



OFFICE OF GROUND WATER AND DRINKING WATER

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 16, 2024

Dear Tribal Consortium Leader:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to announce the availability of \$7,241,000 in funding to Tribal consortia through the *Voluntary School and Childcare Lead Testing and Reduction Tribal Grant Program (Lead Testing and Reduction in Schools Tribal Grant Program)*. This funding will be allocated to participating Tribal consortia. Beneficiaries of the program must be members of a federally recognized Tribe (this includes Alaska Native Villages).

Through the program, grantees will use the EPA's [3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water](#) guidance to develop and implement voluntary programs for schools and childcare facilities to reduce lead levels in drinking water and protect children from lead exposure now and in the future. The [EPA's Lead Testing and Reduction in Schools Tribal Grant Program website](#) provides details on the eligible activities as well as the schools and childcare facilities eligible for support under the *Lead Testing and Reduction in Schools Tribal Grant Program*. Please note that Section 50110 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)) amended SDWA section 1464(d) to authorize the use of funds under the *Lead Testing and Reduction in Tribal Schools Grant Program* for lead remediation and compliance monitoring in schools and childcare facilities in addition to lead testing. More detailed examples of lead remediation activities now eligible under the *Lead Testing and Reduction in Tribal Schools Grant Program* can be found in Appendix C. of the [WIIN 2107 State Program Implementation Document](#) (page 22).

If your Tribal consortium intends to participate in this program, please submit a letter of intent to the EPA by June 10, 2024. Tribal consortia that are currently participating in the program should send a new letter of intent confirming their intent to continue participation in the program. Please include the following details in your letter of intent:

- Point of contact (name, email address and phone number) who will provide oversight administration and communication.
- Tribal populations and geographic regions you intend to serve.
- Estimated number of eligible* schools and childcare facilities that will be included in your consortium's program. These are facilities to which your Tribal Consortium plans to provide eligible testing and/or remediation services. Please note that federally-owned schools and childcare facilities are not eligible to receive support through this program and therefore, should not be included in this estimate.

**Please note that any school or childcare/daycare facility serving primarily or exclusively members of a federally recognized Tribe is eligible to receive support through the Tribal WIIN 2107 program. This includes public and private facilities and includes facilities that are not physically located on Tribal lands.*

Please email your letter of intent to Gabriella Neusner at Neusner.gabriella@epa.gov by June 10, 2024 and contact her as soon as possible with any questions about the letter of intent.

Once the EPA receives the letters of intent from Tribal consortia planning to participate in the program, the Agency will notify participating Tribal consortia of their funding allotments, and participating consortia will develop project workplans. Following EPA's approval, grantees will formally submit their final workplan in addition to application materials via Grants.gov. Grantees may be required to coordinate with EPA Regional points of contact, as well as other grantees, to prevent duplication of efforts.

If you or your staff have any questions about the *Lead Testing and Reduction in Schools Tribal Grant Program* please contact Gabriella Neusner (Neusner.gabriella@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

Katherine Foreman,
Branch Supervisor, Tribal and Water Resources Assistance Branch