

Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (OGWDW) is providing funding for participation in the Lead Testing in School and Child Care Program Drinking Water Tribal Grant Program.



Description

Authorized by the Water Infrastructure Improvements of the Nation (WIIN) Act, EPA is making funding available to support the *Lead Testing in School and Child Care Program Drinking Water Tribal Grant Program*. Funds used to implement this program shall be used in accordance with the EPA's *3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water* guidance, or applicable regulations or guidance that are not less stringent than the 3Ts guidance.

Amount of Funding

The EPA is making \$4.3M available to support the Lead Testing in School and Child Care Program Drinking Water Tribal Grant Program.

Eligible Applicant

Under this program, the tribal consortia, on behalf of tribes, will be eligible applicants for funding to assist local education agencies to test for lead contamination in drinking water at schools and childcare programs. EPA is requesting the tribal consortia submit a Notification of Intent to Participate letter to indicate intention of participation. The tribal consortia will have to submit letters of intent to EPA to confirm participation in the program.

Grant Eligible Activities/Projects

Grantees will use the EPA's *3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water* guidance to implement lead testing programs and develop monitoring, maintenance and/or sampling plans that protect children from lead exposure now and in the future.

Eligible projects will support voluntary school and child care lead testing programs. Grantees will develop or expand existing programs to provide technical assistance to eligible tribal education agencies (TEAs) to test for lead contamination in drinking water. Activities will include outreach to support participation by TEAs to assess lead levels; technical assistance to support 3Ts program implementation; collection and analysis of drinking water samples; and assistance communicating results to enhance community, parent, and teacher trust. Projects will prioritize supporting TEAs in underserved communities.

Beneficiaries of the program must be members of a federally-recognized tribe. Funding for Alaskan Native Villages is administered separately from the \$4.3M, as part of the Alaska state program. Alaskan Native Villages interested in the \$184,000 funding assistance for testing lead in school and child care drinking water should coordinate with the appropriate state agency. Schools administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs are ineligible for assistance under this grant program.

Next Steps

- EPA will host a webinar in August to provide more information about the 3Ts toolkit, the application process and an overview of the grant and its scope. Webinar information and registration will be available on EPA's website.
- Tribal consortia interested in participating must submit letters of intent to EPA by August 31, 2020.

For more information please visit <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/grants>