

EPA Water Technical Assistance (WaterTA): Helping Communities Access Funding

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Agenda

- Background
- WaterTA program
- How to request WaterTA
- Lead service line-related WaterTA





Many Communities Face Water Infrastructure Challenges

EPA Supports Infrastructure Improvements via:

Funding

+

Technical Assistance (TA)

Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRF)

Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA)

Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act Grants

Drinking Water Infrastructure Grants

Tribal Set-Aside (DWIG-TSA)

Clean Water Indian Set Aside (CWISA)

EPA WaterTA Programs

TA providers (funded by EPA grants)

External TA Program Partnerships

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

- **\$50 billion** investment in water infrastructure – the largest ever!
- Large amount of funding will be grants/forgivable loans for **disadvantaged communities**
- Loans at **below market rates**
- **5-year** appropriation timeline



EPA WaterTA Approach

- **Targeted:** focused on disadvantaged and underserved communities as well as those that may struggle to access funding to improve their water infrastructure
- **Proactive:** directly assist disadvantaged and underserved communities – we go to them!
- **Community-centered:** meet communities where they are by building trust, adjusting to their needs, and being culturally competent

EPA WaterTA Supports Communities to:



Identify water challenges



Plan for solutions



Increase community engagement



Improve compliance and access to safe and clean water services



Build technical, financial, managerial capacity



Develop application materials to access water infrastructure funding



EPA WATER TA

Environmental Finance Centers

Closing America's Wastewater Access Gap

Lead Service Line Replacement Accelerators Pilot

Direct Technical Assistance

Clean Water Rural, Small & Tribal Assistance

Get the Lead Out (GLO) Initiative

Preliminary Engineering Support

Community Solutions Team Pilot

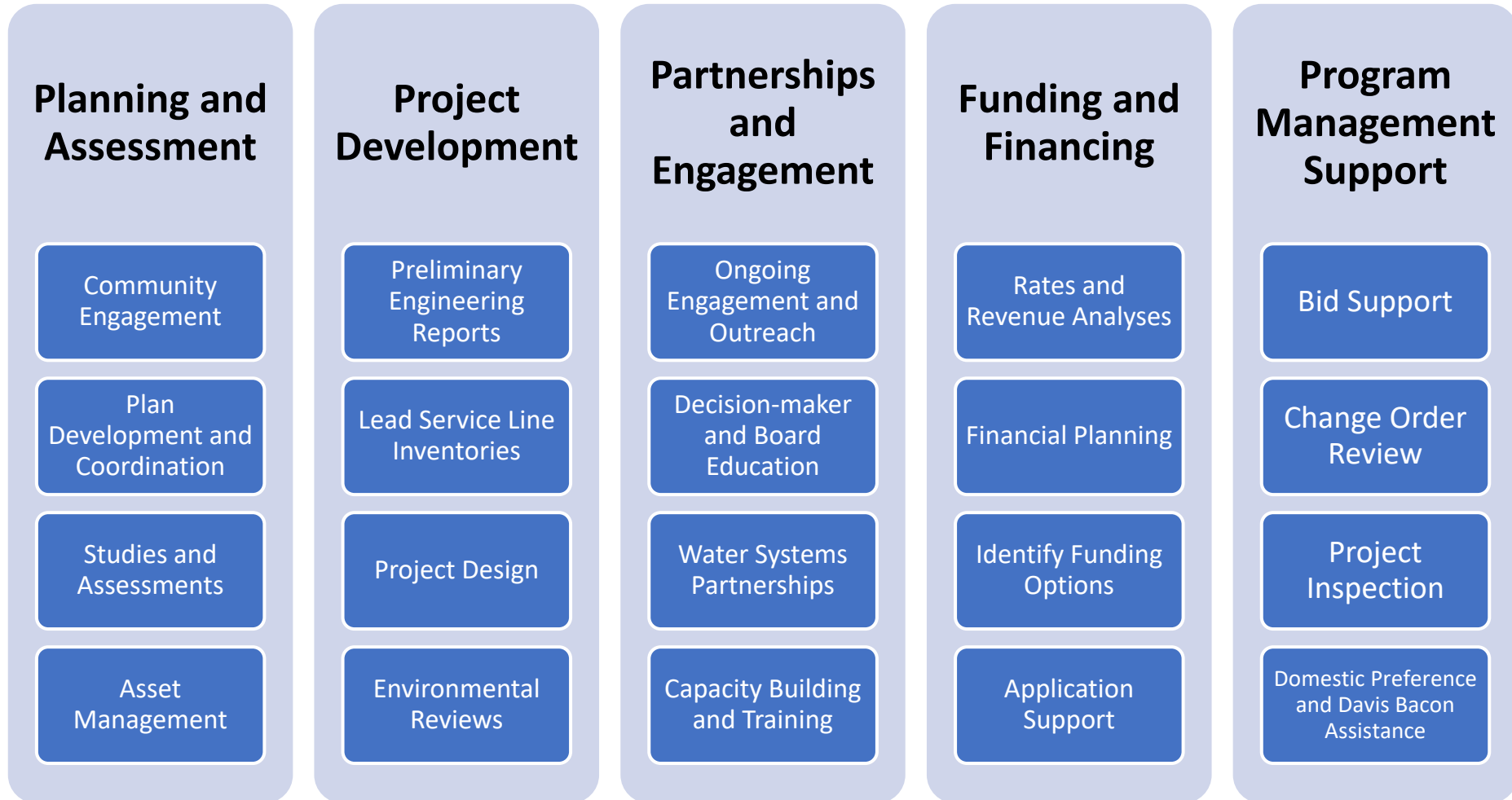
Training and Technical Assistance for Small Systems

