

Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act Grant Programs

National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC) | December 6th 2018

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AND DRINKING WATER

The Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act Summary



- IN the spring of 2018, Congress appropriated funding for three new grants under the WIIN Act
 - Lead Testing in Schools and Child Care Facility Drinking Water
 - Assistance to Small and Disadvantaged Communities
 - Reduction in Lead Exposure
- The new grant programs focus on directly supporting small and disadvantaged communities and targeting lead-related issues.

Lead Testing in School and Child Care Program Drinking Water Grant (\$20M in FY19) Highlights

- Non-competitive grants to States with a 6.4% Tribal set-asides; No-match requirement
- Assistance to local educational agencies in voluntary testing for lead contamination in drinking water at schools and child care programs.
- Projects that assist schools and child care programs in voluntarily testing for lead contamination in drinking water utilizing
 - EPA's 3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools guidance or
 - Applicable State regulations or guidance that are not less stringent
 - Testing results carried out using grant funds must be made publicly available.
- Another informative webinar to the States will be hosted on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 @ 1pm (EST)

Assistance for Small and Disadvantaged Communities (\$20M in FY19)



Highlights

- Non-competitive grants to States with a \$400K Tribal set-aside; A match requirement of 45%
- The focus of the grant is on projects that include infrastructure and technical, managerial and financial training and technical assistance to facilitate compliance with national primary drinking water regulations.
- Only grant to expand the scope of projects and activities to include other unregulated contaminants outside of lead.
 - The primary purpose of assisting public water systems in meeting national drinking water requirements.
 - Guidance/requirements for this grant and expect to likely announce it in early 2019.

Reduction in Lead Exposure (\$10M in FY19)

Highlights

- The only competitive grant to States with a \$1M Tribal set-asides; A 20% match requirement
- The grant focuses on providing funding to reduce lead in drinking water systems, including
 - Replacing lead service lines,
 - Financial assistance to homeowners for private side lead line replacement.
- It will be solicited as a Request for Application (RFA) and open to a broad group of eligible entities such as:
 - Community and non-transient, non-community water systems, NGOs, tribal water systems, state, interstate and multi-cross agencies are eligible.
- The RFA and related guidance are expected for announcement in late January 2019.



DISCUSSION SECTIONS

WIIN #2107 -Lead Testing in Schools

- The grant is only for lead testing in schools and child care facilities. That said, many schools are apprehensive of testing because of the possible outcomes after receiving the results. What if there is lead remediation to follow due to the lead testing. The grant is unable to support remediation. Schools and child care facilities may not have access to available resources or tools to provide such assistance. **How can we support schools and child care facilities in the next steps -carving a path forward towards remediation?**

WIIN #2105 – Reduction in Lead Exposure

- With respect to the WIIN Act grants required 45% match - which many of the eligible communities/entities may not be able to meet – **does the council foresee a recommended approach for funding and financing partnerships which may be able to support a match to meet these community needs?**

WIIN #2105 – Reduction in Lead Exposure

- The WIIN Act grant requires that there is no partial lead service line replacement allowed as an eligible project. Language in the act states “The term ‘lead reduction project’ does not include a partial lead service line replacement if, at the conclusion of the service line replacement, drinking water is delivered to a household through a publicly or privately-owned portion of a lead service line.” **As we’re developing the RFA for the competitive grant, what approach should be communicated or suggested in the guidance to promote partnerships between municipalities and private homeowners so that project applications can successfully meet the requirements of the grant program? Are their stakeholders currently providing some best practices or proactive steps that can be included as resources or examples via the guidance?**