

Lead Leaders – Ohio's Story

CIFA SRF Workshop

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Jerry Rouch, Deputy Director
Ohio EPA



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Some quick Background

Ohio's DWSRF Program

- Partnership between Ohio EPA and OWDA
- Within Ohio EPA, administered by two divisions
 - Division of Environmental & Financial Assistance
 - Division of Drinking and Ground Waters

Ohio's LSL Situation

- Estimated 650,000 LSLs (AWWA)
- 4,500 Public Water Systems; all levels of capability

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Lead initiatives prior to WIFTA

- 2016 - Offered 0% loan funds for corrosion control studies and corrective action.
- 2018 - Expanded 0% offering to include lead service line replacements.
- 2019 - Offered \$1 million in principal forgiveness for LSL projects
- “Demand” was very limited, prior to WIFTA funding.
- Ohio also did the WIIN grant, supported with H2Ohio funds for daycare testing/replacements.

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Transfer Amount – The decision-making process

- CWSRF Fund Modeling
- Historic and Projected Demand for LSL work
- Discussions with the Drinking Water Program
- Guidance from U.S. EPA (obligated within 2 years; drawn within 5 years.)
- Other factors
- Maximum potential transfer = \$134 million
- Amount transferred = \$20 million

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Basic Program Parameters

- Transfer occurred September 2019 (mid-program year for DWSRF)
- Supplemental nominations for LSL projects accepted continuously
- \$20 million transfer; Up to \$1 million per PWS per year.
- Do not have to be a disadvantaged community.
- Funds awarded based on readiness-to-proceed, first come-first served
- Funds must be awarded by end of program year 2022 (June 2022).
- PF funds awarded for construction only (no planning or design)
- Projects must result in complete LSL replacement.

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Special LSL Program Requirements

- Prerequisite: An acceptable LSL inventory and map
- Documented authorization to access private property
- Outreach efforts for educating customers on lead in drinking water.
- An acceptable Asset Management Plan
- Adequate breakdown of LSL related costs in bid documents
- Post-award tracking and reporting of LSLs replaced

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Awards so far.....

- October 2020 – August 2021; 14 awards totaling \$8.6 million

Population	# Awards	Total \$ Awards
>100,000	3	\$3.0 million
20,000 - 100,000	4	\$3.3 million
<20,000	7	\$3.3 million
Total	14	\$8.6 million

- Akron and Elyria – 2 awards each
- Geographically diverse
- Two projects completed!

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Successes and Improvement Areas

Successes

- ✓ Interest from both large and small public water systems
- ✓ On target to exhaust funds
- ✓ Learning and adapting along the way
- ✓ Some communities further along with their lead inventory than we realized
- ✓ Projects can be “stand-alone” or part of a larger project
- ✓ Line-item cost identification of LSL work has gone well
- ✓ Work/access on private property has been smooth

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Successes and Improvement Areas

Improvement Areas

- Initial confusion regarding eligible items
- Some communities want funds but haven't identified LSLs yet.
- Funds are needed for planning/design
- Lots of work needed statewide on inventory and mapping of LSLs
- Would like to see stronger demand for funds
- Need a more sustainable source of funding

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What does the future hold??

- Currently offering WIFTA funds and very limited H2Ohio funding
- The topic is growing, even if the future funding isn't in place.
- Funding support from the federal Infrastructure Bill is critical
- Momentum has started...can it be sustained?
- If funds come, can expectations be met?
- LSL replacement seems to be the focus of EJ interest
- Bringing a whole new spotlight to the SRF

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Contact Information:

Jerry Rouch, Deputy Director
Ohio EPA
P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049

614-644-3660

Jerome.rouch@epa.ohio.gov

