2021 Grant Program

Lead Testing in School and Child Care Program Drinking Water Grant

Work Plan for the State of Delaware

Summary Statement:

As a support agency, the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) is committed to providing all available resources to local education agencies (LEAs) and child care facilities to ensure a clean and healthy environment for learning. As such Delaware will be participating in the Lead Testing in School and Child Care Program Drinking Water Grant.

With Delaware's allocation of $387,000 appropriated under section 1464(d) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, amended by the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIN) section 2107, Delaware plans to provide resources for lead testing in our schools and state licensed child care facilities.

Throughout the implementation of the program, the DDOE will communicate the results and important lead information to the public, parents, teachers, and larger community via the department's website and utilize the EPA's 3Ts guidance as a model to: (1) Train on the risks of lead in drinking water and testing for lead as well as developing key partnerships to support the program; (2) Test using the appropriate testing protocols and a certified laboratory; and (3) Take Action, including the development of a plan for responding to results of testing conducted and addressing potential elevated lead where necessary.

Scope of Work

This section is a discussion of the department's plan to develop and implement the lead testing program in schools and child care facilities, and how this program meets goals as they relate to the reduction of lead in drinking water exposure in children.

The scope of work contained in this project description includes the following categories and information.

I. State goals and priorities
II. Program implementation and activities
III. Roles and responsibilities
IV. Timeline and milestones
V. WIIN programmatic priorities and EPA's strategic plan linkage
VI. Anticipated outputs and outcomes
VII. Budget narrative

I. State Territory Goals and Priorities

The State of Delaware has approximately 140,000 students enrolled in 19 school districts, 23 charter schools (collectively known as LEAs) and approximately 452 licensed child care centers. The department will provide support to achieve the goals consistent with the priorities outlined in the EPA's State Lead Testing in School and Child Care Program Drinking Water Grant Implementation Document.

The DDOE will subgrant funds to Delaware Division of Public Health to assist in voluntary testing for lead contamination in drinking water at schools and licensed childcare facilities throughout the State of Delaware. The goal is to reduce lead exposure at these facilities by testing for lead, identifying potential lead sources, and taking action.

II. Program Implementation and Activities

The DDOE is using the EPA's 3Ts guidance (www.epa.gov/safewater/3ts) to implement the program throughout the State of Delaware. This includes efforts to communicate , throughout the implementation of the program, the results and important lead information to the public, parents, teachers, and larger community via the DDOE website; (1) **Train** on the risks of lead in drinking water and testing for lead, as well as developing key partnerships to support the program; (2) **Test** using appropriate testing protocols and a certified laboratory; and (3) **Take Action**, including the development of a plan for responding to results of testing conducted and addressing potential elevated lead where necessary. Below are specific activities included in these key elements.

a. **Communication:** The DDOE will establish partnerships with the LEAs, child care centers, and the appropriate state agencies for information to be made available to the public via the DDOE website.
    - Testing results will be shared.
    - General information and updates will be shared at the School Plant Information Exchange (SPIE) meeting at least once per year.
    - General program updates and best practices will be shared on the department's website upon availability.
b. **Training:** Training will be made available to the LEAs, child care centers, and any interested parties of the general public. These trainings will be held at the SPIE meetings which are public. The department will also provide information from the appropriate state agencies on the department's website.
c. **Testing:** The DDOE is a support agency of the LEAs. As such, the department will assist the LEAs with following the program guidelines. The LEAs will determine which buildings will be priorities for testing. It will be the responsibility of the LEA to follow the appropriate protocol for testing its samples.
d. **Taking Action:** The LEAs and child care centers will be responsible for providing its respective plan for responding to results of testing conducted and addressing the potential elevated lead where necessary. Responses to results will follow remediation recommendations in the 3Ts guidance.

III. Roles and Responsibilities

A list of roles and responsibilities are listed below,

3T's Program Contact	Rena Tucker, Education Associate at the Delaware Department of Education 401 Federal Street, Suite 2 Dover, DE 19901 Rena.Tucker@doe.k12.de.us
Public Communications Team	Alison May, Education Associate at the Delaware Department of Education 401 Federal Street, Suite 2 Dover, DE 19901 alison.may@doe.k12.de.us
Website and Recordkeeping Contact	Rena Tucker, Education Associate at the Delaware Department of Education 401 Federal Street, Suite 2 Dover, DE 19901 Rena.Tucker@doe.k12.de.us
Sample Plan and Execution Contact	Rena Tucker, Education Associate at the Delaware Department of Education 401 Federal Street, Suite 2 Dover, DE 19901 Rena.Tucker@doe.k12.de.us

IV. Timeline and Milestones:

A detailed timeline for the project, including milestones, is below.

