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WIIN Lead Testing in School and Child Care Program Drinking Water Grant Application Guidance

Introduction

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) grant awarded the Iowa Department of Education funds to support public schools and child care programs in voluntary testing for lead in drinking water. The WIIN, "Lead Testing in School and Child Care Program Drinking Water Grant" is designed to reduce lead exposure for children, who are most vulnerable, at public schools and child care centers using the EPA 3 T's for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water program. The grant will be administered by the Iowa Department of Education in partnership with the State Hygienic Laboratory, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and the Iowa Department of Public Health.

The Iowa Department of Education has identified goals and priorities consistent with the priorities outlined in the EPA's State Lead Testing in School and Child Care Program Drinking Water Grant Implementation Document (www.epa.gov/safewater/grants).

This guidance will address the voluntary application and implementation of the WIIN Lead Testing in School and Child Care Program Drinking Water Grant for eligible public schools and child care centers.

Eligible Facilities

Iowa has 514,824 students enrolled in a total of 1612 public school buildings in 333 school districts, and 49,396 children participating in 673 child care facilities, who also participate in Iowa Department of Education nutrition programs (2019). Grant funds estimate 40% participation of eligible schools and child care programs through WIIN I funding and another 20% participation through WIIN II funding.

Eligible facilities include Iowa public school buildings and child care centers that participate in Iowa Department of Education nutrition programs.

Priority school and child care programs are within low-income areas, facilities with children six years of age or under and facilities built in 1985 or prior to the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations. It is within the Iowa Department of Education's goal to reduce lead exposure at these facilities by encouraging voluntary testing for lead, identifying potential lead sources, and taking action.

Allowable Expenses

An outcome of WIIN Grant funding is the development of a state lead testing in drinking water in schools and child care facilities management strategy that supports a robust training, monitoring, and maintenance plan that protects children from lead exposure now and in the future. Grant funds allow for educational resources, training, testing in eligible facilities, and re-testing after remediation if actionable levels are found. Training will include a variety of strategies and resources for facilities that find actionable levels of lead in drinking water, which are consistent with state and federal regulations of 15 parts per billion or more. Funds will be used to implement the grant through contracts with partners and resources provided. Eligible schools or child care programs will not incur costs for testing. Educational resources will be shared that provide information about lead, the health effects of lead exposure, the importance of testing for lead in schools and child care programs, as well as general education on the health benefits of clean, safe drinking water.

Public School and Child Care Program Application

Eligible facilities interested in participating in the WIIN Lead Testing in School and Child Care Program Drinking Water Grant may apply by completing the [Application Form](#), which will collect the following information:

- Primary contact information
- Name and enrollment of site(s)
- Facility number of public school or child care center
 - The public school facility number is the 4 digit district number located in the [Public School Building Directory](#)
 - The child care center facility number is the CACFP Agreement number
- Confirmation of priority population

After submitting the Application Form, the primary contact will have access to the required training site that will provide additional information, resources and instructions. Training follows the [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\) 3T's for Reducing lead in Drinking Water](#) program.

Required Training and Implementation

The Department of Education in collaboration with the State Hygienic Laboratory, Department of Natural Resources and Department of Public Health developed the Quality Assurance Project Plan to implement the WIIN grants. The EPA 3T's program for reducing lead in drinking water focuses on training, testing, and taking action. Registered participants will complete six self-paced training modules.

- Module 1: Introduction to Iowa's water sources and water quality
- Module 2: Introduction to the EPA 3T's program
- Module 3: How to communicate and conduct a facility walkthrough
- Module 4: How to collect a water samples
 - public schools will test three water outlets
 - child care programs will test two water outlets
- Module 5: Communicating results and completing forms
- Module 6: Additional Education and Resources

Participating facilities will receive water testing supplies from and return samples to the State Hygienic Laboratory as detailed in the training modules. Testing results will be sent to the public school or child care program and the Iowa Department of Education. Training will include a variety of remediation strategies that a participating school or child care program could use if actionable lead levels are detected. Funding allows for voluntary re-testing of water outlets following remediation efforts. Per grant requirements, testing results will be communicated by the school or child care program and made available through the Iowa Department of Education.

Questions and Additional Guidance

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