

Program Overview

The Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment's (DWEE) Lead Testing and Reduction Grant Program provides funding assistance to schools, local educational agencies, and licensed child care centers to support their efforts to test for and reduce lead in drinking water.

The program is designed to reduce children's exposure to lead in drinking water. Children aged 6 and younger are the most vulnerable to lead's effects.

Facilities that have completed drinking water lead testing through the state are eligible to receive funding for remediation activities. These activities include the removal and replacement of water faucets, fixtures, and fountains to reduce lead exposure in children. Plumbing replacement may be available pending available funds.

Applicants will submit a request for all eligible facilities and remediation activities. Selected recipients will enter into an agreement with DWEE that details the project. Grant funds will be disbursed upon the substantial completion of the remediation activities.

Eligible facilities that have not tested their drinking water fixtures can do so by contacting the DWEE.



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Energy, and Environment
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LEAD TESTING AND REDUCTION GRANT PROGRAM

For Schools and
Licensed Child Care
Facilities



Eligible Recipients Testing

Sites eligible for free testing include water fixtures used for consumption throughout public, private and parochial schools and licensed child care facilities.

The drinking water samples are sent to and processed through the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services' Public Health Environmental Laboratory. Results for each fixture sampled will be reported back to the Recipient.

Results will be shared through local communication strategies and posted on the DWEE's website (<https://dwee.nebraska.gov>).

Eligible Recipients for Remediation

Eligible recipients for remediation activities include public, private and parochial¹ schools that are classified as a Local Educational Agency (LEA), and licensed child care programs.

Eligible facilities must have completed drinking water testing through the DHHS's Public Health Environmental Lab.

Remediation Activities

To initiate remediation activities in eligible schools and child care programs, DWEE is implementing a Program Remediation Trigger Level of 10 parts per billion (ppb) or above.

Funding will be prioritized to facilities based on the age of the children served and communities designated as Disadvantaged Communities by DWEE's definition.

Recipients receiving this federal funding are required to comply with pre- and post-installation program, state, and federal regulations, which include but are not limited to Procurement, Suspension and Debarment Certification, and Build American Buy America (BABA) Act. These requirements will be detailed in writing to these recipients.

¹Currently private and parochial schools are eligible to receive grant funding by entering into a local agreement with their respective local educational agency or other eligible entity as the "pass through" agency.

Eligible Costs

Lead testing and remediation activities must be related to drinking water fixtures and include:

- Faucets and similar fixtures;
- Water fountains;
- Water filler stations;
- Internal premise plumbing (*pending availability of funds*); and
- Full external service lines (*pending availability of funds*).

Awarded funds may not be used to reimburse previously purchased fixtures or any remediation activity undertaken before the grant was awarded to DWEE.

Next Steps

Eligible facilities interested in funds to address lead remediation can email the Lead Contact at dwee.srf@nebraska.gov.

Locations that wish to sample their drinking water should contact the DWEE to request test kits.