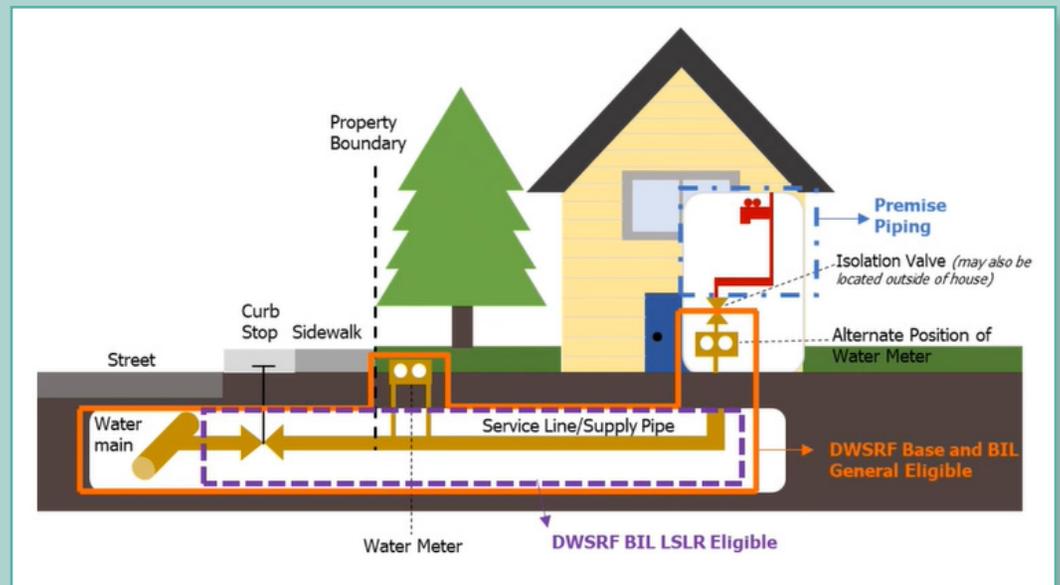




SRFs for Lead Service Line Replacement

An estimated [nine to 12 million US households](#) have toxic lead service lines that deliver drinking water to their homes. Lead is toxic to human health and can damage vital organs, impede child development, harm pregnant people and unborn children, and cause other long-term health impacts. While general DWSRF dollars can be used for lead service line removal (LSLR), BIL provides \$15 billion through supplemental funding specifically for lead service line inventorying and replacement allocated through the DWSRF. Under BIL, 49% of LSLR funding must be provided as grants and forgivable loans to disadvantaged communities and the state matching requirement has been eliminated for these projects. Another requirement of DWSRF LSL projects is that *entire* lead service lines must be replaced, not just a portion of the line, including the portion of the pipe on privately owned property.

Targeted SRF Dollars: Lead Service Line Replacement & Emerging Contaminants, Like PFAS



The image shows the different LSL removal that is eligible for replacement using various DWSRF sources. Source: EPA Office of Water

Inventorying and replacing lead service lines will require a trained workforce to efficiently complete this vital task. To learn more about workforce and contractor development opportunities, [jump to the Workforce Development section of the toolkit.](#)



Before we can remove dangerous lead pipes, we need to know where they are. Many communities do not have complete inventories and therefore haven't taken action to update service lines.

