



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF THE
ADMINISTRATOR

September 21, 2018

The Honorable Kay Ivey
Governor of Alabama
State Capitol
600 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-2751

Dear Governor Ivey:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to announce a new grant program that will help protect children from lead exposure in drinking water at schools and child care facilities. There are approximately 98,000 public schools and 500,000 child care facilities in the U.S. that are not regulated as public water systems under the Safe Drinking Water Act. In recent years, many states have prioritized testing for lead in drinking water. To assist these efforts, the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN Act) of 2016 authorized a new grant program to assist states with testing of lead in drinking water at schools and child care facilities. The EPA received first-time appropriations of \$20 million in fiscal year 2018 to implement this new program.

I am seeking your help in ensuring that your state submits a letter of intent to the EPA by January 11, 2019, that confirms your state's participation in the program and identifies the specific state agency that will administer it. Once the EPA knows which states intend to participate in the program, the agency will calculate the allocations and distribute the grant funds accordingly. The EPA will be hosting webinars on October 4, 2018 and October 10, 2018 to provide more information about this grant program, and the agency encourages participation from your state. Webinar registration and additional information on submitting a Letter of Intent are available at www.epa.gov/safewater/grants.

The EPA also received first-time funding in 2018 for two additional drinking water grant programs authorized by the WIIN Act: for small and disadvantaged communities and for lead reduction projects. The EPA plans to announce grants under these two programs later this year.

Thank you for your active engagement as we work to strengthen the protection of our nation's drinking water. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. If your staff have questions about these programs, or how to submit your state's Letter of Intent, they may contact WIINDrinkingWaterGrants@epa.gov or Preston Cory, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, at Cory.Preston@epa.gov or (202) 564-0846.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew K. Wheeler".

Andrew K. Wheeler
Acting Administrator