

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Drinking Water Section

DWS Circular Letter #2021-20

TO: Community and Non-Profit Non-Community Public Water Systems
Municipal Chief Elected Officials
Local Directors of Health

FROM: Lori J. Mathieu, Public Health Branch Chief 
Environmental Health & Drinking Water Branch

DATE: March 25, 2021

SUBJECT: Drinking Water State Revolving Fund – Lead Service Line Replacement
Eligibility Application deadline extended to April 16, 2021

The Department of Public Health's (DPH) Drinking Water Section (DWS) is seeking new Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) funding applications for lead service line (LSL) replacements (LSLR) in order to understand the statewide financial need associated with these projects. As revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) become finalized it is anticipated that there will be a growing financial need among public water systems (PWS) to undertake these projects. **As a result, the DPH is extending the deadline for PWSs to submit State Fiscal Year 2022 DWSRF Eligibility Applications for LSLR projects to April 16, 2021.**

The DPH has worked hard over the past few years to implement a Public Water System Improvement Program (PWSIP) to provide State grant funding for LSLR and other high priority projects including regional interconnections between PWS, consolidation of small PWS and projects that address emerging contaminants. It is essential that adequate financial support for these projects is pursued by the DPH to help assure Connecticut's public drinking water is safe and affordable for our residents and businesses.

In recent years the DPH has emphasized the need for PWS to accurately inventory all LSLs in their distribution system and report this information to the DWS. This inventory includes not only the portion of the service line that is owned by the PWS but the portion of the service line on each customer's property. Whenever possible, the DPH encourages full replacement of both sections of service line to remove all lead piping. In certain cases, it is expected that this will be required under the revised LCR.



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Under the PWSIP, Community and Non-Profit Non-Community PWSs that serve 10,000 or fewer persons may receive up to 50% grant-in-aid and those that serve more than 10,000 persons may receive up to 30% grant-in aid for LSLR projects. PWSs serving more than 10,000 persons may be eligible to receive additional federal subsidization from the DWSRF for an LSLR project up to a total of 50% of construction contract cost. These grant and subsidy programs provide an enormous benefit in getting LSLR projects implemented as quickly as possible while keeping public drinking water as affordable as possible for rate payers.

It is further anticipated that there will be a federal infrastructure stimulus bill passed at some point in the near future that may include funding for drinking water infrastructure through state DWSRF programs. The emphasis of these bills is to obligate the funding that each State receives quickly to projects that are ready to implement. It is expected that any bill introduced will also include a grant component that will be very attractive to PWSs. **As a reminder, the DWS does not plan to issue any additional solicitations for new DWSRF applications if and when this bill passes, so now is the time to get these applications submitted.**

If you are interested in DWSRF funding and will not be able to meet the April 16, 2021 deadline or if you have any questions on the DWSRF, please do not hesitate to contact Cameron Walden at cameron.walden@ct.gov.

c: Heather Aaron, MPH, LNHA, Deputy Commissioner