

Updated 7th Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey & Assessment May 2024

Water is essential. We rely on it from the moment we wake up in the morning and make a cup of coffee until we brush our teeth at night. While most water infrastructure is hidden from sight, it is foundational to our daily lives. Our water infrastructure is aging and in need of repair to withstand the challenges of the 21st century. We must maintain and modernize our Nation's water infrastructure to deliver clean drinking water and safely transport and treat wastewater.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment (DWINSA) is used to determine the financial needs of the nation's drinking water infrastructure over the next twenty years. It also guides the EPA's distribution of annual funding to states through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). In 2023, the EPA released the 7th DWINSA [Report to Congress](#), which included for the first time ever an assessment of needs for replacing lead service lines (LSLs). This assessment guided the allotments of Fiscal Year 2023 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) LSL Replacement (LSLR) funds. Because of the rapidly evolving nature of LSL information, the EPA also completed a one-time effort to update the 7th DWINSA's LSL counts to inform future BIL DWSRF LSLR allotments, beginning with Fiscal Year 2024.

Summary of Updated Results

Based on the updated results, the EPA projects there are 9 million lead service lines across the country. The updated 7th DWINSA delivers the best available national and state-level projections of service line counts.

The allocations for the 2024 BIL DWSRF LSLR funding for most states will not change or will only be minimally adjusted. Seven states have 2024 allocations that are more than 20% different from their 2023 allocations due to incorporating the newly submitted information. For the full allocation tables visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/dwsrf/epas-7th-drinking-water-infrastructure-needs-survey-and-assessment>.

Methodology

A total of 67% of the surveyed water systems provided a response for the update. Coupled with the information from the 7th DWINSA, the overall response increased to 78%. For the first time, in accordance with Section 1452(h) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), the 7th DWINSA included questions that focused on service line material. The EPA developed the allotment formula for the BIL DWSRF LSLR appropriation based on the projected number of LSLs in each state. The calculation for the projected LSLs is explained in Appendix A of the [7th DWINSA Report to Congress](#). As required under section 1452(a)(1)(D) of the SDWA, each state is provided a minimum allotment of 1% of the total amount available to states.

This LSL-specific formula allows states to receive financial assistance commensurate with their need as soon as possible, furthering public health protection nationwide. To ensure that funding is used for lead service line related activities, LSLR allotments are based on need — meaning that states with more projected lead service lines receive proportionally more. The BIL LSLR fund formula reduces the need for reallocations and the administrative burden on states and the EPA that is created when funding allocated outweighs the need of water systems in that state or vice versa. This “self-correcting” mechanism in SDWA assures that funding not used is reallocated to states with remaining needs.