

# Funding and Technical Resources for Lead Service Line Replacement in Small and Disadvantaged Communities



# Funding and Technical Resources for Lead Service Line Replacement in Small and Disadvantaged Communities

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed this guide to help small and disadvantaged communities identify potential federal funding sources for lead service line replacement (LSLR) and technical assistance related to LSLR.

Exposure to lead in the environment continues to be a concern, especially for vulnerable populations such as children and pregnant women. Sources of lead exposure may include lead-based paint, drinking water, and soil contaminated by historical sources. Lead and copper enter drinking water mainly from the corrosion of plumbing materials containing lead and copper. Individuals that are concerned about lead in their drinking water can learn about steps to reduce lead in drinking water by visiting EPA's website: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>.

EPA encourages communities to prioritize infrastructure improvement projects including those that remove lead service lines (LSLs) and reduce lead exposure. Communities may need to identify resources to support projects, particularly those on private property. Most funding sources do not explicitly list LSLR as an eligible activity, yet LSLR still fits in the purview of multiple federal grant and loan programs. This compilation of factsheets includes federal funding programs available to small, disadvantaged communities and includes additional technical resources about LSLR. This guide is located on EPA's website: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>.

## Environmental Justice

EPA is committed to protecting the health and environments of all people living in the United States. Low-income, minority, tribal, and indigenous communities are most often impacted by environmental hazards or most likely to live near contaminated lands. The Agency focuses its environmental justice efforts on better protecting and working to improve these vulnerable and overburdened communities.

EPA is the lead agency for the implementation of Executive Order 12898 - Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations. More information is available in the [EPA Annual Environmental Justice Progress Report FY2019](#).



# Federal Funding Programs



The information below includes an overview of funding sources included in this resource. Click on the headings to navigate to more detail and different funding programs included under each source that can be used toward LSLR in disadvantaged communities.

## Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act

The 2016 WIIN Act supports the improvement of America's drinking water infrastructure through three new drinking water grants, two of which provide financial assistance for LSLR. Contact: [WIINDrinkingWaterGrants@epa.gov](mailto:WIINDrinkingWaterGrants@epa.gov)

## Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)

EPA provides funding directly to state DWSRF programs, who disburse the funds to eligible projects as low-interest loans and loans with principle forgiveness. Complete service line replacement is an eligible expense regardless of pipe material and ownership of the property on which the service line is located. Funding from the DWSRF can also be used to locate LSLs.

Contact: <https://www.epa.gov/dwsrf/state-dwsrf-website-and-contacts>

## Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Program

The WIFIA program, administered by EPA, provides loans for eligible water and wastewater infrastructure projects, such as those eligible for the DWSRF including reconstruction, rehabilitation, and replacement activities. Contact: [wifia@epa.gov](mailto:wifia@epa.gov)

## Healthy Communities Grant Program

The Healthy Communities Grant Program provides funding for projects in EPA Region 1 to benefit human and environmental health. Eligible activities include capacity-building, community and ecosystem resilience, environmental justice, emergency preparedness, and community-based partnerships and projects. Contact: [Marrese.Katie@epa.gov](mailto:Marrese.Katie@epa.gov)

## United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Fund

The USDA provides a variety of grant and loan programs to rural communities, organizations, businesses, and individuals to finance infrastructure repair and replacement, including LSLR. Contact: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us>

## Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

CDBGs distributed by HUD provide funding for projects that benefit low- and moderate-income persons and address urgent conditions that threaten health or welfare of the community. Contact: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/cdbg/>

## The Healthy Homes Program

The Healthy Homes Demonstration Grant program provides funding to develop, demonstrate, and promote cost-effective, preventive measures for identifying and correcting residential health and safety hazards.

Contact: [https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/healthy\\_homes/leadstaff](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/healthy_homes/leadstaff)

## Public Works and Economic Development Program

The U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) provides funding through the Public Works and Economic Development program to support investment in construction, technical assistance, and revolving loan fund projects to implement economic development strategies, new ideas and creative approaches to advance economic prosperity in distressed communities. Contact: <https://www.eda.gov/contact/>

## EPA Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center

The Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center provides resources and tools related to effective financing and technical assistance, including for planning LSLR projects, but does not provide direct funding.

Contact: <https://www.epa.gov/waterfinancecenter/forms/contact-us-about-water-infrastructure-and-resiliency-finance-center>



## Assistance for Small and Disadvantaged Communities

The Assistance for Small and Disadvantaged Communities Grant program is administered by EPA under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act and supports drinking water projects and activities in small and disadvantaged communities that are unable to finance projects to comply with drinking water regulations under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The grant program also provides funding assistance to communities to manage drinking water concerns through household water quality testing, including testing for unregulated water contaminants.

### Eligible Activities

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Grants can be used to support projects and activities in small and disadvantaged communities that include:

- Investments necessary for a public water system to comply with the SDWA
- Assistance that directly and primarily benefits a disadvantaged community
- Programs to provide household water quality testing, including testing for unregulated contaminants
- Activities necessary and appropriate for a state to respond to a contaminant

Full LSLR is covered under this grant program.

