

# Wisconsin Lead-in-Water Testing and Remediation (WTR) Initiative

An approach to reducing lead in drinking water

## What Is the Lead-in-WTR Initiative?

The Lead-in-Water Testing and Remediation Initiative partners with Wisconsin's local public health departments to identify and reduce lead-in-water hazards in licensed group child care and Head Start facilities throughout the state. Utilizing grant funding from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Children and Families (DCF), the program tests all water fixtures within a participating facility and provides remediation through actions such as installing water filters and replacing faucets and water fountains.



## How do grantees participate?

If a local public health department is interested in this initiative, they should contact the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) Lead and Asbestos section to set up a meeting. If a grant agreement is created, the grantee will agree to serve as the main point-of-contact for the child care facilities in their jurisdiction, to conduct water testing, and to communicate results and updates to facilities. DHS provides support, water testing training, and handles the coordination of remediation. It is not the job of the grantee to pay or coordinate with any plumbing agencies.

## Are there any costs associated with the program?

The program is designed so that no costs fall upon the participating child care facilities. For grantees, costs are reimbursed through monthly invoices sent by the grantee to the initiative's coordinator via email. Upfront costs will include staff time spent completing outreach, travel to and from the child care facilities, and shipping the sample bottles to the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene (WSLH). Upfront costs are reimbursed at \$1200 per child care facility that has completed the program.

## For more information:

- Contact the Wisconsin Lead and Asbestos Section at [DHSAsbestosLead@wi.gov](mailto:DHSAsbestosLead@wi.gov).
- Go to <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/3ts-reducing-lead-drinking-water> for more information about United States Environmental Protection Agency's recommendations for reducing lead in drinking water.

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## Overview of Grantee Participation in the Wisconsin's Lead-in-WTR Initiative:

### 1. Connect with DHS.

- i. Get in touch with the Lead-in-WTR Initiative's program coordinator at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) Lead and Asbestos section.
- ii. Agree upon and sign a grant agreement.

### 2. Conduct outreach.

- i. Reach out to pre-determined licensed group child care and Head Start facilities in your jurisdiction.
- ii. Enroll interested child care facilities and coordinate your water testing visit.

### 3. Complete water testing.

- i. When you are ready to begin water testing, participate in a virtual water testing training with DHS.
- ii. Plan water testing at participating child care facilities, order testing supplies, and conduct your water testing visit.
- iii. Send the water samples you collect to the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene.
- iv. The cost of sampling supplies and water testing is billed directly to DHS, there is no cost for grantees and child care facilities.
- v. DHS will provide you with the water testing results and information on next steps throughout this process.

### 4. Communicate with childcare facilities.

- i. Provide participating child care facilities with updates on water testing results and any necessary next steps, such as follow-up water testing or recommended remediation.
- ii. DHS will coordinate, and cover the cost of, any necessary remediation of affected plumbing fixtures based on water testing results.

### 5. Exit the program.

- i. After you finish participation in the Lead-in-WTR program, DHS will close the program's grant for you.

