

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

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ONE WINTER STREET, BOSTON, MA



**Request for Interest (RFI)**

**Assistance Program for Lead in School Drinking Water**

**Agency Document Number: BD-16-1045-BRP00-BRP01-00000008262**

**May 3, 2016**

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## **1 RFI BACKGROUND AND GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

### **1.1 Background**

Pursuant to the federal Lead Contamination Control Act (LCCA), every five years the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) issues its Lead and Copper in Schools Maintenance Checklist (Checklist) to administrators of schools and Early Education and Childcare Facilities (EECFs). The Checklist seeks information about the levels of lead and copper in drinking water at school facilities and EECFs, and any programs in place to monitor or reduce exposures to lead and copper in drinking water. MassDEP issued the most recent Checklist in January 2016 to approximately 7,000 schools and EECFs, and as of April 20, 2016, 420 completed Checklists have been submitted.

While the level of lead and copper in water supplied to schools in Massachusetts is generally well below the Massachusetts lead and copper Action Levels (0.015 milligrams per liter (mg/L) and 1.3 mg/L respectively), plumbing and fixtures in buildings may contain lead and copper which can result in an increase in the lead and copper content in drinking water. As a result, the potential for exposure to lead and copper in drinking water continues to be a concern for the health of children.

Through this Assistance Program for Lead in School Drinking Water, MassDEP seeks to ensure that adequate funding and technical assistance is available to public schools and public EECFs to sample drinking water for lead and copper, complete the 2016 Checklist, and receive guidance on implementing follow up actions. For more information about this Program, go to <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/testing-assistance-for-lead-in-school-drinking-water.html>. For additional information about lead and copper in drinking water and MassDEP's LCCA program, please see <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/lead-in-drinking-water.html>.

### **1.2 Description of the Assistance Program for Lead in School Drinking Water**

MassDEP is soliciting interest from Massachusetts municipalities, public school districts, and public schools to receive, free of charge, technical assistance and laboratory analysis services necessary to assess the status of lead and copper in the drinking water at public schools and public EECFs. This assistance will include the following activities:

- 1) Completing the Lead and Copper in Schools Maintenance Checklist issued by MassDEP in January 2016;
- 2) Collecting lead and copper samples at each facility;
- 3) Analyzing samples for lead and copper;
- 4) Reviewing informational material related to preventing lead and copper in drinking water, potential outreach to students, families, and staff, and remediation actions to address elevated lead and copper levels in drinking water;

- 5) Designing and implementing a sampling program for each facility;
- 6) Completing a plumbing profile for each facility;
- 7) Establishing and implementing a record keeping, tracking and reporting protocol for each facility; and
- 8) Performing other tasks as may be necessary to complete the Checklist and associated follow up actions.

Technical assistance and laboratory analysis services will be provided to public schools and public EECFs by contracted private service vendors or other partners (such as state and federal agencies). Based on the response to this Request for Interest (RFI), a list of public schools and EECFs interested in receiving technical assistance and laboratory analysis services will be created, and services will be prioritized based upon the information outlined in Paragraph 4 below. The timing, funding, and number of responders to this RFI may impact the number of facilities that will receive technical assistance and laboratory analysis services.

### **1.3 Eligible Entities**

Eligible entities are public schools and public EECFs in Massachusetts.

## **2 ESTIMATED CALENDAR**

<b>EVENT</b>	<b>DATE</b>
<b>RFI Release Date</b>	May 3, 2016
<b>RFI Close Date</b>	May 27, 2016
<b>Initiation of technical assistance and laboratory analysis assistance</b>	Rolling assistance provided throughout the Program implementation period
<b>Completion of technical assistance and laboratory analysis assistance</b>	10/31/16

## **3 APPLICANT RESOURCE COMMITMENT**

Applicants will be required to designate appropriate employees to work with a technical assistance provider to complete the activities set forth in subparagraph 1.2 above.

Appropriate employees may include the principal, facilities manager, nurse, administrative staff and other staff who can assist in implementing a lead and copper program at the facility. At a minimum, these individuals should be familiar with the facility, have sufficient time (approximately 10 hours total) to meet with the technical assistance provider to complete the activities set forth in subparagraph 1.2 above, and be authorized to take water samples and implement a lead and copper program.

