



☰ | **Building the Capacity of Drinking Water Systems**

WIIN Grant: Voluntary School and Child Care Lead Testing and Reduction Grant Program

The Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act established the Lead Testing in School and Child Care Program Drinking Water grant in 2016 to award funding to states, territories, and tribes to assist local and tribal educational agencies in voluntary testing for lead contamination in drinking water at schools and child care facilities.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, enacted in November 2021, amended the grant program to the *Voluntary School and Child Care Lead Testing and Reduction Grant Program* and allowed grant funding for lead remediation in addition to testing.

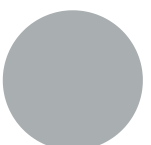
On this page:

- [Background](#)
- [Eligible Applicants](#)
- [Available Funding](#)
- [Eligible Projects](#)
- [Timeline](#)
- [How to Apply](#)
- [Training and Resources](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Grant Program Data](#)
- [Historical Funding](#)
- [Build America, Buy America \(BABA\) Act](#)
- [Contact Information](#)



News

August 22, 2024 - Biden-Harris administration announces \$26 Million in grants to protect children from lead in drinking water at schools and childcare facilities. For additional information please go to the [press release](#).



Background

Grants will be awarded non-competitively to states, territories, and tribes. For the purposes of this grant program, the term “state” is used to describe the fifty states, District of Columbia, and the territories, including: Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The grantee must utilize EPA’s *3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities* guidance when implementing the program to test and remediate for lead in drinking water in schools and child care facilities. Grantees, alternatively, may use their own applicable existing state programs or regulations that are no less-stringent in the following basic elements:

1. **Communication** - should be integrated throughout the development and implementation of the lead testing in drinking water in school and child care program. Communication should establish key partnerships to support the program as well as keeping the public informed.
2. **Training** - school officials to raise awareness of the potential occurrences, causes and health effects of lead in drinking water. Utilize established partnerships to develop program plans and to assign responsibilities that provide the framework for an effective program.
3. **Testing** - drinking water in schools and child care facilities to identify potential problems utilizing existing states guidance for testing or when not established utilizing 3Ts guidance for testing.
4. **Taking Action** – by developing and implementing a plan to reduce lead in drinking water and communicate to parents, staff, and the larger school community.


To learn more about these elements, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/3Ts>

Eligible Applicants

The grant program is a noncompetitive voluntary program. Eligibility to apply for and receive funds under the grant program is limited to the fifty states, the District of Columbia, and territories, and tribes within the U.S. Please see below for information on the tribal grant program.

Available Funding

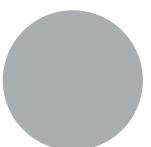
EPA awards funding to states based on an allocation formula that includes factors such as population, including a set-aside for tribal allotments. The document below includes information on the most up-to-date funding allotment for the voluntary School and Child Care Lead Testing and Reduction grant program.

 [FY24 National Allotments for the Voluntary School and Child Care Lead Testing and Reduction grant program \(pdf\)](#) (247.31 KB, August, 2024)

Eligible Projects

Grant funding is awarded to provide assistance for lead testing and remediation in drinking water at schools and child care facilities.

For additional information, please reference the following documents:



Implementation document for the *Voluntary School and Child Care Lead Testing and Reduction Grant Program*:

[Lead Testing in Schools Implementation Document Updated for FY2023 \(pdf\)](#) (1.68 MB, July, 2023)

[Lead Testing in Schools Implementation Document Updated for FY2020 \(pdf\)](#) (704.9 KB, March, 2020)

A sample workplan states can use to facilitate content development of their respective plans for implementation:

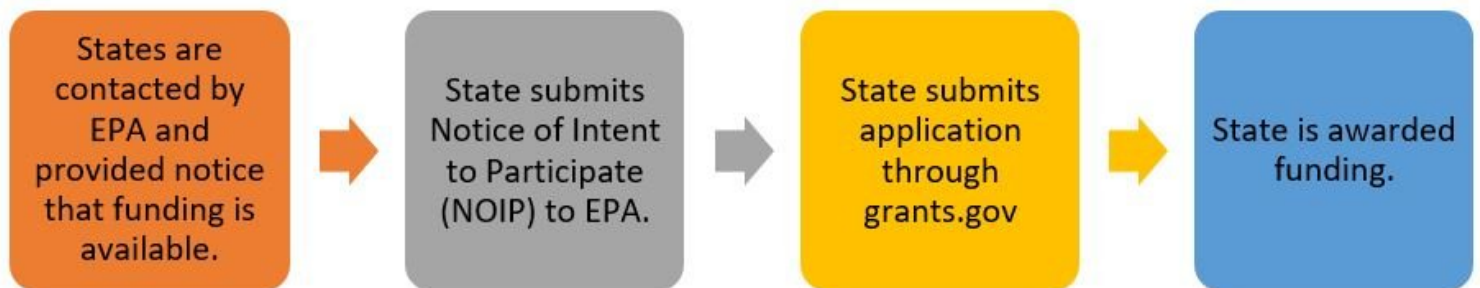
[State workplan sample for the lead testing in schools & child care facilities water grant program \(pdf\)](#) (376.9 KB, June, 2019)

Timeline

In August, 2024, EPA informed states of their available FY 2024 allotments for the grant program. Prior to applying for their allotments, states must submit draft workplans to their respective EPA Region. Please check with your Regional EPA contact for application deadlines: [Regional Contacts](#)

When reviewing the draft workplans, EPA Regions must be able to determine that activities conform to all applicable requirements of the grant. Participating states must submit their final application package to [grants.gov](#). Participating states are encouraged to submit applications as soon as possible. EPA Regional offices are the primary points of contact to approve grant applications and award funding.