### Applicant Eligibility

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Eligible applicants include:

- States on behalf of an underserved community

Projects must either serve 1) disadvantaged communities or 2) small communities of less than 10,000 individuals that lack the capacity to incur the debt necessary to carry out the project or activity. For this grant program, a disadvantaged community is one meeting the state's established affordability criteria.

Eligibility to apply for and receive funds is limited to the geographical 50 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and tribes within the U.S.

### Application Process

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Funding will be awarded on a rolling basis, as applications are submitted before the deadline of June 30, 2021 or until all funds have been awarded. EPA Regional offices are the primary points of contact to approve grant applications and award funding. Communities will apply to their respective state program for assistance.

## Contact Info



Visit [State and Territory Agency Contacts](#) for a list of agency contacts.

For more information, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/wiin-grant-assistance-small-and-disadvantaged-communities-drinking-water-grant>

## Funding Cycle



The deadline for states to apply for funding from the 2019 Assistance for Small and Disadvantaged Communities Drinking Water Grant Program is June 30, 2021.

## Funding Amount



EPA will award approximately \$42.8 million in grant funds to eligible entities.

## Reducing Lead in Drinking Water

The Reducing Lead in Drinking Water Grant program is administered by EPA under the WIIN Act and supports projects to address increased concentrations of lead in drinking water in disadvantaged communities. This grant includes two priority areas:

1

Reduction of Lead Exposure in the Nation's Drinking Water Systems through Infrastructure and Treatment Improvements

Reduction of Children's Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities

2

### Eligible Activities

This grant broadly covers drinking water infrastructure and treatment improvements for water systems serving disadvantaged communities and lead remediation in schools and child care facilities in disadvantaged communities. Planning, training, and technical assistance projects are not eligible for funding.

Under the **first priority area**, example projects include:

- Installing or improving corrosion control treatment,
- Full LSLR and/or replacement of partial LSLs leftover from previous partial replacement efforts,
- Replacing galvanized pipes downstream of an LSL.

Under the **second priority area**, example projects include:

- Removing or replacing drinking water fixtures, fountains, or outlets with elevated lead levels,
- Replacing plumbing materials that are sources of lead,
- Conducting follow-up monitoring, public education, and outreach to ensure the long-term performance of the remediation.

### Applicant Eligibility

Applicants must be in or serving disadvantaged communities. A disadvantaged community is one determined to be disadvantaged under the affordability criteria established by the state. Eligible applicants include:

- Community water systems (e.g., a town's drinking water system),
- Water systems located in an area governed by an Indian Tribe,
- Non-transient non-community water systems (e.g., schools that have their own water systems),
- Qualified nonprofit organizations servicing a public water system,
- Municipalities,
- State, interstate, or intermunicipal agencies.

### Application Process

Interested applicants may apply on [grants.gov](https://grants.gov) after the announcement of a request for applications (RFA).

### Contact Info



For questions, please contact [WIINDrinkingWaterGrants@epa.gov](mailto:WIINDrinkingWaterGrants@epa.gov).

For more information, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/wiin-grant-reduction-lead-exposure-drinking-water-under-sdwa-section-1459b>.

### Funding Cycle



The most recent Request for Applications (RFA) was issued on February 19, 2020 with a deadline to submit applications by June 1, 2020.

Future RFAs will be announced if additional funding becomes available.

### Funding Amount



For the current cycle, 1-3 awards are anticipated under the first priority area (estimated total of \$17,100,000), and 3-12 awards are anticipated under the second priority area (estimated total of up to \$22,800,000).

All applicants must demonstrate how they will contribute a minimum non-federal cost-share/match of 20 percent of the total project cost.

## Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Loan Program

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program is a federal-state partnership to help ensure safe drinking water. Created by the 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) the program provides financial support to water systems and to state drinking water programs.

### Eligible Activities

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Projects must be under **six categories of projects** to be eligible to receive DWSRF assistance: treatment, transmission and distribution, source, storage, consolidation, and creation of new systems.

Some states offer financial incentives for lead service line replacement projects. Additionally, states can provide extended loan terms, up to 40 years, for disadvantaged communities.

**Complete lead service line replacement** is an eligible DWSRF expense. Complete service line replacement is defined by replacing pipes from the public water main up to the point of premise plumbing, which are the pipes found on the other side of the isolation valve. The connection to premise plumbing may be inside or outside of homes and other buildings. For more information, see [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2019-03/documents/lead\\_fact\\_sheet\\_and\\_case\\_studies\\_final.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2019-03/documents/lead_fact_sheet_and_case_studies_final.pdf).

### Applicant Eligibility

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States can provide DWSRF financial assistance only to the following types of public water systems:

1

Existing privately-owned and publicly-owned community water systems and non-profit non-community water systems.

New community water systems that present cost-effective solutions to existing public health problems with serious risks caused by:

- Unsafe drinking water provided by individual wells or surface water sources, with the scope of the service area limited to the specific geographic area affected by contamination.
- Technical, managerial, and financial difficulties that consolidation into a new regional community water system can address, with the scope of the service area limited to that of the systems involved.

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### Application Process

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Water systems receive DWSRF assistance directly from state agencies. Each state has its own application procedure and eligibility restrictions. Applicants should contact their state DWSRF program.