Cybersecurity Technical Assistance

Creating Resilient Water Utilities

and more!

WaterTA Services





Who is eligible to receive EPA WaterTA Services?

- Local governments/communities
- Drinking water utilities/systems
- Wastewater utilities/systems
- Stormwater utilities/systems
- States, Tribes, territories
- Non-governmental organizations
- **Questions? Contact WaterTA@epa.gov**

Technical Assistance (TA) Providers

EPA works with national and regional providers that are experts in water and supporting communities.





WaterTA Connection

There are multiple pathways for communities to access WaterTA:

- Recommended by a State or EPA Region
- Directly contacted/referred by a WaterTA provider
- Submit a WaterTA Request Form

Project Examples

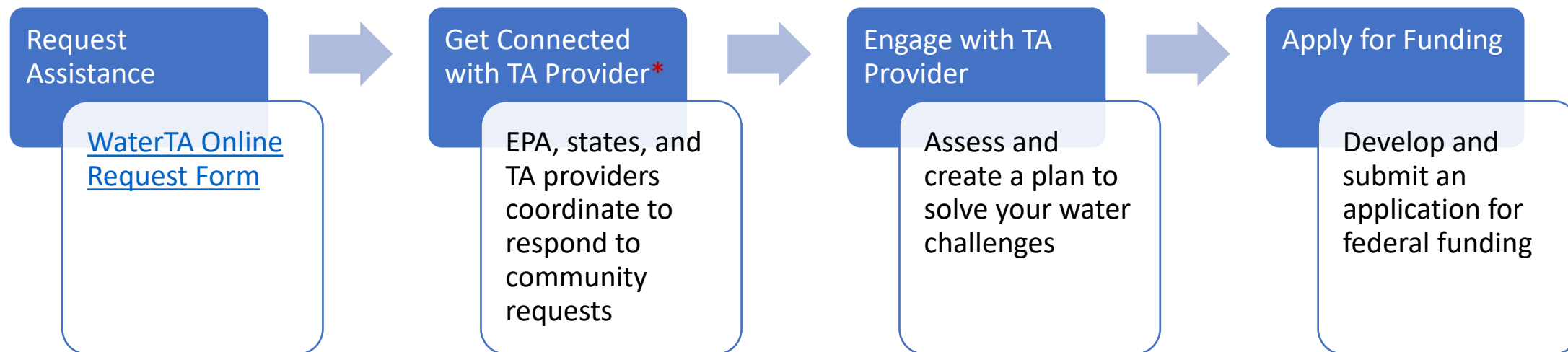
- Drinking/wastewater treatment plant and pipe upgrades or building new water infrastructure
- Connecting households or small drinking water/wastewater systems to larger systems
- Stormwater, flood control, and green infrastructure projects
- Water conservation projects
- Addressing Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) and other emerging contaminant challenges
- Addressing nonpoint source pollution of waterbodies
- **Many more possibilities...**

