

Gov. Walker: Announces 35 municipalities to receive a total of \$13.8 million to remove lead service lines

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MADISON – Governor Scott Walker announced today that 35 municipalities have now completed financial assistance agreements with the state that will allow those communities to assist homeowners, schools, and day cares in providing safe drinking water by replacing old lead service lines.

These aging lead service lines extend from the main street pipes owned by local utilities onto private property and into homes, schools, and day care centers. The lines are the responsibility of the property owner who typically would have to pay for full lead service line removal. With this fiscal year’s funding package totaling \$13.8 million, communities can help property owners fully replace those lines to provide safe drinking water for families and children.

The [Lead Service Line Replacement Funding](#) program reflects this administration’s commitment to safe drinking water and addresses the financial barriers facing communities where lead service lines continue to deliver drinking water to customers. “Safe drinking water is critical to the health and well-being of everyone in Wisconsin, and this program is working to help address community needs,” Governor Walker said. “We applaud the work being done in communities across our state to identify old lead service lines and remove them.”

The DNR conceived the funding program last year following a decision by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to allow the state greater flexibility in allocating loan funds for water infrastructure projects. Under the program, municipalities determine how to distribute the funds. Funding for LSL replacement on private property is in the form of [Principal Forgiveness \(PF\)](#), which means no debt is incurred on behalf of the municipality for these funds.

“The lead service line replacement program represents one of the many ways DNR partners with communities to manage our water resources and protect public health,” said DNR Secretary Cathy Stepp. “These cooperative efforts involving the state, local governments, and skilled private contractors serve as a model for what we can accomplish together.”

The 35 municipalities represent all parts of the state with Milwaukee receiving the largest award of \$2.6 million. Another \$13 million in lead service line replacement funding will be available in FY18 and 41 communities have indicated they will be filing applications.

Municipalities receiving FY17 financial assistance for lead service line replacement:				
Antigo \$300,000	Elkhart Lake \$190,000	Manitowoc \$350,000	Platteville \$310,000	Sturgeon Bay \$300,000
Ashland \$300,000	Florence \$325,000	Marshfield \$300,000	Princeton \$305,000	Two Rivers \$300,000
Clintonville \$310,000	Fond du Lac \$300,000	Menasha \$300,000	Racine \$500,000	Waterloo \$300,000
Columbus \$300,000	Green Bay \$500,000	Milwaukee \$2,600,000	Randolph \$300,000	Wausau \$375,000
Cudahy \$300,000	Janesville \$500,000	Monroe \$300,000	Sheboygan \$335,000	West Allis \$500,000
Eagle River \$300,000	Jefferson \$300,000	Mosinee \$300,000	St. Francis \$300,000	West Milwaukee \$140,025
Eau Claire \$500,000	Lake Mills \$300,000	Oshkosh \$500,000	Stratford \$140,750	Wisconsin Rapids \$300,000