### Contact Info



For more information, contact information for each state is posted at

<https://www.epa.gov/dwsrf/state-dwsrf-website-and-contacts> and visit <https://www.epa.gov/dwsrf>.

### Funding Cycle



Funding is available annually (can be more often in some states).

### Funding Amount



DWSRF funding amounts for each state are determined annually. In FY 2020, the total DWSRF appropriation was \$1.126 billion.

As authorized under the Water Infrastructure Funding Transfer Act, states were allowed to do a one-time transfer of funds from their Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) to their DWSRF to address lead-related threats to public health in drinking water. A list of states that have transferred funding is available at <https://www.epa.gov/dwsrf/wifta>, highlighting just some of the states that are proactively addressing lead service line removal in their communities.

## Drinking Water Infrastructure Grant - Tribal Set-Aside (DWIG-TSA) Program

EPA can set-aside up to 2% of the national DWSRF appropriation for grants to improve the infrastructure of drinking water systems that serve tribes through the Drinking Water Infrastructure Grant – Tribal Set-Aside (DWIG-TSA) program.

### Eligible Activities

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Funds can be used for planning and construction expenditures at community or non-profit, non-community drinking water systems that serve tribes. Funds must be used to address the most significant threats to public health. Funds may be used for projects that facilitate compliance with the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWRs) or will further the health protection objectives of the SDWA. These funds cannot be used for compliance monitoring, operation, and maintenance of a system.

Examples of projects funded by the DWIG-TSA program are:

- Rehabilitation or development of sources of drinking water,
- Installation or upgrade of treatment facilities,
- Installation or upgrade of storage facilities,
- Installation or replacement of transmission or distribution pipes,
- Replacement of aging water system infrastructure.

Projects can also be funded to develop project engineering reports, engineering design work, and project administration.

### Applicant Eligibility

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Eligible applicants include community water systems and non-profit, non-community water systems that serve a tribal population. Any federally-recognized tribe is eligible to receive a grant. If the Indian Health Service (IHS) agrees, tribes may request that IHS receive the project funds to administer the project.

### Application Process

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Contact [Regional Tribal Drinking Water Coordinators](#) to apply.

### Contact Info



For more information, contact [Regional Tribal Drinking Water Coordinators](#) or visit <https://www.epa.gov/tribaldrinkingwater/drinking-water-infrastructure-grants-tribal-set-aside-program>.

### Funding Cycle



Funding is available annually.

### Funding Amount



Amount is based on DWSRF funding using a formula. The formula provides a base amount of 2% of the total annual DWIG TSA set-aside to each Regional Office. In FY 2020, there was \$22.5 million.

EPA Regions are responsible for working with the Indian Health Service (IHS) and the tribes to identify, prioritize, and select projects to receive funding from its share of the program funds.

## Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Program

The Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (WIFIA) program accelerates investment in our nation's water infrastructure by providing long-term, low-cost supplemental loans for regionally and nationally significant projects. These loans have low, fixed interest rates and flexible financial terms. Borrowers and their customers benefit from significant cost savings.

### Eligible Activities

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The WIFIA program can fund development and implementation activities for a wide variety of water and wastewater projects. In particular, projects that are eligible for the DWSRF are also eligible for the WIFIA program, including complete LSLR.

Eligible development and implementation activities include:

- Development phase activities, including planning, preliminary engineering, design, environmental review, revenue forecasting, and other pre-construction activities,
- Construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, and replacement activities,
- Acquisition of real property or an interest in real property, environmental mitigation, construction contingencies, and acquisition of equipment,
- Capitalized interest necessary to meet market requirements, reasonably required reserve funds, capital issuance expenses and other carrying costs during construction.

Projects must be creditworthy and have a dedicated source of revenue to repay the loan.

### Applicant Eligibility

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Eligible borrowers are:

- Local, state, tribal, and federal government entities,
- Partnerships and joint ventures,
- Corporations and trusts,
- Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs.

### Application Process

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Each year, EPA announces the amount of funding it will have available, its priorities for that selection round, and a deadline for submitting letters of interest from prospective borrowers. EPA reviews the letters of interest and selects projects to continue through the application process. In FY 2019 and FY 2020, EPA announced reducing exposure to lead in drinking water as one of the priorities for the WIFIA program. Learn more about available funding and the application process by referring to the **Contact Info** section on this page.

### Contact Info



For more information, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/wifia> or contact [wifia@epa.gov](mailto:wifia@epa.gov).

### Funding Cycle



Funding is available annually.

### Funding Amount



The funding amount is announced annually in the program's [Notice of Funding Availability](#). In FY2020, the WIFIA program announced the availability of \$5.5 billion to lend to projects across the country.

The WIFIA program is designed to help finance to larger projects. The minimum project costs must be \$20 million for most communities and \$5 million for small communities (population of 25,000 or less). The WIFIA loan can finance up to 49 percent of the total project costs.



## Healthy Communities Grant Program

The Healthy Communities Grant Program allows EPA New England to work directly with communities to support EPA's "Back-to-Basics" agenda to reduce environmental risks, protect and improve human health, and improve the quality of life.

