

Lessons Learned: Lead Leaders

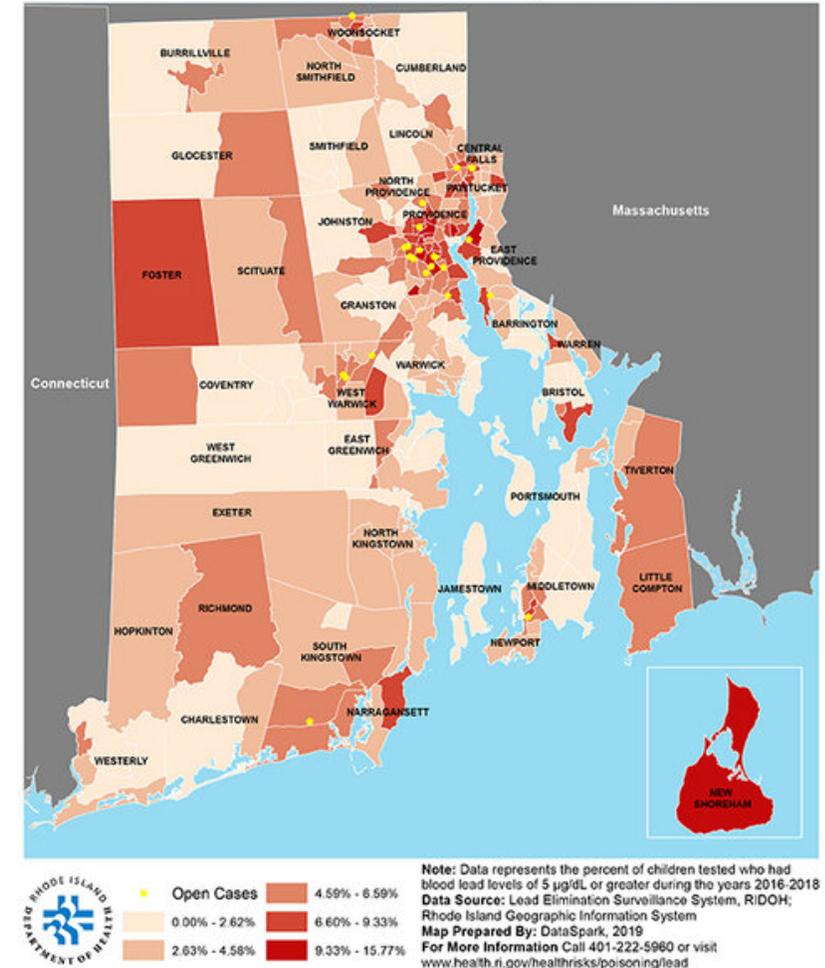
Presented By: Jeffrey R. Diehl, Executive Director & CEO

October 4, 2021

Background

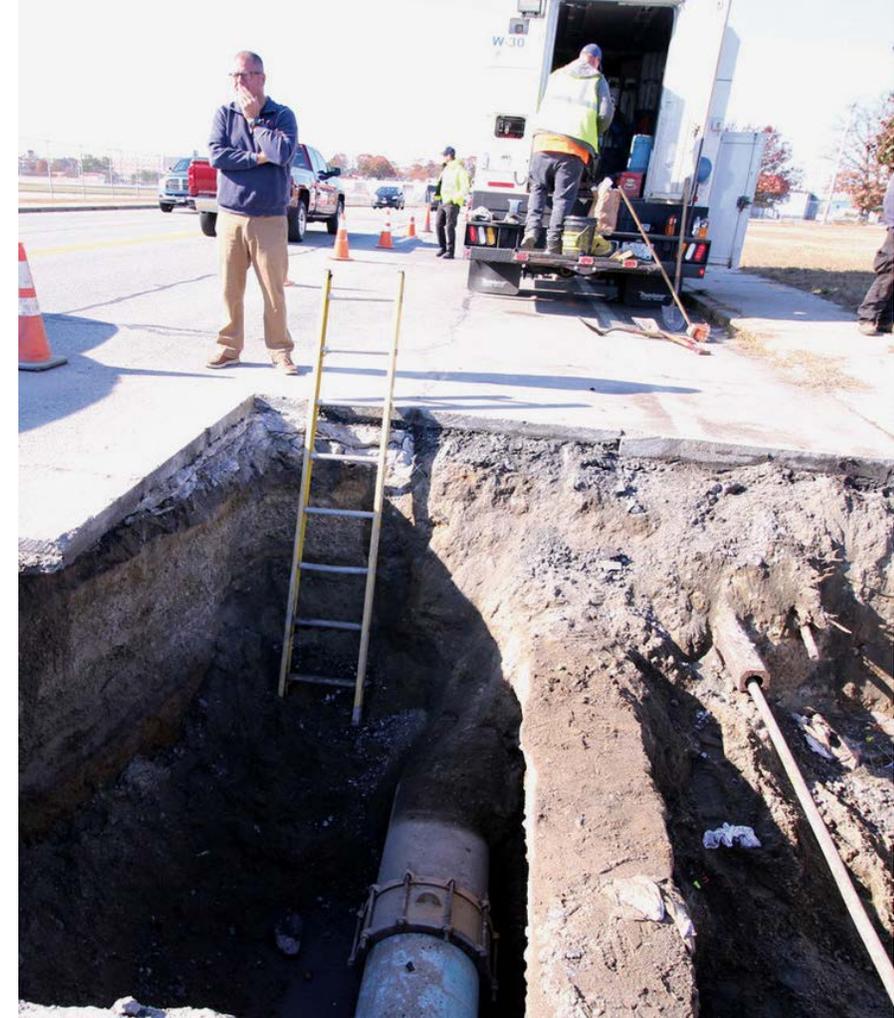
- In 2017, the Bank analyzed public and private side lead-pipe exposure in Rhode Island drinking water infrastructure
- Identified scale of issue and need for affordable lead pipe remediation
 - Regulatory action (consent decree)
 - Childhood lead levels
 - Water, paint or other cause?
- Assessed the impact for drinking water suppliers and ratepayers
- Public side service lines vs private side service lines vs inside the building

