

**GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT  
BIL LSLR Community Outreach  
Grant Program**

**Issued:** August 5, 2024

**Application Cycle Opens:** August 29, 2024

**Cycle:** A

# Grant Announcement

## BIL LSLR Community Outreach Grant Program

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## **1.0 GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **1.1 Introduction**

The purpose of this document is to assist eligible applicants with preparing and submitting a grant application for the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) Community Outreach Grant Program. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) intends to use the results of this Grant Announcement to award up to \$4,060,150 in grants to municipal community public water systems.

Funding for this grant program is provided to the DNR through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), otherwise known as the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA).

The purpose of the LSLR Community Outreach Grant Program is to provide eligible municipal community public water systems with the funds to carry out on the ground community outreach in support of lead service line replacements.

All communications to the DNR regarding LSLR Community Outreach grants should be sent to the following email address: [DNRLSLROutreachGrants@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRLSLROutreachGrants@wisconsin.gov)

The DNR grant manager will coordinate with applicants on the application process and eligibility questions. The DNR grant coordinator will issue grant awards, reimbursements, and answer financial questions regarding the grant. Both the DNR grant manager and the DNR grant coordinator are available at [DNRLSLROutreachGrants@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRLSLROutreachGrants@wisconsin.gov).

### **1.2 Clarifications and/or Revisions to the Grant Announcement**

If an applicant discovers any significant ambiguity, error, conflict, discrepancy, omission, or other deficiency in this Grant Announcement, the applicant should notify the department of such error at [DNRLSLROutreachGrants@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRLSLROutreachGrants@wisconsin.gov) and request modification or clarification of the Grant Announcement. If it becomes necessary to provide additional clarifying data or information, or to revise any part of this Grant Announcement, revisions/amendments and/or supplements will be posted to the [program webpage](#).

### **1.3 Reasonable Accommodations**

The department will provide reasonable accommodations, including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, for qualified individuals with disabilities upon request. Any applicant in need of reasonable accommodations should contact the grant manager via email at [DNRLSLROutreachGrants@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRLSLROutreachGrants@wisconsin.gov) or mail to:

LSLR Community Outreach Grants  
WI DNR- DG/5  
PO Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707-7921

#### 1.4 Definitions

DNR	The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.
Lead Service Line (LSL)	A portion of pipe that is made of lead, which connects the water main to the plumbing in a home or building. An LSL may be owned by the water system, the property owner or both. For the purposes of this program, galvanized service lines that are currently or have previously been downstream of lead components, brass service lines, and lead goosenecks, are also considered LSLs.
Municipal Community Public Water System (water system)	A public water system that serves 15 or more service connections or regularly serves a community of at least 25 residents, for at least six months of the year, and is owned by a city, town, village, county, sanitary district, other government entity, or government-owned institution for congregate care or correction. This definition is intended to track the definition in Wis. Admin. Code NR 810.02(28). This definition excludes public water systems owned by the DNR.
State	The state of Wisconsin.

#### 1.5 Calendar of Events

<b>EVENT</b>	<b>DUE DATE</b>
Grant Announcement Issue Date	August 5, 2024
Applications Due	April 30, 2025, or until funds are exhausted, whichever comes first.
Issuance of Awards	The DNR will continually review applications based on the date of a completed application and the grant priorities described below. The time between submitting a completed application and receiving a grant award typically ranges from two to three months.

## **2.0 PREPARING AND SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION**

### **2.1 General Instructions**

Failure to satisfy each of the requirements in the Grant Announcement may be the basis for rejecting an application. Incomplete applications, including applications that are missing required attachments or documentation, will not be reviewed.

### **2.2 Incurring Costs**

The State of Wisconsin is not liable for any cost incurred by applicants in replying to this Grant Announcement.

### **2.3 Submitting the Application**

Applicants must submit their application form and all additional materials by email. Do not submit an application more than once. If you need reasonable accommodations, please refer to section 1.4 above for additional information.

Applications must be received no later than **April 30, 2025**. Applications must be submitted by email to [DNRLSLROutreachGrants@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRLSLROutreachGrants@wisconsin.gov).

## **3.0 APPLICATION SELECTION AND AWARD PROCESS**

### **3.1 Application Review**

Applications will be reviewed in the order they are received. After review for eligibility the DNR may prioritize applications by the following factors:

- A significant need for outreach in order 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 project.

