

SEWER SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

STATE PROGRAM: Arkansas Department of Agriculture

ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT: Little Rock Wastewater Utility

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Little Rock Wastewater Utility has been under a Consent Order to reduce inflow and infiltration (I/I) to their collection system to stop manhole overflows.

The Utility has spent millions of dollars to rehab the collection system and are starting to hit diminishing returns. As a result, the Utility developed a Sewer Service Line Replacement Program to work on reducing a different source of I/I into the system. The program is designed to assist homeowners in paying for the replacement of the service line from their home to the sewer main. It is an ongoing effort to reduce I/I which will decrease the cost of sanitary sewer collection and treatment as well as the customer's monthly bill. The partial reimbursement program reimburses homeowners up to \$2,500 after their service line is replaced by a plumber and inspected by the Utility. The program is funded with a loan from the Arkansas CWSRF combined with a fund created using revenues from a \$1 surcharge on each customer's sewer bill.

The Utility encouraged homeowners to take advantage of the financial benefit and replace their service line using eye-catching colorful inserts included with sewer bills. The Utility worked with the Arkansas CWSRF program to ensure that the funding source was adaptable enough to work for homeowners. Because CWSRF funds were loaned to the Utility, the innovative reimbursement structure allowed individual homeowners, who are not usually eligible for Arkansas CWSRF assistance, to benefit from the low-interest loan program. The homeowner is responsible for contracting for the work, ensuring that the CWSRF and the Utility do not face the liability of entering a homeowner's property to replace the lines. This project makes innovative use of new CWSRF project eligibilities, allowing the CWSRF to directly assist homeowners with shouldering the burden of replacing the service line from their home to the utility sewer collection system, an activity that was not previously eligible in the CWSRF.

To read more about this case study, please visit https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2017-11/documents/pisces_compendium_final2.pdf.

