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 
allocation 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: 

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 reallocation 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.