### Eligible Activities

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The Healthy Communities Grant Program supports projects that:

- Target resources to benefit communities at risk, which may include areas needing to create community resilience, environmental justice areas of potential concern, and sensitive populations (e.g., children, elderly, tribes, urban and rural residents),
- Assess, understand, and reduce environmental and human health risks,
- Increase collaboration through partnerships and community-based projects,
- Build institutional and community capacity to understand and solve environmental and human health problems,
- Advance emergency preparedness and ecosystem resilience,
- Achieve measurable environmental and human health benefits.

### Applicant Eligibility

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Applicants may include state and local governments, public nonprofit institutions/organizations, private nonprofit institutions/organizations, quasi-public nonprofit institutions/organizations, federally recognized tribal governments, K-12 schools or school districts, and non-profit organizations.

To qualify as eligible projects under the Healthy Communities Grant Program, proposed projects must:

1. Be located in and/or directly benefit one or more of the Target Investment Areas; and
2. Identify how the project will achieve measurable environmental and/or public health results in one or more of the Target Program Areas.

**Target Investment Areas:** Areas Needing to Create Community Resilience, Environmental Justice Areas of Potential Concern, and/or Sensitive Populations.

**Target Program Areas:** Clean, Green and Healthy Schools; Energy Efficiency; Community and Water Infrastructure Resilience; Healthy Indoor Environments; Healthy Outdoor Environments; and/or Pollution Prevention.

### Application Process

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Apply on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).

### Contact Info



For more information, email: Katie Marrese, Regional DWSRF Coordinator, at [Marrese.Katie@epa.gov](mailto:Marrese.Katie@epa.gov).

Also refer to:

<https://www3.epa.gov/region1/eco/uep/pdfs/2020-hcgp-rfa.pdf>.

### Funding Cycle



Funding is available annually.

### Funding Amount



Proposals may be submitted for amounts up to \$35,000. There is a five percent match requirement for the funds.

## Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Water & Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program provides funding for clean and reliable drinking water systems, sanitary sewage disposal, sanitary solid waste disposal, and storm water drainage to households and businesses in eligible rural areas.

### Eligible Activities

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Funds may be used to finance the acquisition, construction, or improvement of:

- Drinking water sourcing, treatment, storage, and distribution,
- Sewer collection, transmission, treatment, and disposal,
- Solid waste collection, disposal, and closure,
- Storm water collection, transmission, and disposal.

### Applicant Eligibility

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Eligible applicants include:

- Most state and local governmental entities,
- Private nonprofit organizations,
- Federally-recognized tribes.

Areas that may be served include:

- Rural areas and towns with populations of 10,000 or less,
- Tribal lands in rural areas,
- Colonias.\*

Eligibility for this program can be checked [here](#).

Borrowers must have the legal authority to construct, operate, and maintain the proposed services or facilities. All facilities constructed must be used for a public purpose.

### Application Process

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Applications may be filed electronically using [RD Apply](#).

### Contact Info



For more information, visit <https://www.rd.usda.gov/program-s-services/water-waste-disposal-loan-grant-program>.

### Funding Cycle



Applications are accepted year-round.

### Funding Amount



Varies by state. Long-term, low-interest loans are given. If funds are available, a grant may be combined with a loan if necessary, to keep user costs reasonable.

\* For the purposes of this program, Colonias are subdivisions located outside incorporated areas along the U.S.-Mexico border where residents face significant health risks due to a significant portion of the community lacking access to clean, reliable, affordable drinking water and/or waste disposal systems.

## Water & Waste Disposal Grants to Alleviate Health Risks on Tribal Lands and Colonias

This U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development program provides low-income communities, which face significant health risks, access to safe, reliable drinking water and waste disposal facilities and services.

### Eligible Activities

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Funds can be used for construction of basic drinking water and waste disposal systems, including storm drainage. Utility districts may also be able to provide grants to individual households to install indoor plumbing and connect to the system.

### Applicant Eligibility

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To be eligible, residents of the service area must face significant health risks due to a lack of access to, or use of adequate, affordable water or waste disposal. The following entities may apply:

- State and local governmental entities serving eligible areas,
- Nonprofit organizations,
- Utility districts serving Colonias,\*
- Federally-recognized tribes.

Eligible areas:

- Federally-recognized tribal lands,
- Areas recognized as Colonias before October 1, 1989,
- Rural areas and towns with populations of 10,000 or less.

Areas not located in a Colonia must meet per capita income and unemployment rate requirements.

### Application Process

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Applicants should apply through their local [Rural Development Office](#).

### Contact Info



For more information, visit <https://www.rd.usda.gov/program-services/water-waste-disposal-grants-alleviate-health-risks-tribal-lands-and-colonias>.

Local Rural Development Offices are listed here:

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices>.

### Funding Cycle



Applications are accepted year-round.

### Funding Amount



Varies by state. Partnerships with other federal, state, and local entities are encouraged. A grant covering 100 percent of the costs may be offered in some circumstances if funds are available.

\* For the purposes of this program, Colonias are subdivisions located outside incorporated areas along the U.S.-Mexico border where residents face significant health risks due to a significant portion of the community lacking access to clean, reliable, affordable drinking water and/or waste disposal systems.

## Individual Water & Wastewater Grants Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Individual Water & Wastewater Grants Program provides funds to households in Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas in an area recognized as a Colonia\* before October 1, 1989.

