



November 6, 2019

Dear Superintendent:

Our Nation's water infrastructure has received increased attention recently, especially as it relates to the potential existence of lead in our drinking water. This matter is of equal importance in Indiana, and as such, the State of Indiana has applied to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's *Lead Testing in School and Child Care Program Drinking Water Grant* and designated the Indiana Finance Authority ("IFA") to lead the effort. As a result, the IFA has developed the *2019-2020 IFA Lead Sampling Program for Schools and Child Care Facilities* ("Lead Sampling Program") and is now accepting applications for this voluntary program.

The purpose of the Lead Sampling Program is to help schools and child care facilities assess if there is a presence of lead in the drinking water within their buildings. All Indiana public schools and child care facilities, recognized by the Indiana Department of Education and the Family and Social Services Administration respectively, are eligible to apply. A school or child care facility that is already classified as a Public Water System is not included in the program because these facilities are already required to sample for the presence of lead.

The Lead Sampling Program covers the cost of sampling bottles, postage to mail bottles, and the sample analysis cost. Schools and child care facilities are responsible for collecting samples and costs associated with remediation actions identified by sampling. The IFA will provide training webinars to guide participants through the process, as well as remediation guidance specific to each facility's results.

In the event that application requests exceed funds available, priority will be given to facilities that:

1. Predominantly serve children younger than six
2. Serve low to moderate income children
3. Operate in a building that was built prior to 1988
4. Can demonstrate an established and sustainable school or child care program with factors indicating that the building will continue to serve as a school or child care facility in the future
5. Have not already participated in an IFA Lead Sampling Program
6. Apply early in the application process.

The IFA will accept applications until January 17, 2020. Applicants will be notified in February 2020 as to the next steps.

As you may recall, the IFA, with assistance from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, recently concluded the *2017-2018 Lead Sampling for Public Schools Program*. A final report can be found on the [IFA website](#). Results of the study found that 62% of participating schools had at least 1 fixture with lead over the testing threshold, but that 95% of fixtures per school were under the threshold. We anticipate similar results for the current program.

For more information and to apply, please visit our website: <https://www.in.gov/ifa/2998.htm>

Sincerely,
James P. McGoff
Director of Environmental Programs