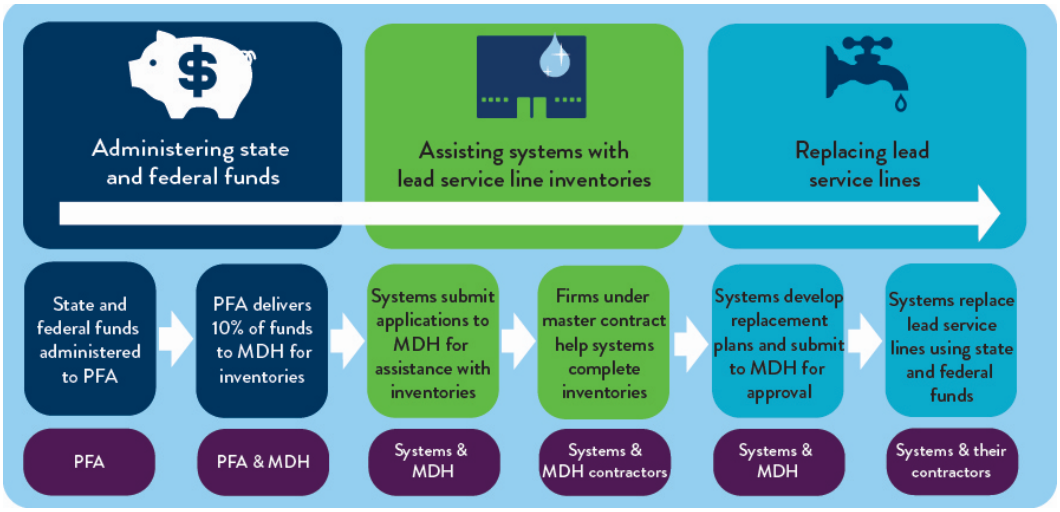
FUNDING FOR REPLACEMENT

State and federal funding have made millions of dollars available for lead service line replacement in Minnesota, including $240 million appropriated by the 2023 Minnesota Legislature and approximately $40 million per year in federal funds from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. To access these funds, public water systems apply through the Drinking Water Revolving Fund, which is jointly administered by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Public Facilities Authority (PFA). State and federal funds are administered to the PFA.

FUND, INVENTORY, & REPLACE

Ten percent of the state and federal funds are passed to MDH for technical assistance with inventories. MDH has a master contract with engineering firms to provide technical assistance to systems with their inventories. Systems can apply for technical assistance through MDH during the open application period. After completing their inventories, systems then develop a plan to replace lead service lines. Following review and approval by MDH and PFA, systems enact their plans.



What is a lead service line?

A service line is the pipe connecting the water main to the interior plumbing in a building. A lead service line is a service line made from lead or that has lead components.

What are the requirements?

State statute and federal Lead and Copper Rule Revisions require public water systems to identify the service line materials of all service connections in their distribution systems.

Public water systems have until October 2024 to inventory lead service lines

Developed by MDH in 2023. Visit www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/rules/lcrr.html for more information.

More details on technical assistance

There are 18 engineering firms available under a master contract with MDH that can provide technical assistance for inventories. Assistance will be provided under a contract by MDH and the engineering firm. Applications will be prioritized based on systems' lead exceedances and number of service connections. Public water systems with smaller numbers of service connections will have higher funding priority.

How will communities fund the replacements?

- There will be no cost to the property owner to replace the privately owned portion of the lead service line. State and federal funds will be used to provide a 100% grant for the privately owned portion.
- The publicly owned portion of the lead service line will initially be funded with a combination of grant funds and zero interest loan. After the work is completed, the public water system will receive a grant to pay off the loan portion.

