Lead Testing in Drinking Water Program

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EPA Grant

Statute:

Section 1464(d) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), as amended by section 2107 of the 2016 Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN) and by section 2006 of the 2018 America’s Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA), authorizes EPA to award grants…to test for lead contamination in drinking water at…child care programs.
OCFS recipient of the WIIN grant:

- Grant Purpose: To create a program to assist child care facilities in testing for lead in drinking water
- Grant Funding: $1.96 Million
- Grant Timeline: 10/1/21-9/30/23
Lead Testing in Drinking Water Program
LTDWP Framework

• Participation is voluntary

• Prioritizing child care facilities:
  o In low-income areas*
  o Serving children six years and under
  o Not already subject to mandatory state testing requirements

• Use of EPA’s 3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water at Schools and Child Care Facilities: A Training, Testing and Taking Action Approach

*Defined as counties with 20% or more of their families living below 200% of the federal poverty level based on US Census Data
LTDWP Framework

Eligibility:

- Public or Private water sources both eligible
- OCFS licensed or registered child care facilities who are open
- Child care facilities located in a rented space are eligible
OCFS LTDWP Program

✓ Easy online request form!
✓ One request per program
✓ Available on OCFS website*

*https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/lead-program.php
Testing

- Test all water outlets that could reasonably be used for drinking or cooking

- No-cost to approved providers:
  - ✓ Sample containers
  - ✓ Return shipping
  - ✓ Laboratory analysis
Testing

- Providers collect their own samples
- OCFS has contracted with New York Environmental (NYE), an Environmental Laboratory Approval Program (ELAP) certified laboratory for analysis of samples
Results

- Lab emails results directly to provider
- If test results are at or over the ‘action level’ (15 ug/L microgram per liter) providers must remove outlet from use and take steps to address
OCFS will support programs in developing a plan to address the elevated levels from test results received from the OCFS Lead Testing in Drinking Water Program.

Follow-up supporting documents will be emailed to providers.
Results

- Results posted on OCFS website on the LTDWP page
  - Including follow-up testing results
- No cost follow-up sample containers available through the program for water outlets which have been remediated
Training
Coming soon! No cost e-learning for child care providers on the dangers of lead in drinking water

Currently available: Keeping Children Safe: Prevention of Lead Poisoning and Other Dangers to Children
Website:
- FAQs
- How-to collection videos
- Resources
- Testing options for families
- Informational Videos
- Printable classroom materials and info on lead for families and providers (handouts, posters, etc)
Contact Information

Email:

ocfs.sm.watertest@ocfs.ny.gov

OCFS Website:

https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/lead-program.php