ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE CENTER

Chester County Boroughs: A cohort-based approach to lead service line inventory completion

CHESTER COUNTY, PA | CLEAN WATER AND DRINKING WATER | 2023-2025

COMMUNITY NEEDS

Four small boroughs in Chester County, Pennsylvania – Atglen, Avondale, Oxford and West Grove – were referred to the Region 3 RealWaterTA Program for assistance completing lead service line (LSL) inventories and replacement.

These neighboring boroughs had a similar set of needs, including resolving remaining unknown service lines, submitting inventories to the state, communicating effectively with residents about the LSL inventory and replacement process, and securing affordable financing and funding for any necessary service line replacement work.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Recognizing an opportunity for peer-sharing among these neighboring communities, the WaterTA team convened the four boroughs in a series of of meetings over the course of two years. During these facilitated conversations, the boroughs learned about LSLI regulatory requirements, shared strategies for completing inventories, and received guidance on available financing options for line replacement. The cohort also developed customer outreach materials including letters and surveys.

The WaterTA team brought in additional partners to further support the cohort's progress, including Pennsylvania DEP (guidance on legal requirements), Chester County Water Resources Authority (technical support for customer-led service line inventory collection), and local nonprofit Garage Youth and Community Center (bilingual communications materials; door-knocking for community-led lead service line inventory completion).

KEY OUTCOMES

- **New partnerships** between neighboring boroughs to support ongoing progress
- **Submission of lead service line inventories** in all four boroughs and progress toward resolving unknown service lines
- Avondale (via separate support from WaterTA team): **Submission and receipt of US Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant** to conduct camera testing of wastewater system in order to identify leakages and prioritize repairs

The Region 3 RealWaterTA program helps Mid-Atlantic communities access funding to address water infrastructure needs. This program is coordinated by the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center and funded by US EPA.

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PRIMARY WATERTA PARTNER ON THIS PROJECT:

The Water Center
University of Pennsylvania