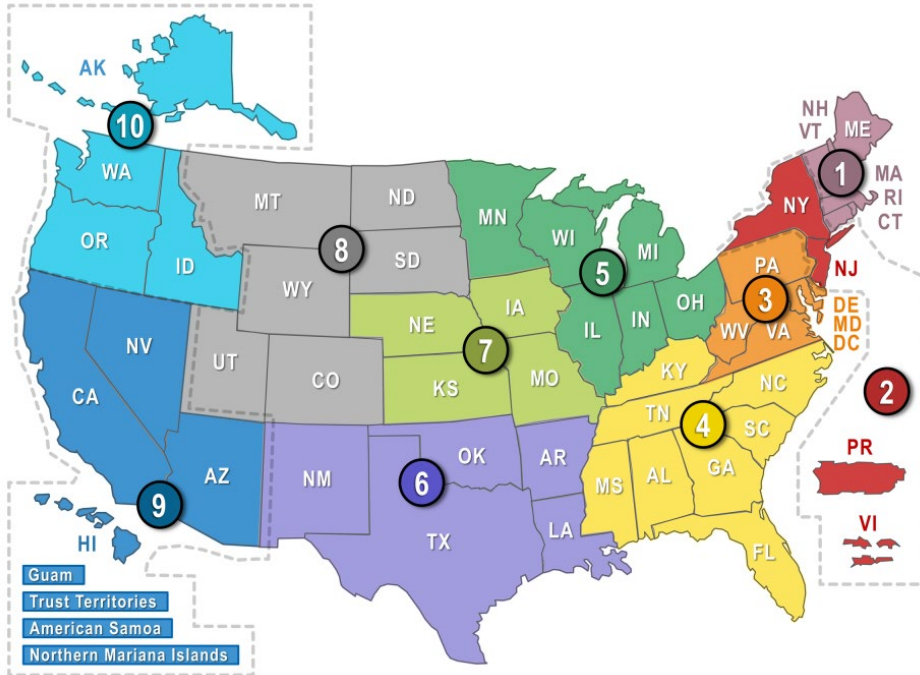
Total Funds Allocated

- \$4.4 million in FY 18-20
- \$1.7 million in FY 21
- ~\$2 million in FY 22 (estimated)
- ~\$2 million in FY 23 (estimated)

Contact Information

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U.S. EPA Tribal program coordinator

Grant funding awarded to the EPA Regions for their states



Regions	Awarded Amount (Million)*
1	\$8.4
2	\$3.5
3	\$7.2
4	\$13
5	\$13
6	\$9.6
7	\$4.1
8	\$4.8
9	\$10.8
10	\$3.7
Total	\$78.1

State Voluntary School and Child Care Lead Testing and Reduction Grant Program

*FY18 – 21 funds awarded

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)



- Also known as the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA)
- Signed by President Biden on November 15, 2021
- Historic investment in key programs and initiatives implemented the U.S. EPA to build safer, healthier, cleaner communities.
- Includes \$50 billion to EPA to strengthen the nation's drinking water and wastewater systems – the single largest investment in water that the federal government has ever made.
- Approximately \$30 billion of this funding through the existing Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs.



BIL changed the Voluntary School and Child Care Lead Testing and Reduction Grant Program

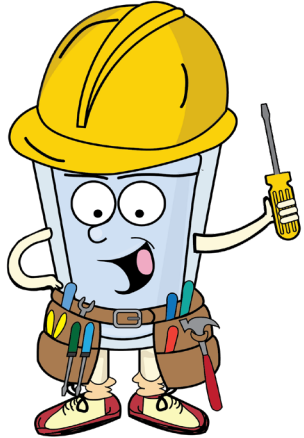
Expanded the program to allow funding for:

- **Lead remediation** (in addition to testing)
- Increases authorization of funding appropriations to approximately **~\$200 million** for the coming five years of the program (FY 2022 – 2026)



Lead remediation efforts supported by the grant

Use grant to replace, remove, or install:



- internal plumbing
- faucets
- water fountains
- water filler stations
- Point-of-Use (POU) devices (e.g., NSF/ANSI certified filters)
- lead service lines
- other lead apparatus related to drinking water

What is the data on the Voluntary School and Child Care Lead Testing and Reduction Grant Program? (Reflects progress from Oct. 2020 – Sept. 2021)



	Total Number of Samples	Total Number of Facilities Tested	Total Number of Facilities With Lead Results Exceeding PRT
Schools	51,000	2,000	600 (30%)
Child Cares	24,000	6,000	400 (6.7%)
Total	75,000	8,000	1,000 (11%)

Note: Program Remediation Trigger (PRT) varies and is set by the state or school/child care facility
Data Source: Annual Reports FY 2021, approximate values

Access to State Voluntary School and Child Care Lead Testing and Reduction Grant Program



- Funding flows from U.S. EPA → State → Schools and Child Care facilities
- State agency & U.S. EPA Regional contacts are available at the following link:
 - <https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/wiin-2107-lead-testing-school-and-child-care-program-drinking-water-state-grant-program>



Focus for 2023: Lead Testing and Remediation in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities



- 1) Build state program capacity to address implementation challenges:
 - lack of regulatory support, technical assistance, data management, communication outreach.
- 2) Leverage other federal funding for on-going testing and remediation
- 3) Continue activities with partners to increase lead testing and remediation in child care and early childhood facilities
- 4) Continue activities with MOU partners to develop coordinated messaging
 - Particularly on risk and remediation efforts