Interactive map of lead service lines

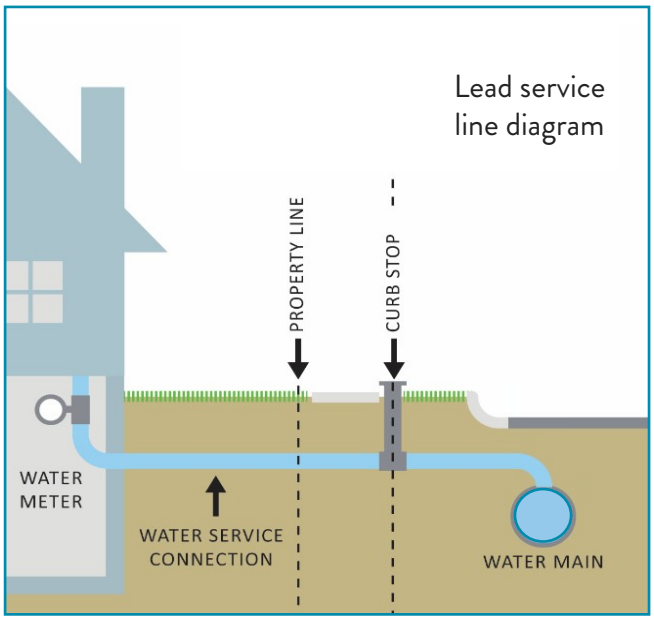
In partnership with University of Minnesota, MDH is developing an interactive web-based map that residents can use to look up their address and their service line material. Public water systems will be inventorying their service lines through October 2024, and this information will be added to the map as it becomes available.

Prioritizing replacement

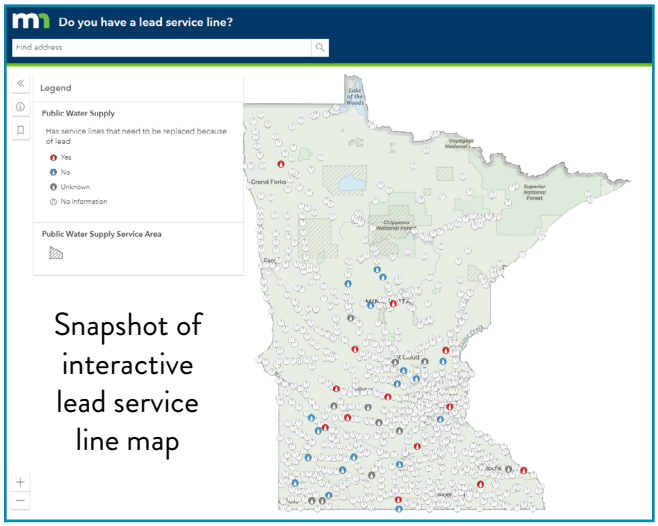
For replacement projects, priority should be given to:

- removing lead service lines that are an imminent threat to public health and safety
- areas with children with elevated blood lead levels
- areas with children under the age of five
- lead service lines that provide drinking water to schools, licensed child-care facilities, or other properties known to be used by disproportionately large numbers of children areas with lower-income residents and other disadvantaged communities
- replacing lead service lines in coordination with watermain replacement

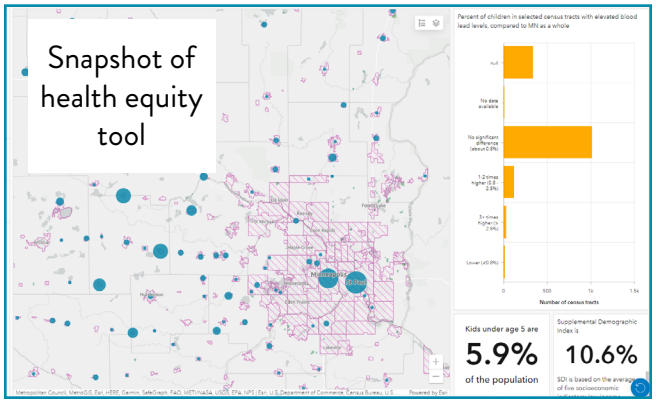
MDH is working on an online mapping tool to help public water systems identify health equity priority areas.



There are estimated to be 100,000 lead service lines in Minnesota



Snapshot of interactive lead service line map



Snapshot of health equity tool

Contact us with questions at health.drinkingwater@state.mn.us or 651-201-4700