How can I request WaterTA?

Submit a WaterTA Request Form at epa.gov/WaterTA

The screenshot displays the EPA WaterTA website. At the top, the EPA logo and 'United States Environmental Protection Agency' are visible, along with a search bar and navigation menus for 'Environmental Topics', 'Laws & Regulations', 'Report a Violation', and 'About EPA'. The main heading is 'Water Infrastructure' with a 'CONTACT US' link. Below this is the title 'Water Technical Assistance Request Form' and the OMB Control Number '2030-0051'. The expiration date is listed as '5/31/24'. A red box highlights the main content area, which includes the instruction: 'Complete the following form to request Water Technical Assistance (WaterTA)'. The text explains that EPA WaterTA aims to assist communities with applications for federal funding, quality water infrastructure, and reliable water services. It encourages users to learn more about 'who can receive WaterTA and the challenges WaterTA can help your community address' and to contact WaterTA@epa.gov for questions. A second red box highlights a blue button at the bottom of the page that says 'Click Here to Request Water Technical Assistance for Your Community'. To the right, there is a list of resources including a 'WaterTA Informational Webinar' (July 31, 2023) and a 'WaterTA Community Fact Sheet' (175.56 KB, May 2023).

What Happens Next?



The end result: *more communities with applications for federal funding, quality water infrastructure, and reliable water services!*

*Not every request may be offered WaterTA, and participation in this or other EPA technical assistance programs does not guarantee funding through the State Revolving Funds or other programs.



WaterTA for LSL Inventory and Replacement: Pilot to Program

Health Effects and Sources of Lead

- **Health Effects of Lead:**

- Greatest risk to infants, young children, and fetuses
- Damage to nervous system, brain, red blood cells, and kidneys

- **Sources of Lead and Copper:**

- Corrosion of materials in water pipes and household plumbing.
- Common sources include service lines, solder, pipes, faucets, and fixtures.
- The LCR aims to reduce exposure risk primarily by reducing water's corrosivity.

For more information on health effects and sources of lead, please visit our website at:

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>



LCRR Requirement: Initial Service Line Inventory

- **LCRR Requirements:** System submits inventory, primacy agency reviews, and reports to EPA:
 - By PWSID – number of lead, galvanized requiring replacement, and unknown service lines
 - Option to report number non-lead service lines
 - Any violations for failure to submit an initial inventory that complies with LCR section 141.84(a)
- **Tools available:**
 - Inventory Guidance and Spreadsheet Template
 - Small Systems Inventory Guidance and Fact Sheet
 - [Funding Options Factsheet](#)

Funding Sources for Developing Service Line Inventories

Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed this document to help communities identify potential funding sources for conducting service line inventories. The Lead and Copper Rule Revisions require all water systems to develop a publicly available inventory of all publicly and privately-owned service lines in the distribution system, which must be submitted by October 16, 2024. On August 4, 2022, EPA released their [Guidance for Developing and Maintaining a Service Line Inventory](#) to support water systems with their efforts to develop inventories.

