



# Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act Tribal Grants

The WIIN Act addresses, supports, and improves America's drinking water infrastructure. The WIIN Act authorized three tribal grant programs to promote public and environmental health by providing investment in tribal public water systems (PWSs) in small and disadvantaged communities and tribal schools and child care facilities to address lead exposure in drinking water, other contaminants, and compliance issues. These grants were amended by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).



## WIIN GRANT


### Section 2104:

#### Small, Underserved, and Disadvantaged (SUDC) Tribal Drinking Water Grant Program

#### TYPE OF GRANT

**2104:**  
**Regional Distribution, DWIG Vehicle Funding SDWA 1459A WIIN 2104**

#### FUNDING AMOUNT

  
**\$2.6 million** (FY21)  
**\$4.1 million** (FY22 estimate)


#### TIMING

  
FY21 allotments and process for project applications/selections will be announced in the near future


#### ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

  
PWSs that serve tribal communities that are determined to be small, underserved, and disadvantaged via an interagency agreement

#### OBJECTIVE

  
Assist tribal PWSs in small, underserved, and disadvantaged communities comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) through infrastructure projects; capacity building activities; and contaminant-specific activities

#### ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

  
Technical assistance and training, investments to assist PWSs remain in compliance with the SDWA, efforts that benefit a community on a per household basis, programs to provide household water quality testing, activities necessary and appropriate to respond to a contaminant, and programs that boost public health protections by improving access to safe water for drinking, hygiene, and cooking

#### HIGHLIGHTS



FY20 funding, amounting to \$24 million, was awarded as interagency agreements to the Indian Health Service (IHS) for water access projects in Alaska Native Villages (\$15.5 million), Tuscarora Nation (\$5.6 million), and Navajo Nation (\$3.8 million). FY21 funding will revert to a focus on technical assistance via interagency agreements

#### UPDATES FROM BIL:

Expands eligible activities to include point-of-entry/-use filtration systems, information-gathering on filtration and lead service line replacement options, and outside technical assistance provided directly to the eligible entity; and reduces the statutory overall cost share from 45% of project costs to 10% of project costs and gives the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the authority to waive the requirement for non-federal share. Please note: Cost share requirements have not been required for tribal grant projects



## WIIN GRANT

### Section 2105:

#### Reduction in Lead Exposure Via Drinking Water Tribal Program


#### TYPE OF GRANT

**2105:**  
**Interagency Agreements SDWA 1459B WIIN 2105**


#### FUNDING AMOUNT

  
**\$1 million** (FY21)  
**\$1 million** (FY22 estimate)


#### TIMING

  
The program anticipates implementation of a regional process whereby requests will be accepted from January - March, late requests would be accepted on a rolling basis until funding is completely distributed


#### ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

  
PWSs that serve tribal communities via an interagency agreement

#### OBJECTIVE

  
Assist in the reduction of lead in drinking water in tribal communities through interagency agreements with Federal partners, and EPA regional collaboration

#### ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

  
Projects and activities that would meaningfully reduce lead concentration in drinking water in tribal communities through drinking water infrastructure and treatment improvements and facility remediation in schools and child care facilities

#### HIGHLIGHTS



Combined 18/19/20 funding, amounting to \$3 million, was transferred to EPA Regions to use in coordination with the IHS. Awards were made in September 2020 for five major projects across four tribal communities/ nations, Quapaw Nation (about \$1 million), Chickasaw Nation (\$1.8 million), Big Valley Rancheria (\$100,000), and Mekoryuk (about \$64,000)

#### UPDATES FROM BIL:

Allows funding to cover replacement of publicly- and privately-owned lead service lines and prioritizes disadvantaged communities, low-income homeowners, and landlords providing housing to low-income renters, including requiring eligible entities to offer replacement of the privately-owned portion of the lead service line at no cost to low-income homeowners



## WIIN GRANT

### Section 2107:

#### Lead Testing in School and Child Care Program Drinking Water Tribal Grant Program


#### TYPE OF GRANT

**2107:**  
**Direct Award to Tribal Consortia SDWA 1464(d) WIIN 2107**

#### FUNDING AMOUNT

  
**\$4.4 million** (FY21)  
**\$2.3 million** (FY22 estimate)


#### TIMING

  
Available funding, including previous year FY21 funding, and FY22 funding are anticipated to be combined for release in Summer 2022. As of early 2022, the program is working with consortia recipients on the implementation progress of the FY21 awarded program


#### ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

  
Tribal consortia on behalf of tribally run schools and child care facilities

#### OBJECTIVE

  
The WIIN Act of 2016 authorizes EPA to award tribal consortia funds to test schools and child care facilities that serve a majority of tribal students for lead in drinking water. This voluntary program is designed to reduce exposure of children, who are most vulnerable, to lead in drinking water at schools and child care facilities, utilizing the EPA's 3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools guidance or an equivalent program

#### ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

  
Projects and activities (e.g., outreach, technical assistance, 3Ts program equivalent implementation, sampling and testing, and communication) that will support tribal schools and child care facilities to test for lead contamination in drinking water

#### HIGHLIGHTS



Combined 2018/2019/2020 funding, amounting to \$4.4 million, was awarded to the selected seven tribal consortia serving approximately 900 schools and child care facilities, in FY21. 3Ts training and technical assistance has been provided to the tribal consortia participants in phases throughout the testing year that started in November of 2021

#### UPDATES FROM BIL:

Allows funding to cover compliance monitoring and reduction/remediation of lead and expands eligible direct recipients of grants and eligible recipients of assistance provided by grant recipients to include tribal consortia. The national program will release more information on the process and requirements for remediation in Spring 2022