### Eligible Activities

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Grant funds may be used to:

- Extend service lines from a system to a residence,
- Connect service lines to a residence's plumbing,
- Cover charges or fees for connecting to a system,
- Install necessary plumbing and related fixtures within dwellings lacking such facilities (limited to one bath tub, sink, commode, kitchen sink, water heater, and outside spigot),
- Construct and/or partition off a portion of the dwelling for a bathroom,
- Close abandoned septic tanks and water wells when necessary to protect the health and safety of recipients of a grant,
- Make improvements to individual's residence when needed to allow the use of the water and/or waste disposal system.

### Applicant Eligibility

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Eligible applicants must reside in a Colonia that is located in a rural area (i.e., unincorporated areas and cities or towns with a population of 10,000 or less) and is identified as such in writing by the state or county in which it is located. A community must:

- Lack potable water supply,
- Lack adequate sewage system., decent, safe and sanitary housing, or
- Have inadequate roads and drainage.

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Own and occupy a dwelling located in a Colonia and have evidence of ownership,
- Have a total taxable income (based on the latest federal income tax form from all individuals residing in the household) that is below the most recent poverty income guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,
- Have no delinquencies on any federal debt.

### Application Process

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Applicants should apply through their local [Rural Development Office](#).

### Contact Info



For more information, visit <https://www.rd.usda.gov/program-s-services/individual-water-wastewater-grants>.

Local Rural Development Offices are listed here:

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices>.

### Funding Cycle



Applications are accepted year-round.

### Funding Amount



The maximum grant amount to any individual for water service lines, connections, and/or construction of a bathroom is \$3,500. Lifetime assistance to any individual for initial or subsequent grants may not exceed \$5,000.

\* For the purposes of this program, Colonias are subdivisions located outside incorporated areas along the U.S.-Mexico border where residents face significant health risks due to a significant portion of the community lacking access to clean, reliable, affordable drinking water and/or waste disposal systems.



## Single Family Housing Repair Loans & Grants (Section 504 Home Repair Plan) Program

Also known as the Section 504 Home Repair program, this U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development program provides loans to very-low-income homeowners to repair, improve, or modernize their homes. It also provides grants to elderly, very-low-income homeowners to remove health and safety hazards.

### Eligible Activities

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Loans may be used to repair, improve, or modernize homes or remove health and safety hazards. Grants must be used to remove health and safety hazards.

### Applicant Eligibility

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Eligible applicants must:

- Be the homeowner and occupy the house,
- Be unable to obtain affordable credit elsewhere,
- Have a family income below 50 percent of the area median income.

To receive a grant, applicants must be age 62 or older and not able to repay a repair loan.

Eligibility for this program can be checked [here](#).

### Application Process

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Applicants should apply through the local [Rural Development Office](#).

### Contact Info



For more information, visit

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/program-s-services/single-family-housing-repair-loans-grants>.

Local Rural Development Offices are listed here:

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices>.

### Funding Cycle



Applications are accepted year-round.

### Funding Amount



The maximum loan amount is \$20,000. The maximum grant is \$7,500. Loans and grants can be combined for up to \$27,500 in assistance.

## Housing Preservation Grant Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Fund Housing Preservation Grant Program provides grants to sponsoring organizations for the repair or rehabilitation of housing owned or occupied by low- and very-low-income rural citizens.

### Eligible Activities

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Eligible expenses include:

- Repairing or replacing electrical wiring, foundations, roofs, insulation, heating systems, and water/waste disposal systems,
- Handicap accessibility features,
- Labor and materials,
- Administrative expenses.

### Applicant Eligibility

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Eligible areas served by applicants must be rural areas and towns with 20,000 or fewer people and federally-recognized tribal lands. Applicants may be:

- Most state and local governmental entities,
- Nonprofit organizations,
- Federally-recognized tribes.

Individual homeowners are not eligible, but rental property owners may also receive assistance if they agree to make units available to low- and very-low-income families.

Eligibility for this program can be checked online at <https://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/eligibility/welcomeAction.do>.

### Application Process

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Applicants should apply through the Notice of Solicitation of Application (NOSA) on [grants.gov](https://grants.gov).

### Contact Info



For more information, visit <https://www.rd.usda.gov/program-s-services/housing-preservation-grants>.

Local Rural Development Offices are listed here: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices>.

### Funding Cycle



Annually

### Funding Amount



USDA will award a total of \$15,340,826.78 in Housing Preservation Grant Program funding to eligible entities.

## Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities and Households (SEARCH) Program

This U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development program helps very small, financially distressed rural communities with predevelopment feasibility studies, design, and technical assistance on proposed water and waste disposal projects.

### Eligible Activities

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Funds may be used to pay predevelopment planning costs, including:

- Feasibility studies to support applications for funding water or waste disposal projects,
- Preliminary design and engineering analysis,
- Technical assistance for the development of an application for financial assistance.

This program is focused on planning costs so although project planning for lead service line replacement could be eligible, capital costs are not supported by this program.

### Applicant Eligibility

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Eligible entities include:

- Most state and local governmental entities,
- Nonprofit organizations,
- Federally-recognized tribes.

