

Frequently Ask Questions

Lead Service Line Replacement Funding Program

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) appropriated \$15 billion to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) nationwide for Lead Service Line Replacement funding. The funding will be allotted to the states over a five-year period. On October 3, 2022, the State Water Board adopted the state fiscal year (FY) 2022-23 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Intended Use Plan (IUP) including the Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) Supplemental IUP that describes how the first allotment of LSLR funding will be used. The LSLR program provides financial assistance in the form of zero percent interest loans or loan forgiveness funding to California's water systems to complete Lead Service Line Inventories and Replacements.

1. What is a lead service line?

A lead service line is a service line made of lead, which connects the water main to the building inlet. A lead service line may be owned by the water system, owned by the property owner, or both.

A galvanized service line is considered a lead service line if it ever was or is currently downstream of any lead service line or service line of unknown material.

2. Who is eligible to apply for LSLR funding?

Public and privately owned community water systems and non-profit non-community water systems.

3. What are the eligible project activities and components?

- Complete removal of lead service lines (public and privately owned portion).
- Removal of lead goosenecks, pigtails, and connectors, whether standalone or connected to a lead service line.
- Replacement of curb stops, curb stop boxes, and other service line appurtenances that are removed as part of a full LSLR.
- Site restoration, including landscaping, sidewalks, driveways, etc. if the removal was necessary to replace the lead service line.

- Permit fees.
- Temporary pitcher filters or point-of-use (POU) devices to reduce lead during or for a short period after replacing the lead service lines.
- Development or updating of lead service line inventories.
- Planning and design for infrastructure projects listed above.
- Non-routine lead sampling as part of a LSLR project.

4. What are the funding requirements?

Any project funded under the LSLR funding program involving the replacement of a lead service line must replace the entire lead service line, not just a portion, unless a portion has already been replaced or is concurrently being replaced with another funding source.

In addition, projects must meet the requirements of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program, including all federal cross-cutting requirements, and be otherwise eligible DWSRF projects.

5. What funding is available and what are the terms?

The funding terms offered to water systems depend on the community's disadvantaged status. Water systems serving disadvantaged communities may be eligible for 100 percent (100%) loan forgiveness funding, depending on funding availability, while water systems serving non-disadvantaged communities are eligible for zero percent (0%) interest repayable loans for up to 30 years with the potential, depending on availability, to partially forgive some of the loan at a later date for those portions of the community that are disadvantaged. Please refer to the [LSLR Supplemental IUP](#) for further details.

6. What is a disadvantaged community?

A disadvantaged community means the entire service area of a community water system, or a community therein, in which the median household income is less than eighty percent (80%) of the statewide annual median household income level. A project for a disadvantaged area served by a larger non-disadvantaged community water system may be eligible for LSLR loan forgiveness funding, depending on availability.

7. How do I apply?

Applicants should follow the existing DWSRF application process. Applications for this funding program are accepted continuously through the [Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool \(FAAST\)](#)

8. As a homeowner, what are my options?

The LSLR program is unable to provide funding directly to individual homeowners. Instead, we encourage you to reach out to your local water service provider to discuss your options regarding lead service line replacements.

(This Fact Sheet was last updated on February 14, 2023)