Applications will be reviewed by the grant manager and the grant coordinator against the eligibility requirements for the program.

Grants will be awarded to eligible applicants continually through April 30, 2025, or until funds are exhausted, whichever comes first.

### **3.2 Right to Reject Applications and Negotiate Award Terms**

The DNR reserves the right to reject any and all applications. The DNR reserves the right to negotiate award terms, including the award amount, with the selected applicant prior to making payment.

### **3.3 Award Amounts**

The maximum grant award is \$150,000 per eligible water system. The total amount of each grant award may not exceed the actual cost to complete the Project. The DNR reserves the right to amend awards or increase the maximum grant award amount in accordance with objectives of the grant and the availability of funding.

### **3.4 Method of Award**

Successful applicants will receive an award letter and grant agreement with conditions. The typical performance period for a grant agreement will be two years.

## **4.0 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

Applicants must meet the criteria set forth below to receive a grant award. The person submitting the application on behalf of the municipal community public water system must be an employee of the water system and authorized to act on its behalf. The DNR shall interpret eligibility criteria to align with the objectives of this grant program and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law requirements. Eligibility determinations by the DNR are final.

### **4.1 Eligible Applicant**

A municipal community public water system that has an upcoming or ongoing LSL replacement project. 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. Applicants must provide documentation demonstrating the status of their LSL replacement project, which will be reviewed by the DNR on a case-by-case basis to determine eligibility.

### **4.2 Eligible Projects**

An Eligible Project is a project that conducts community outreach to residents served by the municipal community public water system in support of an ongoing or upcoming LSL replacement project. Outreach must be intended to promote one or more specific outcomes, including for example:

- Educate community members who will be impacted by the LSL replacement
- Promote cooperation from customers who may have private LSLs eligible for replacement
- Inform customers of public health information about LSLs and actions to protect health before, during or after the LSL replacement

### **4.3 Eligible Expenses**

- Water system personnel expenses to perform activities covered by the grant agreement
- Contracts with third parties with the capacity and experience to perform the outreach activities covered by the grant agreement.
- Supplies and costs for outreach activities
  - Door-to-door education and outreach
  - Community engagement activities
  - Social, digital or print media
  - Marketing and advertising
  - Designing, printing and/or translating materials for any of the above

- Indirect costs
- Other costs that the DNR deems necessary and that are consistent with EPA guidance and the primary purpose of the Project.

#### **4.4 Ineligible Expenses**

Payment will not be made for ineligible expenses. Ineligible expenses include the following items:

- Costs incurred before the date of performance period for the award.
- Construction costs, including any construction associated with lead service line replacement.
- Costs that are unallowable (e.g., lobbying and alcoholic beverages) under 2 CFR 200 Subpart E – Cost Principles.
- Expenses that conflict with or contravene the purpose of the BIL or federal guidance.
- Any costs that the DNR determines to be unreasonable, unnecessary or not approvable.

#### **5.0 REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS**

- LSLR Community Outreach Grant Application

#### **6.0 SUBSEQUENT APPLICATIONS**

A water system may only apply for and receive one grant award in this grant application cycle. Should more funding become available, the DNR may open additional application cycles and may allow grant recipients from this cycle to apply for an additional grant award.

#### **7.0 AWARD PAYMENTS**

Payments of the grant award will be made on a reimbursement basis, with quarterly reimbursement requests for actual and eligible expenses incurred. The DNR will only reimburse for costs for eligible expenses incurred during the performance period. The DNR may withhold 20% of grant award funds for final payment until all required documents are received.

#### **8.0 DISPUTES**

Any dispute arising from this grant program prior to the execution of a grant agreement shall be resolved in accordance with Wis. Admin. Code § NR 166.18.

#### **9.0 FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS**

Funding for the LSLR Community Outreach Grant Program comes from funds from the federal BIL. All projects are required to comply with applicable federal laws including, but not limited to, the following, as applicable:

Civil Rights, Nondiscrimination, Equal Employment Opportunity Authorities

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Section 13 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- Age Discrimination Act of 1975
- Executive Order 13798

#### Economic and Other Authorities

- Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act
- Intergovernmental Cooperation Act
- Executive Order 12372
- Section 306 of the Clean Air Act and section 508 of the Clean Water Act, as implemented by Executive Order 11738
- Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act
- New Restrictions on Lobbying, 40 CFR Part 34
- Prohibitions on Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment (2 CFR 200.216)