Eligible areas must be rural areas with a population of 2,500 or less and financially distressed, which is defined as having a median household income below the poverty line or less than 80 percent of the statewide non-metropolitan median household income based on latest Census data.

### Application Process

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Applicants should apply through the local [Rural Development Office](#).

### Contact Info



For more information, visit

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/search-special-evaluation-assistance-rural-communities-and-households>.

Local Rural Development Offices are listed here:

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices>.

### Funding Cycle



Applications are accepted year-round.

### Funding Amount



No grant amount listed.

## Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Program

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Program provides annual grants to entitled cities and counties to develop viable urban communities. These are developed by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awards grants to entitlement community grantees to carry out a wide range of community development activities directed toward revitalizing neighborhoods, economic development, and providing improved community facilities and services.

### Eligible Activities

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CDBG funds may be used for activities which include, but are not limited to:

- Acquisition of real property,
- Relocation and demolition,
- Rehabilitation of residential and non-residential structures,
- Construction of public facilities and improvements, such as water and sewer facilities, streets, neighborhood centers, and the conversion of school buildings for eligible purposes,
- Public services, within certain limits,
- Activities relating to energy conservation and renewable energy resources,
- Provision of assistance to profit-motivated businesses to carry out economic development and job creation/retention activities.

Each activity must also meet one of the following national objectives for the program:

- Benefit low- and moderate-income persons,
- Prevention or elimination of slums or blight,
- Address urgent community development needs because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community for which other funding is not available.

### Applicant Eligibility

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Eligible applicants include:

- Principle cities of Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs);
- Other metropolitan cities with populations of at least 50,000;
- Qualified urban counties with populations of at least 200,000 (excluding the population of entitled cities).

### Application Process

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Local governments administer the CDBG program and determine which local projects receive funding. Please contact your local HUD office for specific information on your local application process.

### Contact Info



For more information directly relating to a specific state, visit: <https://www.hudexchange.info/grantees/> and [https://www.hud.gov/program\\_of\\_fices/comm\\_planning/staff#fieldof\\_fices](https://www.hud.gov/program_of_fices/comm_planning/staff#fieldof_fices).

### Funding Cycle



Funding is available annually.

### Funding Amount



HUD distributes funds to each state based on a statutory formula, which considers population, poverty, incidence of overcrowded housing, and age of housing.



## State CDBG Program

Under the State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, states award grants to local governments that develop and preserve decent affordable housing, provide services to the most vulnerable in our communities, and create and retain jobs. Each state runs its own program and annually develops funding priorities and criteria for funding projects.

### Eligible Activities

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See Eligible Activities under **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Program**.

### Applicant Eligibility

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Forty-nine states and Puerto Rico participate in the program and have their own programs. HUD continues to administer the program for the non-entitled counties in Hawaii because the state has permanently elected not to participate in the State CDBG Program.

States participating in the CDBG Program award grants only to non-entitlement Units of General Local Government (UGLG). Non-entitlement areas include those units of general local government which do not receive CDBG funds directly from HUD. Non-entitlement areas are cities with populations of less than 50,000 (except cities that are designated principal cities of Metropolitan Statistical Areas), and counties with populations of less than 200,000.

Since Hawaii decided to not participate in the program, HUD's Honolulu Field Office administers the non-entitled grants in Hawaii under a separate program. Three counties qualify for this program – Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui.

### Application Process

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States award grants to local governments. Each state may run its program differently. Those interested in participating in the program should contact their state or local HUD field office for more information. Those interested in participating in the program for Hawaii should reach out to HUD's Honolulu Field Office.

## Contact Info



For more information directly relating to a specific state, visit: <https://www.hudexchange.info/grantees/> and [https://www.hud.gov/program\\_of\\_fices/comm\\_planning/staff#fieldoffices](https://www.hud.gov/program_of_fices/comm_planning/staff#fieldoffices).

## Funding Cycle



Funding is available annually.

## Funding Amount



HUD distributes funds to each state based on a statutory formula, which considers population, poverty, incidence of overcrowded housing, and age of housing.

## State CDBG Colonias Set-Aside

Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas are required to set aside a percentage of their annual State CDBG allocations for use in the Colonias. These set aside funds are intended to be used help meet the needs of the Colonias residents for potable water, adequate sewer systems, or decent, safe and sanitary housing.

### Eligible Activities

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Funds may be used for CDBG activities described above in Eligible Activities under **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Program** that are related to potable water, sewer, or housing.

### Applicant Eligibility

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Criteria for Colonias include:

- a) Located in the state of Arizona, California, New Mexico, or Texas;
- b) Located in the United States-Mexico border region;
- c) Determined to be a Colonia based on objective criteria, including lack of potable water supply, lack of adequate sewage systems, and lack of decent, safe and sanitary housing; and
- d) In existence as a Colonia before the date of the enactment of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act [November 28<sup>th</sup> of 1990].

### Application Process

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For more information about the application process, please contact the agency in your state that administers the CDBG Colonias set-aside funds.

### Contact Info



For more information about obtaining funding for specific Colonias projects, please contact the agency in your state that administers the CDBG Colonias set-aside funds:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/cdbg-colonias/>

### Funding Cycle



Funding is available annually.