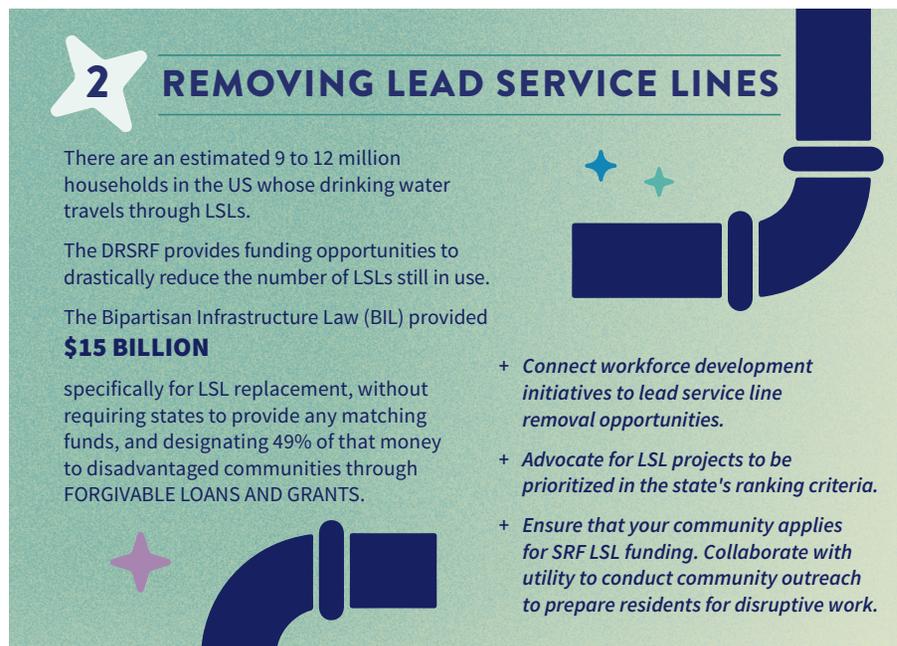
Water systems are required to create and maintain inventories of Lead Service Lines (LSL) under federal Lead and Copper Rule Revisions.

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) set-aside funds can be used to help water systems develop inventories.

Both state staff and contractors can be funded to provide LSL outreach, education, and complete inventories.

1 FINDING LEAD LINES

- + *Connect workforce development initiatives to lead service line inventorying opportunities.*
- + *Communicate with state DWSRF program staff to ensure they are using set-asides to complete LSL inventories*
- + *Pressure local utility to tap into set-aside resources to conduct non-routine lead sampling and complete LSL inventories.*



2 REMOVING LEAD SERVICE LINES

There are an estimated 9 to 12 million households in the US whose drinking water travels through LSLs.

The DWSRF provides funding opportunities to drastically reduce the number of LSLs still in use.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) provided **\$15 BILLION** specifically for LSL replacement, without requiring states to provide any matching funds, and designating 49% of that money to disadvantaged communities through FORGIVABLE LOANS AND GRANTS.

- + *Connect workforce development initiatives to lead service line removal opportunities.*
- + *Advocate for LSL projects to be prioritized in the state's ranking criteria.*
- + *Ensure that your community applies for SRF LSL funding. Collaborate with utility to conduct community outreach to prepare residents for disruptive work.*

ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES RELATED TO LSL REPLACEMENT

Advocates have identified at least two main concerns related to LSL replacement:

- 1) The distribution of funds from the federal level to the states is flawed. States receive LSL-specific SRF dollars based on the [Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey](#), which does not accurately assess the total number of lead service lines present in most states, since LSL inventorying is incomplete in many communities.
- 2) Within states, administering agencies should target funds to areas with the highest levels of LSLs, which are [disproportionately located in low-wealth communities and communities of color.](#)

Some states are taking action to direct additional subsidization of LSL funding to neighborhoods with high levels of LSLs. For example, Pennsylvania's [DWSRF IUP for FY 2022](#) suggests that "For those systems with lead service line replacement needs that have adequately mapped and designated high need areas and reach an action level under the Revised Lead and Copper Rule, PENNVEST could consider the rate impact on those specific areas or neighborhoods within the larger system in lieu of overall system users. This could provide a more realistic picture of the consequence of the capital improvement on the specific community impacted and **allow for these types of projects to be eligible for additional subsidy, thus expediting correction and addressing the public health and environmental hazard.**"

ADVOCACY EXAMPLE: IUP COMMENTS

New Jersey Future submitted [comments](#) on the state's FY 2023 CWSRF and DWSRF IUPs, including several questions about how the lead service line replacement funding would be distributed. Some of their questions included:

- "How will the DEP ensure that the \$25m in funds go to the neediest communities, especially if some need additional technical assistance to apply or have credit rating constraints that would prevent them from applying?"
- Will the rolling review process make this truly a program of first come, first serve, or will the program provide ample time for all communities to apply before ranking applications?"

They further recommended that the state re-implement a tiered approach to principal forgiveness caps based on the number of LSLs in a community.