

Lead in Drinking Water Remediation Grant FAQ

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

These are questions asked during webinars on 11/20/24 and 12/11/2024 or received via email. Questions and answers are posted in order to provide all grant applicants with equitable access. Most questions can be answered by reviewing the [grant request for proposal and grant documents](#).

1. What are the levels of lead that are particular concern?
 - a. **Answer:** No level of lead is safe and MDH encourages testing and remediation when any level is detected. As required by MN Statute, remediation needs to occur when levels indicate 5 parts per billion or more.
2. Do verification retesting costs qualify as part of the expenses for projects?
 - a. **Answer:** Yes, you would include these in the budget for your proposal.
3. Can we use the Grant dollars to purchase an inventory of filtered hydration stations so we can respond quickly when receive a test result above 5ppb?
 - a. **Answer:** You can propose to do so. Please note that funds will be prioritized to locations that have demonstrated results 5 ppb or higher. Hydration stations that are certified for lead removal would qualify for use as a remediation measure.
4. Do we need to receive quotes from multiple places for things like fixtures?
 - a. **Answer:** Yes, this can be as simple as checking multiple websites or asking a contractor.
5. Our school district passed a building bond referendum in the November 2024 election. The renovations will include replacing plumbing to mitigate the lead in our water systems that have been identified. Would we be eligible for this grant to help subsidize the voter approved funding?
 - a. **Answer:** Yes. This grant does not require matching funds.
6. Do you foresee any increase in the total grant amount in next year or so?
 - a. **Answer:** Last year we had \$146,000 total and this year we had \$239, 000 during FY 2025. We expect to have the same amount in FY 2026. Any future increases would have to go through the legislature for approval.
7. If there was lead detected from a faucet that is only used for handwashing, do we need to re-test and would we need to remedy that faucet? It is marked as no drinking or hand washing only.
 - a. **Answer:** This would depend on the level of lead detected (if it was at or above 5 ppb) and if the faucet is used for consumption. If the faucet is not used for consumption (drinking/food or formula preparation) then posting signage as hand washing only would be acceptable remediation. You will want to consider the ages of students to make sure the signage is effective and appropriate to prevent consumption.
8. Are the required lead test results from schools and childcare centers available to the public anywhere? I'm wondering if there is a way for local public health agencies to know which schools have high lead in order to target them.

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- a. **Answer:** MDH is working on a tool for a lead testing map to public; currently unavailable; target date is the end of 2024. Schools are required to have info on website and info can be requested from the schools.
9. Are grant payments made through reimbursement?
- a. **Answer:** Yes. Grantees will provide supporting documentation related to actual costs and MDH will release funds related to reimburse grantee for work done to remediate lead, as long as expenses don't exceed total award amount. MDH cannot reimburse for expenditures that are incurred before the grant contract is signed and executed.
10. Do religious schools and childcare facilities qualify for the grant?
- a. **Answer:** Yes, the grant is available to all schools and licensed child care facilities.
11. What if facilities do not have results available by 1/10/2025?
- a. **Answer:** The MDH WIIN program has been available since 2020 which is a free testing option. Facilities that want results faster may opt to use a private, accredited lab. There are hundreds of facilities that have signed up for the WIIN grant and kits are processed as quickly as possible. Facilities that do not plan on having results available before the grant deadline can apply for future funding opportunities.
12. We submitted a plan for testing to the MDH WIIN program but have not tested yet? Why is the process slow?
- a. **Answer:** MDH has received a large increase in applicants to the WIIN program this year, and due to this the amount of time to get testing plans reviewed and approved has increased. Please reach out to us at health.wiin_grant@state.mn.us if you have any questions about your application or sample plan.
13. When will the next round of grants for this be open?
- a. **Answer:** This round is open until 1/10/2025 the next round will be available in fall of 2025; most likely at the same time with the same/similar process.
14. Will this grant pay for lead service line replacements in private homes?
- a. **Answer:** The grant program is for schools and licensed child cares. If you have questions about programs for lead service line replacement in your community please contact your local public water system for information. MDH provides grants to cities to conduct city-wide lead replacement efforts.

Additional Resources (also available in the Request for Proposal)

- [Lead Remediation Grant Page](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/com/leadremgrant.html)
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/com/leadremgrant.html>)
- [Results Reporting Instructions \(PDF\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/docs/reportinstfaq.pdf)
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/docs/reportinstfaq.pdf>)
- [2019 Report on Lead in MN Drinking Water link \(PDF\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/docs/leadreport.pdf)
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/docs/leadreport.pdf>)
- Link on [childhood exposure to lead in Minnesota](https://mndatamaps.web.health.state.mn.us/interactive/leadtract.html)
(<https://mndatamaps.web.health.state.mn.us/interactive/leadtract.html>)

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- Link to [EPA resource on lead free certified materials \(PDF\) \(https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2018-12/documents/consumer_tool_for_identifying_drinking_water_filters_certified_to_reduce_lead.pdf\)](https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2018-12/documents/consumer_tool_for_identifying_drinking_water_filters_certified_to_reduce_lead.pdf)

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12/17/2024

To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-4700