Exposure to lead in the environment continues to be a [public health concern](#), especially for vulnerable populations such as children and pregnant women. Sources of lead exposure may include lead-based paint, drinking water, and soil contaminated by historical sources. Lead and copper enter drinking water mainly from the corrosion of service lines and plumbing materials containing lead and copper. For more information about lead, visit [EPA's Lead in Drinking Water webpage](#).

Communities may need funding to support developing service line inventories, particularly for identifying the material type of service lines on private property. This document lists some of the potential funding resources to support communities with their efforts to develop service line inventories.

To navigate to a particular funding source, click on a box below:

[Drinking Water State Revolving Fund \(DWSRF\) Program](#)

[Environmental Justice Government-to-Government \(EJG2G\) Program](#)

[Drinking Water Infrastructure Grants – Tribal Set-Aside \(DWIG-TSA\) Program](#)

[USDA Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program](#)

[Reducing Lead in Drinking Water Grant Program](#)

[Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities and Households \(SEARCH\) Grant](#)

[Small, Underserved, and Disadvantaged Communities \(SUDC\) Grant Program](#)

[Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Program \(PWEAA\)](#)

[Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act \(WIFIA\) Program](#)

[Community Development Block Grant \(CDBG\) Entitlement Program](#)

[State CDBG Program](#)



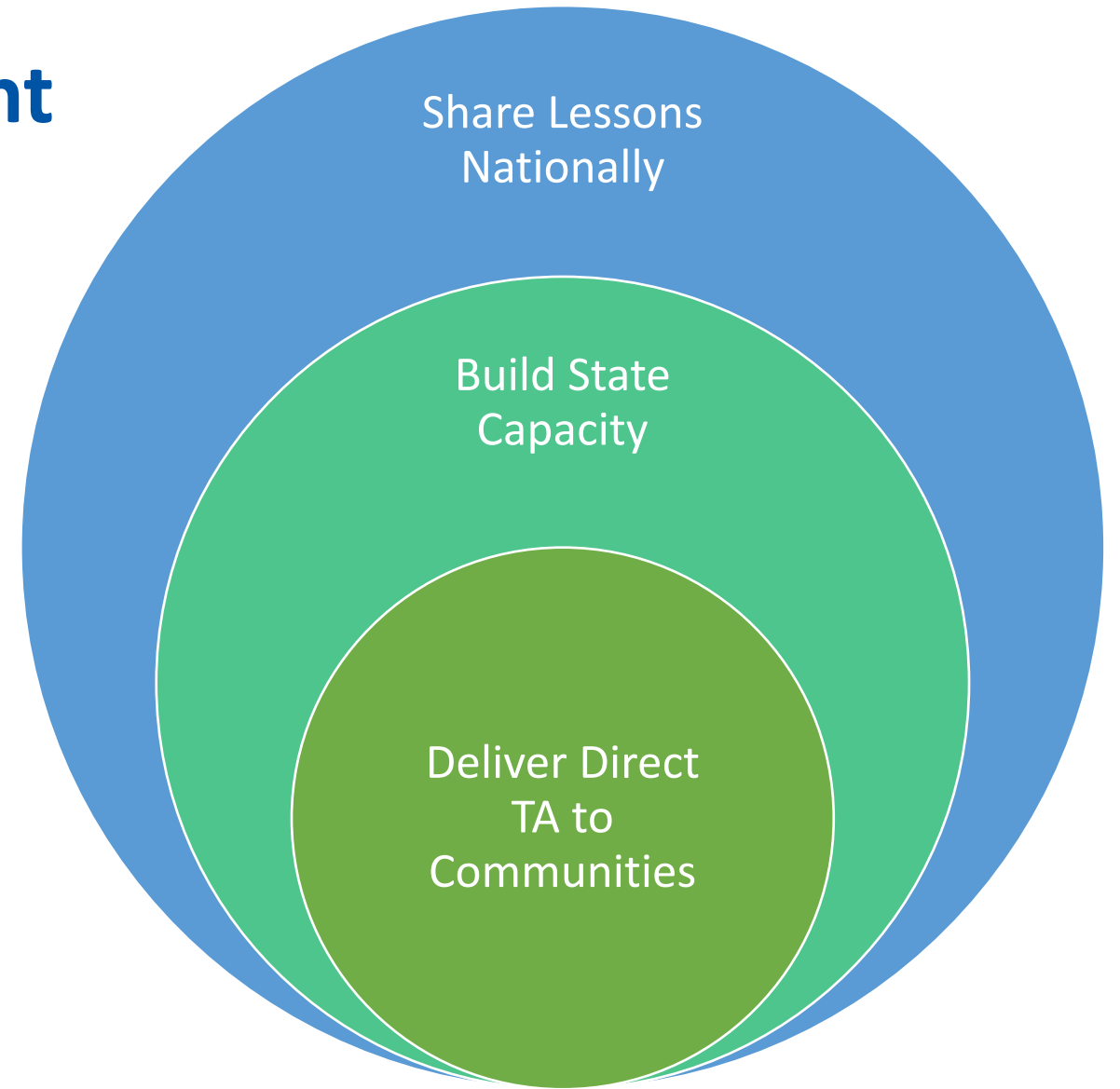
EPA's free Water Technical Assistance (WaterTA) supports communities to identify water challenges, develop plans, build capacity, and develop application materials to access water infrastructure funding. WaterTA may be able to help your water system identify and apply for funding for service line inventories.