- FY2022 Quarter 2: Sign new MOU and sub-grant documentation with other state agency, Delaware Division of Public Health to re-establish expected parameters. Continue to work with Delaware Division of Public Health to continue collecting water samples from remaining LEAs.
- FY2022 Quarter 2: Build link on the department's website, publish available resources to the department' website, and receive funding from federal award agency.

- FY2022 Quarter 3 and 4: Communication with Delaware Division of Public Health on status of water sample collection, review any collected results and begin work on publishing information to the DHSS website with a link from the DOE website.
- FY2022 Quarter 4: Finalize spending plans and review allocation with Delaware Division of Public Health. Ensure all specified LEAs are tested and results have been received. Continue remediation plans.
- FY2023 Quarter 1: Send out communication to licensed child care centers of program details and notification of water collections expected start date.
- FY2023 Quarter 2 and 3: Communication with Delaware Division of Public Health on status of water sample collection, review any collected results and begin publishing information to the DHSS website. Continue to communicate program and results to LEAs and licensed childcare facilities and discuss remediation plans.
- FY2023 Quarter 4: Finalize spending plans and review allocation with Delaware Division of Public Health. Ensure all specified LEAs and licensed childcare facilities are tested and results have been received.

Throughout the project, timeline and milestones may be updated based upon LEA's need and any potential program changes.

V. WIIN Programmatic Priorities and EPA's Strategic Plan:

The principal objective of the assistance to be awarded under this program is to provide grants to states to help LEAs to test schools for lead contamination in drinking water, utilizing EPA's 3Ts guidance or applicable state regulations or guidance that are not less stringent. The objective of the program is to: (1) Reduce children's exposure to lead in drinking water; (2) Help states target funding toward schools and child care programs unable to pay for testing; (3) Utilize the 3Ts model or model no less stringent to establish best practices for a lead in drinking water prevention program; (4) Foster sustainable partnerships at the state and local level to allow for more efficient use of existing resources and exchange of information among experts in various educational and health sectors; and (5) Enhance community, parent, and teacher cooperation and trust.

The activities described in this work plan support the WIIN Programmatic Priorities and EPA's FY 2018 – 2022 Strategic Plan, Goal 1, "Core Mission: Deliver real results to provide Americans with clean air, land, and water, and ensure chemical safety," Objective 1.2 "Provide for Clean and Safe Drinking Water: Ensure waters are clean through improved water infrastructure and, in partnership with states and tribes, sustainably manage programs to support drinking water, aquatic ecosystems, and recreational, economic, and subsistence activities."

VI. Anticipated Outputs and Outcomes:

Outputs and outcomes expected to be achieved under the agreement are described below.

Outputs for this project include: (1) Use the EPA's 3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water guidance to implement the state program; (2) Development of a state lead testing in drinking water in schools management strategy that supports a robust training, monitoring, and maintenance plan that protects children from lead exposure now and in the future; (3) Prioritization of testing to target vulnerable

communities and populations: schools in underserved and/or low-income communities; elementary programs that primarily care for children 6 years and under; and older facilities that are more likely to contain lead plumbing; (4) Providing results of any voluntary testing for lead contamination in school drinking water carried out using grant funds and communicating the results via the DDOE website; (5) Developing regular lead testing guidance; (6) Establish routine and best practices in alignment with the 3Ts guidance.

Outcomes for this project include: (1) Providing resources to LEA's and childcare facilities which will be used for implementing a testing program and mitigating lead exposure by utilizing the 3Ts toolkit in determining the best action to take for remediation; (2) The reduction of children's exposure to lead in drinking water; (3) Improvement of staff and community knowledge on lead in drinking water and other environmental harms; (5) Water quality improvement and lead exposure reduction in drinking water; and (6) Establishment of routine practices such as those outlined in the 3Ts guidance.

VII. Budget Narrative:

Program administration will be performed by staff at the DDOE. As such, Delaware's allocation will be used solely for the 3Ts program. There will be no indirect cost associated with the allocation. Delaware's allocation is $387,000 of which 100% will be sub-granted to Delaware Division of Public Health to conduct sample collecting and test results. Funding will be utilized to complete testing of the 19 school districts and 21 Charter Schools and to provide testing of approximately 452 licensed child care providers.