Each fiscal year's funding should be obligated by the state no later than two years from the beginning of the project period. It is anticipated that project/budget periods will be no more than four years.



How to Apply

EPA Regions will initiate contact with states to inform them of the program and the application process. States should then contact their EPA Regional representative to submit applications via [grants.gov](#).

Training and Resources

Best Management Practices Workshops

These workshops brought oversight agencies (states, territories, and tribal consortia) participating in the lead testing program. The workshops presented program accomplishments, challenges, lessons learned and best management practices for implementing a lead testing and reduction program in drinking water at schools and child care facilities.

The following document presents case studies and best management practices to implement successful lead testing and reduction programs in schools and child care facilities:

 [Best Management Practices Document \(pdf\)](#) (2.86 MB, December 2022)

The following are presentations and videos from the best management practices workshops:

November 2022 workshop:

 [WIIN 2107 BMPs Workshop \(pdf\)](#) (4.14 MB, November 2022)


May 2022 workshop:

 [WIIN 2107 BMPs Workshop \(pdf\)](#) (14.23 MB, May 2022)

Video recording: <https://youtu.be/TgMs8rs5sHE> 

Frequently Asked Questions

Please refer to the following document for responses to frequently asked questions.

 [FAQ for Voluntary School and Child Care Lead Testing and Reduction Grant Program \(pdf\)](#) (327.57 KB, September 2023)

Grant Program Data

Learn more about progress and accomplishments of the *Voluntary School and Child Care Lead Testing and Reduction Grant Program*.

[View data here](#)

Historical Funding

The funding allocations are in the form of assistance agreements. The memos below include past funding allotments for the *Voluntary School and Child Care Lead Testing and Reduction Grant Program*. They include the breakdown for state allotments as well as the total amount available to support tribal water systems.

Allotments for FY2022 and FY2023 appropriations for the *Voluntary School and Child Care Lead Testing and Reduction Grant Program*:

 [FY2022/2023 National Allotments for the Voluntary Lead Testing Program \(pdf\)](#) (332.38 KB, July, 2023)

Allotments of the FY2021 Appropriations for the *Voluntary School and Child Care Lead Testing and Reduction Grant Program*:

 [FY2021 National Allotments for the Voluntary Lead Testing Program \(pdf\)](#) (254.18 KB)

Allotments of the FY2020 Appropriations for the *Voluntary School and Child Care Lead Testing and Reduction Grant Program*:



Allotments of the FY18/19 Appropriations for the *Voluntary School and Child Care Lead Testing and Reduction Grant Program*:

Build America, Buy America (BABA) Act

Overview

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act ("IIJA") includes the Build America, Buy America Act ("the Act"). The Act strengthens Made in America Laws and will bolster America's industrial base, protect national security, and support high-paying jobs. The Act requires that no later than May 14, 2022, the head of each covered Federal agency shall ensure that "none of the funds made available for a Federal financial assistance program for infrastructure, including each deficient program, may be obligated for a project unless all of the **iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials** used in the project are produced in the United States."

The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Made in America Office released its [guidance for implementing the Build America, Buy America Act](#) [\[\]](#). In regards to grant funding, OMB is proposing to revise the current [OMB Guidance for Grants and Agreements](#) [\[\]](#). The proposed amendments are intended to provide guidance and clarify requirements for the manufactured products content test and non-ferrous construction materials. Public comments were due March 13, 2023.

Webinar presentations

- [Build America, Buy America Act Implementation Webinar Presentation \(April 2022\)](#) [\(pdf\)](#) (1.35 MB)
- [Build America, Buy America Act Office of Water Implementation Procedures Webinar \(November 2022\)](#) [\(pdf\)](#) (3.61 MB)

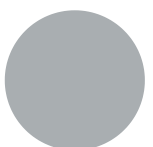
The Drinking Water Grants Program team is working to standardize and implement the process to support grant recipients with the BABA requirements and how to request/apply for a waiver if they are eligible. In that effort, we have established a grant inbox for the purpose of questions and eventually receiving waiver requests. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the grants team points of contact at HQ or send your questions/requests to BABA-DrinkingWaterGrants@epa.gov

Contact Information

To find your state's Regional contact, please visit [EPA Regional Contacts](#)

For general information, please contact WIINDrinkingWaterGrants@epa.gov

[Return to the homepage for the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation \(WIIN\) Act grants](#)



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