[Learn more about WaterTA](#)

Lead Service Line Replacement Accelerators Pilot Program

Lead Service Line Replacement Accelerators Pilot

Under the overarching goal of 100% lead service line replacement (LSLR), this TA initiative is working to accelerate LSLR in underserved communities by providing free direct technical assistance and collaborating with states to improve the administration of the BIL LSLR funds.



Community Spotlight in New Jersey

Community:

Small drinking water system (pop. 2,406)

Only 25% of residents have English as their first language

WaterTA support:

- Prepare outreach materials in multiple languages to increase accessibility and engage community members
- Develop GIS map with service line material information collected during meter replacements
- Develop a strategy to combine LSL identification and replacement with other infrastructure projects



Local and State Capacity Building and National Resources

- Encouraging **partnership and knowledge sharing** through
 - Community of Practice in each state
 - Quarterly 4 State meetings
- Developing resources and sharing lessons learned
 - Keep an eye on <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/lead-service-lines> for new resources to be released soon





Get the Lead Out (GLO) Initiative Overview

Background

- In pursuit of a 100% lead-free America, the Biden-Harris Administration has made accelerating the replacement of lead service lines a top priority.
- The Get the Lead Out or “GLO” Initiative builds upon the Accelerators initiative to expand LSLR TA to underserved and disadvantaged communities nationwide.
- GLO Initiative WaterTA will meet recipients where they are, provide targeted assistance based on the unique needs of that community, and ensure the process is community-centered, providing ample and accessible engagement opportunities and ensuring cultural competence and sensitivity throughout.
- WaterTA Connection - GLO WaterTA providers will coordinate with other EPA WaterTA providers to ensure seamless handoffs when needed.

Goals of the GLO Initiative

The primary goal of the GLO Center is to provide comprehensive, high-quality LSLR TA to 200 communities over two years. The GLO Center will provide communities with direct WaterTA to achieve the goal of accelerated LSL replacement nationwide.

Delivery of Direct, Community-Centered WaterTA for LSLR

Sharing Best Practices

Amplifying Successes

**Tracking Progress &
Efficacy**

Scope of TA

Develop Inventories

Inventory Plan

LSL Inventory

LSL Maps

Community Engagement

Community Engagement Plan

Community outreach and
engagement

Outreach Materials

Replacement Support

Replacement Plan

Funding Application Support

Construction Management
Support

- Wherever possible, GLO WaterTA providers will partner with local organizations to provide high-quality, culturally competent services.
- For the first year, the GLO Initiative will prioritize helping communities meet the 2021 LCRR inventory requirements prior to the October 16, 2024 deadline.