Rhode Island Children Younger Than Six With Elevated Blood Lead Levels, 2016-2018



Public Consent Decrees

- Rhode Island Drinking Water utilities with lead service lines and/or elevated lead levels in water are under consent decrees to remediate the potential lead exposure
- Example: Providence Water Supply Board (PWSB)
 - PWSB is currently mandated by EPA/RIDOH to remediate the lead service mains in its distribution infrastructure
 - In 2019, Providence Water was awarded an EPA Drinking Water State Revolving Fund AQUARIUS Recognition for “lead service line and water main replacements”
 - Issues Faced:
 - Public side replacement only addresses part of the risk
 - Partial service line replacements can cause disruption of the private side lead pipe, resulting heightened lead levels



Water Infrastructure Fund Transfer Act (WIFTA)

- WIFTA allowed states a one-time transfer from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) to the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) for lead-related, DWSRF-eligible projects.
- RIBB facilitated a transfer of \$10 million for public side lead service remediation to provide principal forgiveness loans:
 - \$9.75 million to Providence Water
 - \$195K Pascoag Utility District



Providence Water



Pascoag Utility District

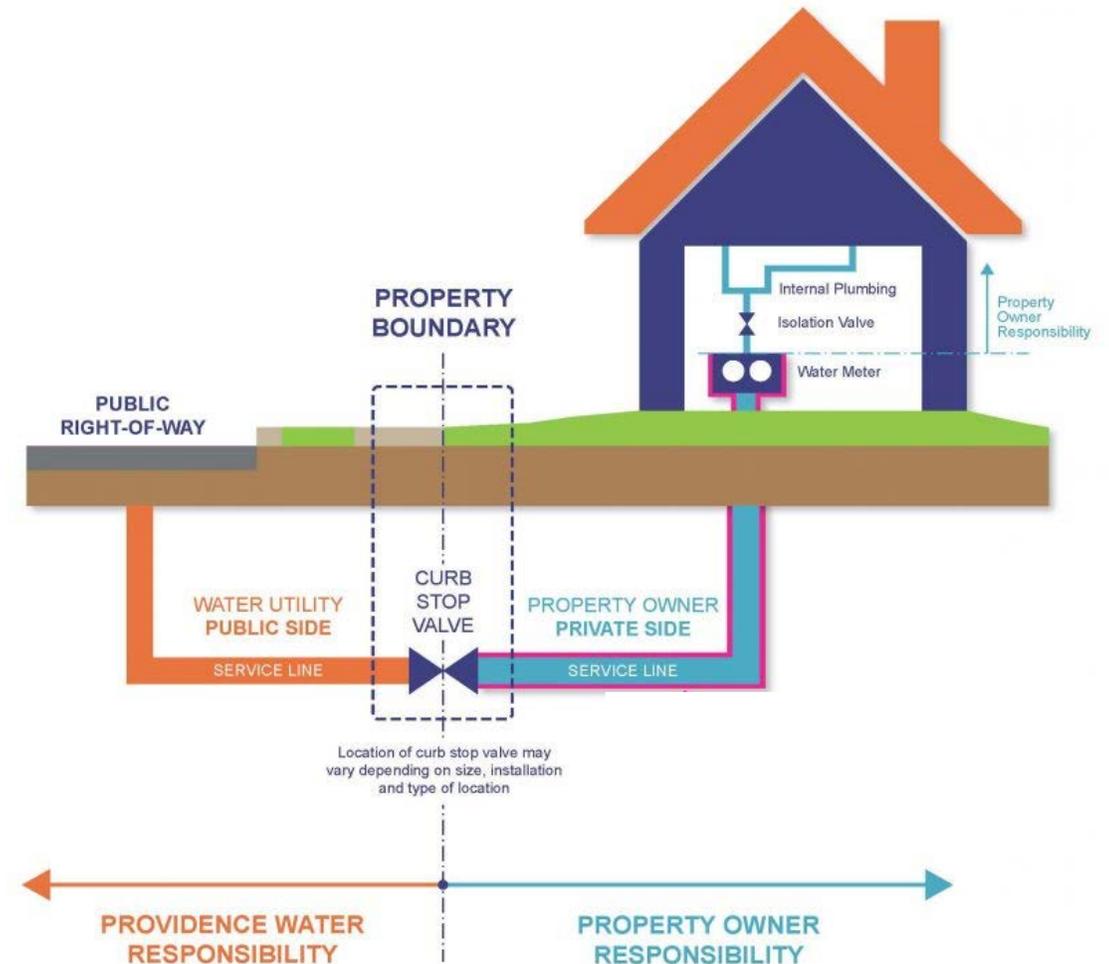
Private-Side Loan Program – Providence Water

