



WIIN Lead Testing in Schools and Child Care Program Drinking Water Grants

Introduction

With funding appropriated under section 1464(d) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, amended by the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIN) section 2107, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) grants awarded the Iowa Department of Education funds to support public schools and child care centers in voluntary testing for lead in drinking water. The WIIN “Lead Testing in School and Child Care Program Drinking Water Grants” are designed to reduce lead exposure for children, who are most vulnerable, at schools and child care centers.

WIIN Grant Objectives

- Reduce children’s exposure to lead in drinking water
- Help states target funding toward schools and child care programs unable to pay for testing
- Utilize the EPA 3Ts model or model no less stringent 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 educational and health sectors
- Enhance community, parent, and teacher cooperation and trust

The Iowa Department of Education is committed to addressing lead in drinking water in our schools and childcare programs, to identify a reduction of childhood lead exposure across our state and to support childhood health and safety. The Iowa Department of Education will assist in voluntary testing for lead contamination in drinking water and provide education through WIIN I and WIIN II grant funding.

Funding for WIIN I, Lead Testing in Public Schools and Child Care Drinking Water Grant for \$460,000 was awarded in September 2019 with a testing goal of 40% of eligible school and child care facilities. WIIN II was awarded in October 2020 for \$289,000 for additional educational resources and a testing goal of 20% of eligible school and child care facilities. Grant implementation was delayed and the Iowa Department of Education received a no-cost extension of WIIN funding. Grant activities will begin in 2022 in accordance with work plans and funding allowances.

Testing in Public Schools and Child Care Programs

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. Voluntary testing for lead contamination in drinking water at public schools and childcare facilities will be implemented in accordance with the

America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) of 2018. 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.

Public schools and child care programs will voluntarily apply to participate and carry out grant activities. Participating public schools will test three outlets for water consumption and child care programs will test two outlets for water consumption at each eligible facility.

Qualifying schools and child care programs can register their participation by completing the Iowa Department of Education Lead Testing in Schools and Child Care Program Drinking Water Grant Application. Registered facilities will be provided with online training and technical assistance in the Environmental Protection Agencies (EPA) 3T's program including resources and a timeline for completing grant activities. Participating public schools and child care programs will be required to form a communication plan, follow water testing procedures, and complete reporting. Grant funds provide training, educational material, testing, and retesting 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. Water testing results will be made available by the public school or child care program and through the Iowa Department of Education. Applications will be accepted beginning in 2022 and on a rolling basis as funding and grant plans allow.

For interested public schools and child care programs, see the Lead Testing in School and Child Care Program Drinking Water Grant Application Guidance.

Questions and Additional Guidance

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