Get the Lead Out (GLO) Initiative

All communities need access to safe, reliable drinking water. Yet an estimated 9.2 million pipe service lines that provide drinking water to homes across the United States contain lead. To protect children and communities from lead exposure, EPA has established the Get the Lead Out Initiative. Through the GLO Initiative, EPA will partner with 200 underserved communities, identify lead service lines, develop replacement plans, and apply for funding to get the lead resource from EPA helps achieve President Biden's goal of 100% lead pipe removal and build water technical assistance (WaterTA) portfolio.

Working Together to Get the Lead Out

In 2021, President Biden signed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. This historic \$50 billion investment and wastewater infrastructure dedicates more than \$15 billion to removing and replacing lead (LSLs). Through the GLO Initiative, 200 communities will have access to their fair share of this funding and ensure safer drinking water for all. The GLO Initiative will help communities navigate barriers to lead pipe removal by providing tools, best practices, and peer exchange and learning.

EPA will work with communities to get the lead out by supporting the development of:

- 1. LSL Inventories that meet 2021 Lead and Copper Rule Revisions requirements deadline. Inventory is necessary to fully identify the funding needs of the community;
2. Community Engagement Plans that invite community-wide input, provide education, and meaningfully engage affected residents and community members while identifying an;
3. Lead Service Line Replacement Plans to provide each municipality a roadmap for 100% and full replacement of all LSLs, including public and private portions; and/or
4. State Revolving Fund (SRF) Applications to help communities fund their service line replacement. Recipient of this technical assistance will receive a customized plan to facilitate their work.

Additionally, EPA will develop tools and case studies to share information and best practices with Agency, state and Tribal programs, water system managers, and community leaders.

An All of Government Approach

Through its Lead Pipe and Paint Action Plan, the Biden-Harris Administration has made accelerated line replacement a top priority. EPA is committed to using every tool available including our staff under the Safe Drinking Water Act, water technical assistance, infrastructure investments, and lead pipes and protect children and communities across America from lead in drinking water.

For More Information

For more information about EPA's ongoing technical assistance programs, please visit www.epa.gov. Communities can request assistance by completing the WaterTA request form at: https://www.epa.gov/infrastructure/forms/water-technical-assistance-request-form



Iniciativa Get the Lead Out (GLO)

Todas las comunidades necesitan acceso a agua potable segura y fiable. Sin embargo, se calcula que 9,2 millones de tuberías (también denominadas líneas de servicio) que abastecen agua potable a los hogares de Estados Unidos contienen plomo. Para proteger a las familias, los niños y las comunidades de la exposición al plomo, la EPA ha creado la Iniciativa Get the Lead Out (Iniciativa GLO). A través de la Iniciativa GLO, la EPA asociará con 200 comunidades desatendidas para ayudarlas a identificar las líneas de servicio de plomo, elaborar planes de reemplazo y solicitar financiación para deshacerse del plomo. Este recurso nuevo de la EPA ayuda a alcanzar el objetivo del presidente Biden de eliminar el 100 % de las tuberías de plomo y emplea los servicios de la asistencia técnica para el agua (WaterTA) de la EPA.

Trabajar en conjunto con Get the Lead Out

En 2021, el presidente Biden firmó la Ley Bipartidista de Infraestructura. La inversión histórica de \$50 000 millones en la infraestructura de aguas y aguas residuales destina más de \$15 000 millones a eliminar y reemplazar las líneas de servicio de plomo (LSL). A través de la Iniciativa GLO, 200 comunidades tendrán acceso a su parte equitativa de esta financiación sin precedentes y se asegurarán de tener agua potable más segura para todos. La Iniciativa GLO ayudará a las comunidades de todo el país a resolver los obstáculos de la eliminación de tuberías de plomo proporcionando herramientas, prácticas recomendadas e intercambio entre pares y aprendizaje.