### Funding Amount



Varies by state and fiscal year (In recent years, set-aside percentage has been 10% for AZ, NM, and TX, and 5% for CA).

## Community Development Block Grant Insular Areas Program

HUD annually provides CDBG grant funding to American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The funds are allocated based on population. The program is administered by HUD's Field Offices in Puerto Rico and Hawaii.

### Eligible Activities

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See Eligible Activities under **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Program**.

### Applicant Eligibility

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Applicants must be located in American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, or the U.S. Virgin Islands.

### Application Process

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In order to receive CDBG funds, insular areas must submit a Consolidated Plan or an abbreviated Consolidated Plan to the designated HUD Field Office:

- U.S. Virgin Islands: San Juan (Caribbean) Field Office;
- All others: Honolulu Field Office.

### Contact Info



For more information, contact HUD's Field Offices in Puerto Rico and Hawaii:

[https://www.hud.gov/program\\_of\\_fices/comm\\_planning/staff#fieldof\\_fices](https://www.hud.gov/program_of_fices/comm_planning/staff#fieldof_fices).

### Funding Cycle



Funding is available annually.

### Funding Amount



Funds are allocated based on the population of eligible territories.

## The Healthy Homes Program

The Healthy Homes Program grants focus on researching, developing, demonstrating and promoting cost-effective, preventive measures for identifying and correcting housing-related health and safety hazards. Two grant programs are included:

- 1 Health Homes Demonstration Program
- 2 Healthy Homes Technical Studies

The Healthy Homes Program also provides supplemental funding for HUD lead hazard reduction grants to the city or county, where funds from these grants are being used to treat pre-1978 homes of low-income families for lead-based paint hazards. The Healthy Homes supplemental funding can be used to address lead service lines and other safety hazards.

### Eligible Activities

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Eligible activities include:

- Developing low-cost methods for hazard assessment and intervention,
- Evaluating the effectiveness of interventions,
- Building local capacity to educate residents and mitigate hazards,
- Developing and delivering public-education programs.

### Applicant Eligibility

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Eligible applicants for Health Homes Demonstration grants include:

- Not-for profit organizations,
- For-profit firms located in the United States,
- State and local governments,
- Federally-recognized tribes,
- Colleges and universities.

### Application Process

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Each year HUD publishes a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) that provides information to applicants about requirements for this program and the process for applying. Information about the process for applying for these grants is available at [grants.gov](https://www.hud.gov/program_of_fices/healthy_homes/leadstaff).

### Contact Info



For more information, contact staff via

[https://www.hud.gov/program\\_of\\_fices/healthy\\_homes/leadstaff](https://www.hud.gov/program_of_fices/healthy_homes/leadstaff) or visit

[https://www.hud.gov/program\\_of\\_fices/healthy\\_homes/hhi](https://www.hud.gov/program_of_fices/healthy_homes/hhi).

### Funding Cycle



Funding is expected to be available annually.

### Funding Amount



The 2020 NOFA made \$5 million available in funding for Health Homes Technical Studies cooperative agreements.



## Public Works Program

The U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) provides strategic investments to support economic development, foster job creation, and attract private investment in economically distressed areas of the United States. The Public Works Program supports physical infrastructure improvements in economically distressed communities.

### Eligible Activities

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Eligible activities under the Public Works Program include:

- Physical infrastructure upgrades and/or demolition,
- Reuse of publicly owned buildings.

Infrastructure improvements under this program may include water and sewer system improvements.

### Applicant Eligibility

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Eligible applicants include:

- State or local governments or other political subdivision, including a special purpose unit of a State or local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities,
- Federally recognized tribes,
- Non-profit organizations acting in cooperation with a political subdivision of a State,
- Colleges and universities,
- Economic Development District (EDD) organizations. \*

### Application Process

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After a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is published, apply on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). Prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to contact EDA's Regional Office representatives to discuss their needs and availability of funds.

*\*EDDs are EDA-designated/funded regional planning entities. For more information on EDDs, visit <https://eda.gov/edd/>.*

### Contact Info



For more information, contact:

<https://www.eda.gov/contact/>

Also visit:

[https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-](https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=321695)

[opportunity.html?oppld=321695](https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=321695)

<https://www.eda.gov/pdf/about/Public-Works-Program-1-Page.pdf>

### Funding Cycle



Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

### Funding Amount



Funding ranges from \$600,000 to \$3,000,000, with an average of \$1,400,000.

## Economic Adjustment Assistance Program

The EDA Economic Adjustment Assistance program provides technical and planning assistance for public works and infrastructure projects in regions experiencing adverse economic changes, such as a business closure that employs many people or a natural disaster. The EAA program offers two types of grants:

1

**Strategy grants:** Support development, updating, or refinement of a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

**Implementation grants:** Support implementation of activities identified in a CEDS, including infrastructure improvements

2

### Eligible Activities

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Eligible activities under the EAA program include:

- Planning,
- Construction,
- Supporting revolving loan funds.

### Applicant Eligibility

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Eligible applicants include:

- State or local governments or other political subdivision, including a special purpose unit of a State or local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities,
- Federally recognized tribes,
- Non-profit organizations acting in cooperation with a political subdivision of a State, and
- Colleges and universities.

