

Frequently Asked Questions

Lead Service Line Replacement Community Outreach Grant Program

Does this grant pay for lead service line replacement or inventory costs?

No, this grant does **not** cover lead service line replacement or related inventory costs. Rather, this grant reimburses costs related to outreach efforts for lead service line (LSL) replacement projects carried out by municipal community public water systems (MC). Grantees will use the grant funds to support the success of their LSL replacement projects through outreach, which will directly benefit their communities through improved water quality and decreased health risks. While expenses may need to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, eligible activities are listed in the [LSLR Community Outreach Grant Announcement](#).

Why does this grant not pay for lead service line replacement?

The funding for this grant, which comes from set-asides from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, is not allowed to be used for any type of construction costs, including LSL replacement.

Is the creation of a GIS community dashboard an eligible expense?

Yes, the creation of a GIS community dashboard is an eligible expense as long as it will be publicly available for residents to obtain information about the LSL replacement project.

Are water filters an eligible expense?

No, purchasing water filters is not an eligible expense due to the guidelines for this grant's funding source.

Which MC systems are eligible to apply for this grant?

MC systems that have an upcoming or ongoing LSL replacement project are eligible to apply. An upcoming LSL replacement project is one with an anticipated start date for construction that is within the two-year grant performance period. An ongoing LSL replacement project is one that has started, but not finished, construction at the time of application. Both private-side and public-side replacement projects are eligible, although the DNR advises that lead service lines be replaced in their entirety.

Are MC systems receiving LSL loan funds through the SDWLP eligible to apply for this grant?

An MC system approved to receive funding for an LSL project through the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP) is eligible to apply for this grant if they can show a need for additional funding for outreach activities.

Who can submit an application for this grant?

To submit an application on behalf of an eligible MC system, you must be an employee of the water system or authorized to act on its behalf.

How can an MC system apply for this grant?

Interested applicants should review the [LSLR Community Outreach Grant Announcement](#) for detailed information on eligibility and how to prepare an application. The application collects details about the water system's LSLR project, the water system itself, the community the system serves, and the water system's plan for their outreach efforts. The department will review grant applications in the order they are received.

What if the number of lead service lines that will be replaced in the LSL replacement project is unknown?

It is understood that the lead service line inventory may not be completed. Applications should be completed as accurately as possible. Additional information should be provided to the DNR as it becomes available.

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Can previous grant recipients apply for this second cycle of funding?

Yes, MC systems may apply for this second application cycle if they still have a need for outreach funding.

Can a grantee contract with third parties to complete outreach activities?

Yes, grantees are allowed to contract with third parties to meet the diverse outreach needs of the municipality. If a prospective applicant plans to contract with one or more third parties, their application must provide context and justification for their plans to establish these contracts.

How will applicants be prioritized and scored for this grant?

Completed applications for the first cycle of this grant will be reviewed in the order they are received and awarded on a first-come first-serve basis. Applications will be reviewed based on the eligibility requirements for this grant and may be prioritized by the DNR by the following factors:

- A significant need for outreach to protect public health.
- The urgency of the need for funds, including to support outreach for ongoing or imminent LSL replacement projects.
- The projected timeline of the LSL replacement projects.

How long will it take to receive a grant award letter?

Once the DNR receives a complete application, applicants will receive a grant award letter within 2-3 months indicating whether their application has been approved or denied.

How much funding can an MC system receive from this grant?

The maximum grant amount is \$150,000 per application cycle.

Can contracted third parties be reimbursed directly by the DNR?

The grantee will be reimbursed for all eligible expenses. Contracted third parties will not be reimbursed.

When can grantees start doing work that will be reimbursed?

Grantees can start outreach efforts as soon as the grant agreement is signed. The department will reimburse approved outreach expenses on a quarterly basis after proper documentation is submitted. Any expenses incurred *prior* to the signed grant agreement will **not** be reimbursed.

What is the grant performance period?

The grant performance period is two years from the date that the grant agreement is signed.

What are the reporting requirements?

Grantees are required to report on the progress of their outreach project quarterly to the DNR. Reporting details are available on the [program webpage](#).



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Legal notice: This document is intended solely as guidance and does not contain any mandatory requirements where requirements found in federal regulations or state statutes, or administrative rules are referenced. Any regulatory decisions made by the Department of Natural Resources in any matter addressed by this guidance will be made by applying the governing federal regulations and state statutes and administrative rules to the relevant facts. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. This publication is offered in other formats upon request, email DNRLSLROutreachGrants@wisconsin.gov or mail to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, WI DNR - DG/5, LSLR Community Outreach Grant Program, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921.