La EPA trabajará con las comunidades para deshacerse del plomo mediante el desarrollo de lo siguiente:

- 1. Inventario de las LSL que cumplen con la fecha límite de los requisitos de las Revisiones de la Regla para el Plomo y el Cobre de 2021. Se necesita un inventario de las LSL para identificar por completo las necesidades de financiación de la comunidad.
2. Planes de participación de la comunidad que invitan a toda la comunidad a participar, proporcionan recursos educativos e involucran de manera significativa a los residentes y miembros de la comunidad afectados mientras se identifican y reemplazan las LSL.
3. Planes de reemplazo de línea de servicio de plomo a fin de brindarle a cada municipalidad una guía para identificar y reemplazar el 100 % de las LSL, incluidas las partes públicas o privadas.
4. Solicitudes de Fondos rotativos estatales (SRF) para ayudar a las comunidades a financiar el reemplazo de su línea de servicio. Cada beneficiario de esta ayuda técnica recibirá un plan personalizado para facilitar su trabajo con el estado.

Además, la EPA desarrollará herramientas y estudios de caso para compartir información y prácticas recomendadas entre la Agencia, los programas estatales y tribales, los responsables del sistema de agua y los líderes de la comunidad.

Un enfoque que involucra a todo el gobierno

A través de su Plan de acción para las tuberías y la pintura a base de plomo, el gobierno de Biden-Harris le ha dado prioridad al reemplazo de líneas de servicio de plomo. La EPA se compromete a utilizar cada herramienta disponible, incluida nuestra autoridad regulatoria de conformidad con la Ley de Agua Potable Segura, la asistencia técnica para el agua, las inversiones en infraestructura y mucho más, para reemplazar las tuberías de plomo y proteger a niños y comunidades de Estados Unidos de la presencia de plomo en el agua potable.

Para obtener más información

Para obtener más información sobre los programas de asistencia técnica continua de la EPA, visite www.epa.gov/water. Para solicitar asistencia, las comunidades pueden completar el formulario de solicitud de WaterTA disponible en: https://www.epa.gov/infrastructure/forms/water-technical-assistance-request-form



Water Infrastructure

CONTACT US

Get the Lead Out Initiative

What is the GLO Initiative?

As part of the Biden-Harris Administration's whole-of-government effort to tackle lead exposure, EPA aims to help states and communities get access to water infrastructure funding and eliminate potential barriers to lead pipe removal. The Get the Lead Out (GLO) Initiative takes lessons learned and best practices from the Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) Accelerators pilot program and will work to expand LSLR WaterTA to approximately 200 additional underserved and disadvantaged communities. The objective of the GLO Initiative is to accelerate the removal of lead pipes where it's needed most, help connect more communities to historic federal funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and move our country closer to President Biden's goal of getting 100% of lead pipes out of water systems once and for all. The GLO initiative is funded entirely by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Find out more at https://www.epa.gov/water-infrastructure/get-lead-out-initiative

Additional Technical Assistance (TA) Programs

- In addition to assistance provided by EPA Office of Water, multiple TA programs are available from:
 - [EPA Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights \(OEJECR\)](#)
 - [EPA Office of Land and Emergency Management \(OLEM\)](#)
 - [EPA Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations \(OCIR\)](#)
 - [EPA Office of Research and Development \(ORD\)](#)
 - The [US Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](#) and the [Indian Health Service \(IHS\)](#) also offer robust TA programs.

Questions about WaterTA?

- Email your questions to WaterTA@epa.gov
- Visit www.epa.gov/waterta for more information
- Visit <https://www.epa.gov/water-infrastructure/forms/water-technical-assistance-request-form> to submit a WaterTA request

Learn more or request assistance at

www.epa.gov/WaterTA



Thank you

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