

DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND



LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT

State Program:

Virginia Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

Assistance Recipient:

City of Richmond

Project Name:

Phase II Lead Service Line Replacement Project

Initial Agreement Date:

2021



Project Description

For years, the City of Richmond replaced lead service lines on the public side but was restricted by city code from using ratepayer funds to replace the private side of the lead service lines. Homeowners had the option to pay for the private side replacement out-of-pocket, but many homeowners were unable or chose not to pay for the replacement at that time. **With \$500,000 in loan principal forgiveness from the DWSRF, Richmond was able to replace private lead service lines at 176 homes during Phase II of this lead service line replacement project.** This was a creative solution to Richmond's prohibition on using ratepayer funds to replace private lead service lines.

To remove the lead service lines, Richmond developed a training program to certify licensed plumbers on the entire process of identifying, replacing, and documenting lead service line replacement. Twelve certified plumbing companies then performed the work under the lead service line replacement program. Additionally, Richmond implemented efficient processes to streamline some of the Federal requirements for DWSRF projects — the American Iron and Steel (AIS) domestic preference requirement and Davis-Bacon prevailing wage rate requirement. For AIS, Richmond created a form for plumbers to complete, certifying that they did not use any iron or steel products during their lead service line replacement projects (or that any iron or steel products used were, domestic or otherwise, covered by a de minimis waiver). Homeowners selected plumbers from a list of City-certified plumbers, helping to streamline the Davis-Bacon wage rate requirement. Richmond's lead service line replacement program has been extremely successful, with a waitlist of homeowners signed up to remove their private lead service lines. Other cities throughout Virginia are using Richmond's process as a model to implement and streamline their lead service line replacement projects.



**DWSRF Assistance
Provided
\$500,000**



**Principal
Forgiveness
\$500,000**

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This case study comes from the [AQUARIUS 2022 Compendium](#).