

Program Overview

The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy's (NDEE) Lead Testing and Reduction Grant Program aims to provide funding assistance to schools, local educational agencies, and licensed child care centers to support their efforts to test for and reduce lead in drinking water.

The program is designed to reduce children's exposure to lead in drinking water. Children aged 6 and younger are the most vulnerable to lead's effects.

Facilities that have completed drinking water lead testing through the state are eligible to receive funding for remediation activities. These activities include the removal and replacement of water faucets, fixtures, and fountains to reduce lead exposure in children. Plumbing replacement may be available pending available funds.

Applicants will submit a request for all eligible facilities and remediation activities. Selected recipients will enter into an agreement with NDEE that details the project. Grant funds will be disbursed upon the substantial completion of the remediation activities. The recipient will have eighteen (18) months to procure, install and test the drinking water fixtures.

Eligible facilities that have not tested their drinking water fixtures can do so by contacting their local health departments.



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LEAD TESTING AND REDUCTION GRANT PROGRAM

For Schools and
Licensed Child Care
Facilities



Eligible Recipients Testing

Sites eligible for free testing include water fixtures used for consumption throughout public, private and parochial schools and licensed child care facilities.

Eligible Recipients for Remediation

Eligible recipients for remediation activities include public, private and parochial¹ schools that are classified as a Local Educational Agency (LEA), and licensed child care programs.

Eligible facilities must have completed drinking water testing through the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS) State Laboratory.

¹Currently private and parochial schools are eligible to receive grant funding by entering into a local agreement with their respective Educational Service Unit (ESU), as the “pass through” agency. The ESU would enter into an agreement with NDEE for the remediation activities of the private and parochial school.

Remediation Activities

To initiate remediation activities in eligible schools and child care programs, NDEE is implementing a Program Remediation Trigger Level of 10 parts per billion (ppb) or above.

Funding will be prioritized to facilities based on the age of the children served and communities designated as Disadvantaged Communities by NDEE’s definition.

Recipients receiving this federal funding are required to comply with pre- and post-installation program, state, and federal regulations, which include but are not limited to Procurement, Suspension and Debarment Certification, Build American Buy America (BABA) Act, Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE), and match (if applicable). These requirements will be detailed in writing to these recipients.

**Our Children.
Our Future.
Our Problem to Fix.**

Eligible Costs

Lead testing and remediation activities must be related to drinking water fixtures and include:

- Faucets and similar fixtures;
- Water fountains;
- Water filler stations;
- Internal premise plumbing (*pending availability of funds*); and
- Full external service lines (*pending availability of funds*).

Awarded funds may not be used to reimburse previously purchased fixtures or any remediation activity undertaken before the grant was awarded to NDEE.

Next Steps

Eligible facilities interested in funds to address lead remediation can email the Lead Contact at ndee.srf@nebraska.gov.

Locations that wish to sample their drinking water should contact their local health departments to request test kits.