



Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)  
Drinking Water Program (DWP) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

## **Lead and Copper Rule Improvements Funding and Technical Assistance Opportunities Webinar: Questions and Answers**

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**Webinar date: 4/30/2026**

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MassDEP and the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust hosted a related Lead Service Line Replacement Funding and Technical Assistance Opportunities webinar on April 30, 2026. To view this and previous Lead Service Line Replacement funding webinar recordings and the Questions and Answers documents visit the [Lead Service Line Replacement Program](#) webpage.

### **1. School and Childcare Facility Lead Testing Programs and Requirements**

#### **1.1. In regards to the Water Smart Pilot Program, is there a way for the Public Water System (PWS) to view which school or childcare has signed up during their first outreach letter so we do not send the 2<sup>nd</sup> outreach letter?**

Yes. MassDEP will provide participating PWS with a list of schools and childcare facilities that have completed the Water-Smart Program application following the initial outreach, upon request. MassDEP requests that PWS send the second outreach letter between 60 and 90 days of the initial outreach date.

#### **1.2. Can schools / childcare facilities be billed for the cost of lead / copper testing after 11/1/2027? Especially, if they have previously refused participation in the Water-Smart Pilot Program? Wondering if that can be used to encourage participation before 2027?**

Starting November 1, 2027, community PWS will be required to offer free lead in drinking water testing to 20% of all schools and childcare facilities in their service area each year for five years until 100% have been tested, declined the offer of testing, or were non-responsive. The Water-Smart Program provides free voluntary sampling for any school or childcare facility that participates, regardless of timing. If a school or childcare declines the offer for sampling from a PWS that is participating in the Water-Smart Pilot Program for PWS, that refusal counts towards fulfilling the PWS' requirements under the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI). If a PWS does not choose to participate in the Water-Smart Pilot Program for PWS, the PWS

will be responsible for paying for school and childcare facility lead in drinking water testing for facilities that accept the offer of sampling after November 1, 2027. There is no requirement under the LCRI that the schools and childcare facilities accept the offer to sample or that they are responsible for sampling on their own.

**1.3. My schools were a part of the MassDEP LCCA assistance program testing lead and copper back in 2016. Is my school still required to test by 2027?**

No. There is no requirement under the LCRI that schools or childcare facilities test their drinking water for lead. The school and childcare facility lead testing requirements of the LCRI require PWS to offer lead testing to all schools and childcare facilities that they serve. Schools and childcare facilities that do not wish to test may decline the offer from their PWS. Importantly, MassDEP Drinking Water Program recommends schools and childcare facilities test for lead every three years. If schools and childcare facilities located in a community participating in the Water-Smart Pilot Program for PWS tested for lead during the initial phase of the Assistance Program for Lead in School and Childcare Facility Drinking Water or the subsequent Expanded Assistance Program, and wish to test again, they can do so under the Pilot Program.

For PWS: Lead testing conducted as part of the Water-Smart Pilot Program for PWS between January 1, 2021, and November 1, 2027, can count towards the LCRI school and childcare facility sampling requirements. Sampling conducted prior to January 1, 2021, through the initial phases of the MassDEP program will not count towards the LCRI requirements.

**1.4. We currently conduct sampling at 2 schools/daycare facilities in each LCR sampling period, does that satisfy the requirements?**

Any school / childcare facility sampling that follows LCRI school and childcare facility sampling frequency and sampling protocols and that occurred between January 1, 2021, and November 1, 2027 would exempt the specific sampled facilities from being sampled within the first five years following the LCRI compliance date. However, testing two schools/daycare facilities each Lead and Copper Rule sampling period does not satisfy the LCRI school and childcare facility lead testing requirements to offer free lead in drinking water testing to 20% of all schools and childcare facilities in the PWS service area each year for five years until 100% have been tested, unless that sampling equates to the LCRI frequency and

sampling protocols for that specific PWS. The LCRI requires at least five samples taken at schools and at least two samples taken at childcare facilities.

## 2. State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Forgiveness

### 2.1. With the SRF Program, what is the range of possible % of loan forgiveness, and how is the percent of loan forgiveness determined? Will there be any for non-Environmental Justice communities?

Projects identified as LSL construction projects or LSL planning projects fall under the Trust's Environmentally Disadvantaged Community loan definition, the environmental justice designation does not apply to lead projects. Loan forgiveness for LSL projects has been 40%, with future projects expected to receive the same amount, subject to available federal funds.

## 3. Lead Service Line Replacement Plan Implementation Assistance Program

### 3.1. If we are eligible for the assistance program, can we still get other funding as well?

Yes. PWS that are eligible for the Lead Service Line Replacement Plan Implementation Assistance Program for Small Systems are free to explore and receive other funding opportunities in addition to participation in the Assistance Program.

## 4. MassDEP Drinking Water Program Contacts

### 4.1. Is there a contact if a PWS has questions about putting together the Service Line Inventory?

PWS should contact the MassDEP Drinking Water Program at [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov) with any inquiries about the Service Line Inventory or other LCRI topics.

### 4.2. Is there a DEP regional contact list that we can reach out to with PWS specific questions?

MassDEP Drinking Water Program Lead and Copper Regional Office Contacts:

Boston: Jessica Sibirski - [jessica.sibirski@mass.gov](mailto:jessica.sibirski@mass.gov)

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