



The Lead Plumbing Fixture Replacement Assistance Grants program is intended to provide Ohio's schools with financial assistance to identify and address potential lead issues in their school building's drinking water.

Under the grant program, eligible schools that follow approved sampling and testing instructions can be reimbursed for the costs of sampling, testing, and, if necessary, material replacement of affected drinking water fixtures.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Visit our website:

<http://ofcc.ohio.gov/ServicesPrograms/LeadFixtureReplacementGrants.aspx>

Follow on Social Media:

#OhioPbGP on Twitter and Facebook.

Email:

Send questions to grants.info@ofcc.ohio.gov with "lead grants" in the subject line.

WHAT IS LEAD?

Lead is a blue-gray, heavy metal that occurs naturally in the Earth's crust. The primary use of lead in the U.S. is for automobile rechargeable electric storage batteries. Lead-formed alloys are typically found in ammunition, pipes, cable covering, building material, solder, radiation shielding, collapsible tubes, and fishing weights. Lead is also used in ceramic glazes and as a stabilizer in plastics.

HOW DO I KNOW IF MY SCHOOL'S DRINKING WATER FIXTURES ARE CONTAMINATED WITH LEAD?

You cannot see, taste or smell lead in drinking water. The only way to know is to have the fixtures tested for lead.

HOW DOES LEAD GET INTO DRINKING WATER?

Older buildings are more likely to have lead pipes, fixtures and solder. Lead can be found in these older metal water taps, plumbing pipes, and brass or chrome-plated brass faucets and fixtures with lead solder. When these items begin to corrode, lead can leach into the water.

WHAT IS THE LEAD PLUMBING FIXTURE REPLACEMENT ASSISTANCE GRANTS PROGRAM?

The program was created in House Bill 390 of the 131st Ohio General Assembly as a joint effort by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the Ohio Water Development Authority and the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) to provide \$12,000,000 in funding to eligible schools to reimburse for the testing and possible replacement of drinking fountains, water coolers, plumbing fixtures, and limited connected piping.

Schools built before 1990 can apply for reimbursement up to \$15,000 per school for the assessments of eligible fixtures and the material costs to replace those fixtures if they are identified as being over the federal action level for lead. The program is open to traditional public schools, community schools, and chartered non-public schools. Eligible traditional public school types are city, exempted village, local and joint vocational districts.

HOW DOES THE SAMPLING AND TESTING WORK?

Sampling must have been conducted in accordance with the sampling protocol on OFCC's website (see link below). The analysis must have been conducted at an Ohio EPA certified laboratory. The list of OHIO EPA certified laboratories is available at <http://epa.ohio.gov/Portals/28/documents/labcert/Chemical%20Labs.pdf>. Laboratories must have "lead" or "trace metals" listed in the Inorganics column of the table. OFCC is also working to establish a state term contract with certified laboratories for water testing services. This contract will be made available on the OFCC website for schools to utilize if they choose to.

HOW DOES MY SCHOOL APPLY?

Schools will receive an email from the OFCC with a personalized link to access the lead plumbing fixture replacement assistance grants application system, where schools can enter information and appropriate documentation that provides evidence of sampling, testing and fixture replacement that has been completed.

Schools do not need to wait to receive the application link before testing fixtures. Schools that conduct sampling and testing that follow program guidelines and use Ohio EPA certified labs may apply for reimbursement as long as the testing was done after January 1, 2016. If any fixtures from those tests are found to be causes of lead above the federal action level, schools can also apply for reimbursement of the material costs of replacing the fixture as long as the costs were incurred after January 1, 2016.



ABOUT OFCC

OFCC is responsible for guiding capital projects for state agencies, state-supported universities and community colleges, including Ohio's comprehensive public K-12 school construction and renovation program. The Commission also manages the State's cultural facilities, school security, community school classroom facilities, and the lead plumbing fixture replacement assistance grant programs.