## **4 EVALUATION**

Applicants' responses to the RFI will be used to determine eligibility for this Program and to prioritize applicants for the receipt of technical assistance, sampling, and laboratory analysis services.

### **4.1 Evaluation Components**

Requests for technical assistance and laboratory analysis services will be prioritized based upon the following information:

- 1) Grade level and size of the student body (Younger/Larger student bodies will receive higher priority).
- 2) Age of the facility (Facilities built before 1986 will receive higher priority).
- 3) Plumbing improvements made to facilities to eliminate, reduce or mitigate the potential for lead or copper in drinking water (Pre-1986 facilities that have undertaken little or no improvements to eliminate, reduce or mitigate lead or copper in drinking water will receive higher priority).
- 4) Previous collection of lead and copper samples
  - a. Facilities with minimal or no lead and copper sampling will receive higher priority.
  - b. Facilities with elevated lead or copper sampling results will receive higher priority.
  - c. Facilities with lower percentages of drinking water fixtures that have been sampled will receive higher priority.
- 5) Existence of a lead and copper sampling and remediation program for each facility (Facilities without an active lead and copper sampling and remediation program will receive higher priority).
- 6) Schools and EECFs located in Environmental Justice areas, as defined by the Environmental Justice Policy of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, will also receive higher priority.

## 4.2 Proposal Components

An applicant's RFI response must include the following information:

- 1) The primary point of contact for this RFI response and for each facility, including the contact's name, phone number, email address, and mailing address.
- 2) A commitment of the applicant to participate in this Program. Applicants should anticipate that approximately 10 hours will be required by personnel designated to work with the technical assistance provider.
- 3) A list of key personnel, names and titles, who will be involved in the Program.
- 4) Responses to the following questions:
  - a. How many students attend each facility?
  - b. How many students are in each grade?
  - c. For each facility:
    - i. Identify the facility and its age.
    - ii. List any plumbing improvements that have been made to each facility that would likely eliminate, reduce or mitigate the potential for lead and copper in drinking water.
    - iii. Identify the date when you, your public water supplier, or some other entity last collected lead and copper samples at each facility.
    - iv. How many sample results from your most recent round of sampling were over the Action Levels for Lead (0.015 mg/L) and Copper (1.3 mg/L)?
    - v. What is the approximate percentage of drinking water and food preparation fixtures sampled at each facility?
- 5) Do you have an active lead and copper sampling and remediation program for the facility and, if so, please briefly describe the program?
- 6) So that MassDEP can make scheduling decisions appropriately -- identify each timeframe that staff are available at each facility to meet with a technical assistance provider:
  1. June – August, 2016
  2. September – October, 2016

The response to this RFI must be signed by one or more of the following officials: Superintendent of Schools, School Principal, appropriate School Committee representative, Mayor, Town Administrator or other official authorized by the municipality to make the required commitments on behalf of the municipality.

## 5 HOW TO SUBMIT A RESPONSE

### INSTRUCTIONS

To submit a response, you will need to complete the RFI Response Form. The RFI Response Form can be submitted via an online form, attachment to an email, or by regular mail. See below for instructions.

- **ONLINE FORM**  
Go to <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/testing-assistance-for-lead-in-school-drinking-water.html> and complete the RFI Response Form.
- **EMAIL**  
Go to <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/testing-assistance-for-lead-in-school-drinking-water.html> and download the form titled “RFI Response Form”. The response form is available in Microsoft Word and PDF format. Email the completed RFI Response Form as an attachment to [Program.Director-DWP@state.ma.us](mailto:Program.Director-DWP@state.ma.us) with the subject line “Lead in School RFI Response”.
- **MAIL**  
Go to <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/testing-assistance-for-lead-in-school-drinking-water.html> and download the form titled “RFI Response Form”. The response form is available in Microsoft Word and PDF format. Mail the completed RFI Response Form to  
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection  
One Winter Street  
Boston, MA 02108  
ATTN: Drinking Water Program - Assistance Program for Lead in School  
Drinking Water

**Response Deadline**– Responses are due no later than May 27, 2016 at 5 pm