

DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND



LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT

State Program:

Michigan Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program

Assistance Recipient:

City of Benton Harbor

Project Name:

City-Wide Lead Service Line Replacements

Initial Agreement Date:

2022



Project Description

In 2021, Benton Harbor declared a public health emergency due to lead detections in their drinking water. The system was in violation of the Lead and Copper Rule and endangered the health of Benton Harbor's 9,000 residents. The City of Benton Harbor has many low-income communities and was unable to afford major infrastructure improvements. **However, by using a \$3 million DWSRF principal forgiveness loan, they were able to work alongside consultants to replace lead service lines throughout the City and return the water system to compliance in a way that was cost effective for the community.**

The City completed the project five months ahead of schedule by using funding from multiple sources, including an EPA Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) grant and a State of Michigan Special Grant. The City promoted public engagement throughout the community for this project. The City established centers to distribute free bottled water, educated the community on the importance of the project, and informed the residents how the project was protecting their public health. The City's successful removal of lead service lines using affordable financing and community engagement resulted in significant public health improvements for the community.



**DWSRF Assistance
Provided
\$3M**



**Principal
Forgiveness
\$3M**

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