### Economic Development District (EDD) organizations.

#### \*Application Process

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After a NOFO is published, apply on grants.gov. Prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to contact EDA's Regional Office representatives to discuss their needs and availability of funds.

*\*EDDs are EDA-designated/funded regional planning entities. For more information on EDDs, visit <https://eda.gov/edd/>.*

### Contact Info



For more information, contact

<https://www.eda.gov/contact/>

Also visit:

[https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-](https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=321695)

[https://www.eda.gov/pdf/about/Economic-Adjustment-Assistance-](https://www.eda.gov/pdf/about/Economic-Adjustment-Assistance-Program-1-Pager.pdf)

[Program-1-Pager.pdf](https://www.eda.gov/pdf/about/Economic-Adjustment-Assistance-Program-1-Pager.pdf)

[Program-1-Pager.pdf](https://www.eda.gov/pdf/about/Economic-Adjustment-Assistance-Program-1-Pager.pdf)

### Funding Cycle



Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

### Funding Amount



Funding ranges from \$150,000 to \$1,000,000, with an average of \$650,000.

## EPA Water Finance Center

The Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center (Center) is an information and assistance center, helping communities make informed decisions for drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure to protect human health and the environment. The Center seeks to accelerate and improve the quality of water infrastructure through four strategic goals.

1

**Research:** Identify financial solutions to help communities meet infrastructure needs.

**Advise:** Provide financial advice, support, and technical assistance to stakeholders.

2

3

**Innovate:** Provide expertise and add value to the national water conversation.

**Network:** Build relationships with government partners and stakeholders.

4

The Center provides resources and tools related to effective financing and technical assistance but does not provide direct funding.

### Effective Financing Tools and Resources

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- Effective funding frameworks
- Leading edge financing
- Financing resilient and sustainable infrastructure
- Finance webinars and forums

### Technical Assistance Tools and Resources

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- Environmental Finance Centers
- Water Affordability
- WaterCARE project
- Technical assistance partners
- Financial tools

## Contact Info



For more information, contact:

<https://www.epa.gov/waterfinancecenter>

## Search Resources & Funding Information



Explore the Water Finance Clearinghouse, a one-stop-shop for all community water finance needs: [www.epa.gov/wfc](http://www.epa.gov/wfc)



## Technical Assistance Resources

In addition to the infrastructure funding resources above, there are a number of training and technical assistance resources available to small and disadvantaged communities. Examples of technical assistance include:

- Technical assistance providers that can help water systems plan and/or implement LSLR in disadvantaged communities
- Reports, case studies, and guidance that can be helpful in learning about LSLR

## EPA Training and Technical Assistance for Small Systems Funding

Each year, EPA awards approximately \$12-\$17 million to non-profit organizations to provide training and technical assistance to small public water systems, small wastewater systems and private well owners, located in urban and rural communities throughout the U.S. and its territories.

In March 2020, selected grantees were announced for the FY2019 competitive award. Recipients of these grants to provide training and technical assistance for small public water systems to achieve and maintain compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act are the Rural Community Assistance Partnership and National Rural Water Association. Additional information on this program is available at: <https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/training-and-technical-assistance-small-systems-funding>.

## U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service Circuit Rider Program

This program provides technical assistance to rural water systems that are experiencing day-to-day operational, financial or managerial issues. Rural water system officials may request assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, or Rural Utilities Service staff may request assistance on behalf of the system.

The Rural Utilities Service has contracted with the National Rural Water Association who are experienced in managing issues that may arise in the day-to-day operations of rural water systems. Circuit Riders provide service in each State and U.S. Territory to assist with operational, financial and managerial issues, as well as to provide energy audits.

To request circuit rider assistance, small, rural communities should contact the [local Rural Development office](#) or National Rural Water Association State Association. More information is available at <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/circuit-rider-program-technical-assistance-rural-water-systems>.

## EPA's OFFICE OF GROUND WATER AND DRINKING WATER (OGWDW)

EPA's OGWDW has several resources related to LSLR, including funding sources, LSLR case studies, and additional LSLR research.

VISIT <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/lead-service-line-replacement> FOR MORE INFORMATION.

One resource to highlight is: **Strategies to Achieve Full Lead Service Line Replacement**. This document includes LSLR challenges and best practices related to LSLR to assist states and utilities implement their own replacement programs. The document covers funding, communication, LSLR considerations, and case studies.

VISIT <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/strategies-achieve-full-lead-service-line-replacement> TO READ THE DOCUMENT.

## LSLR COLLABORATIVE

The LSLR Collaborative includes 27 national public health, water utility, environmental, labor, consumer, housing, and state and local government organizations to support the full removal of LSLs across the country.

LSLR Collaborative resources are intended for a wide audience – community leaders, public health professionals, drinking water professionals, elected officials, and concerned consumers. The LSLR Collaborative has a toolkit to assist communities in developing and implementing LSLR programs. This toolkit includes a roadmap for getting started, suggested best practices for identifying and removing LSLs (including how to fund projects), policies to consider, and additional resources.

The LSLR Collaborative emphasizes equity in LSLR and encourages replacement programs to address barriers to participation so that consumers served by LSLs can benefit equitably, regardless of income, race, or ethnicity.