

# Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act Grant Programs

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# The Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act \$50M/FY18 and \$65M/FY19



## Summary

**In the spring of 2018, Congress appropriated funding for three new grants under the WIIN Act**

- Lead Testing in Schools and Child Care Facility Drinking Water
- Assistance to Small and Disadvantaged Communities
- Reducing Lead in Drinking Water

### Objective

- Direct support to small and disadvantaged communities
- Emphasis on lead related issues

### Key Points:

- Regulatory amendments to Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)§1459(A) & (B) and §1464, as amended by the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN) of 2016
  - Statute did not require a specific approach (competitive vs. non-competitive) for any of the grants; however, justifications to non-compete were still necessary under OGD guidance
- Set up using STAG funding/framework

# Lead Testing in School and Child Care Program Drinking Water Grant (\$43,729,000)



- **Statutory Authority** - Safe Drinking Water Act §1464, as amended by the WIIN Act of 2016
- **Grant Funding** - Grants to States with a 6.4% Tribal allotment; No-match requirement
  - Allocation formula using a PWSS formula including factors such as:
    - Proportional share of needs assessment results, number of ALEs, and percentage of students eligible for free and reduced-price lunch.
- **Primary Focus**
  - Assisting voluntary testing for lead contamination in drinking water at schools and child care programs.
  - Only covers testing, not remediation
- **Projects that assist schools and child care programs in testing and utilizing**
  - EPA's 3Ts (Training, Taking Action) for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools guidance or
  - Applicable State regulations or guidance that are not less stringent
  - Testing results carried out using grant funds must be made publicly available.
- **Milestones**
  - Grant allotments were made public in April 2019 for a combined FY18/19 award.
  - Implementation document was released in June 2019 to the EPA Regional offices and the States.
  - Grants.gov opened and closed in September 2019. States and regions are working together to award grants, finalize workplans and budgets to begin the testing in schools and childcare facilities.
- **AWIA Component**
  - An amendment adding that States must prioritize to target schools and child care programs **in low-income communities** (e.g., Schools with at least 50% of the children receiving free and reduced lunch and Head Start facilities)

# Allocations In Region III



## Work Plans Submitted by States emphasis testing and education

### State Allocations

- DC – \$158,000
- Delaware - \$209,000
- Maryland - \$513,000
- Pennsylvania - \$1,740,000
- Virginia - \$737,000
- West Virginia - \$262,000

## Assistance for Small and Disadvantaged Communities (\$42,854,000)

Section 1459A of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), as amended by the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN ) and America's Water Infrastructure Act, authorizes EPA to award grants to states, on behalf of an **underserved community**, to assist public water systems in meeting SDWA requirements.

An “**underserved community**” is one that either:

- “(A) does not have household drinking water or wastewater services; or
- (B) is served by a public water system that violates, or exceeds, as applicable, a requirement of a national primary drinking water regulation issued under section 1412, including—
  - ‘(i) a maximum contaminant level;
  - ‘(ii) a treatment technique; and
  - ‘(iii) an action level.”

# Assistance for Small and Disadvantaged Communities (\$42,854,000)

## Funding

- Grants to States with a 2% tribal allotment; Cost-share requirement of 45% of total project costs
- Funding will be awarded to states as an allotment based on an allocation formula *similar* to that of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

## Small and Disadvantaged

- A disadvantaged community is one determined by the state to be disadvantaged under the affordability criteria established by the State under section 1452(d)(3) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), or may become a disadvantaged community as a result of carrying out a project or activity.
- A small community is one that has a population of less than 10,000 individuals and lacks the capacity to incur debt sufficient to finance a project to comply with the SDWA.

## Milestones

- Grant allotments were made public in April 2019 for a combined FY18/19 award, including a 2% tribal allotment (~ \$900K)
- Sept 2019 - Implementation document released and grants.gov opened
- States have one year to complete application process (through Sept 2020), which will include workplans with a list (the “1459A List”) that identifies eligible projects/activities for assistance in their small and disadvantaged communities.

# Assistance for Small and Disadvantaged Communities (\$42,854,000)

## Projects and Activities

Grants can be used to support projects and activities in underserved, small and disadvantaged communities that include:

- Investments necessary for a public water system to comply with the SDWA
- Assistance that directly and primarily benefits a disadvantaged community
- Programs to provide household water quality testing, **including testing for unregulated contaminants**
- Activities necessary and appropriate for a State to **respond to a contaminant**

Example project and activity categories are:

- Treatment
- Transmission and Distribution
- Storage
- Consolidation
- Household water quality testing, including for unregulated contaminants
- Assistance to increase technical, managerial, and financial capacity
- Drinking water contamination response efforts
- **Full Lead Service Line Replacement**

Communities will apply to their respective state program for assistance. State and territory agency contacts are available at <https://epa.gov/safewater/grants>.

# Assistance for Small and Disadvantaged Communities (\$42,854,000)



**Cost Share Requirements** – States are required to pay 45% cost share. States may require some cost share from the communities. DWSRF cannot be used to meet the cost share, but HUD Community Development Block grants can be utilized. HUD funds local community development activities for low and moderate income communities

**Prioritization of Projects:** Grant requires prioritization of project that benefit underserved communities. States will maintain a list that identifies eligible projects for potential funding and will consult with EPA regions prior to final selection of award.

## **Schedule:**

**September 2019** – Implementation document and criteria available to the states. **Applications open on [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov).**

**September 30, 2020** – Deadline for states to submit final application package.



# Region III Allocations



Delaware - \$420,000

Keith Mensch, 302-741-8589

Maryland - \$777,000

Saeid Kasraei, 410-537-3702

Pennsylvania - \$1,311,000

Brion Johnson, 717-783-6798

Virginia - \$691,000

Tony Singh, 804-864-7517

West Virginia - \$420,000

Meredith J. Vance, 304-356-4324

# Reduction in Lead Exposure (Approximately \$25,000,000)



## Summary

- Only grant for competition (RFA)
- Funding is totaled at \$25M for both fiscal years (before rescissions)
  - \$1M Tribal allotment for each fiscal year is included;
  - 20% match requirement
- **Emphasis of the grant funding includes:**
  - Reduction in lead in drinking water systems (e.g., replacing lead service lines, infrastructure improvements)
  - Remediation/replacement of fixtures, outlets, fountains, etc
  - Financial assistance to homeowners for private side lead line replacement.
- **Eligible entities include:**
  - Community and non-transient, non-community water systems, NGOs, tribal water systems, state, interstate and multi-cross agencies are eligible.
- **Current Development**
  - Development of RFA and management review – Tentative release in Late Fall 2019
  - Website

# Reduction in Lead Exposure (Approximately \$25,000,000)



## Considerations

**Grant is to be administered by HQ**

**Looking for broad grants (10 grants nationally)**

**Encouraging joint submittals**