- **0% interest loans to homeowners for replacement of their private-side lead service lines**

- Initial pilot was \$1 million for 3 years
- Current program is \$3 million for 10 years

How the program works

- Customer requests an agreement for Providence Water’s 0% interest loan program
 - Not-to-exceed price of \$4,500
 - ~\$37.50 per month, on-bill repayment
 - Balance due upon sale of home
- Providence Water approved contractor visits site once approved
- If the contractor’s price is less than \$4,500, the bill will reflect the lower fee and if the contractor’s price is greater than \$4,500, Providence Water will pay the difference
- When a homeowner replaces the private portion of the lead service line, Providence Water will replace the public portion of the lead service line at no cost to the homeowner (if it has not done so already)



Private-Side Loan Program

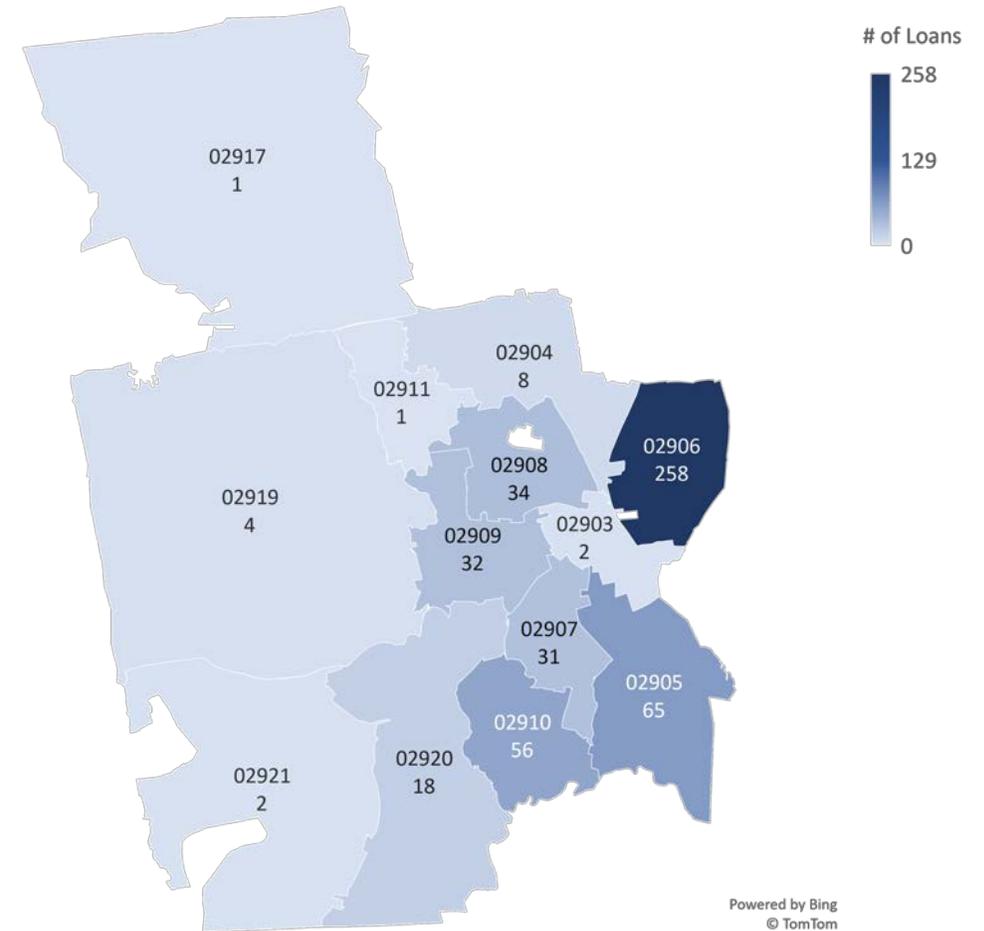
Program Outcomes

- 512 loans to-date

Program Constraints

- Affordability and uptake in disadvantaged neighborhoods
- Renter vs. owner occupied
- Perception of disruption and property damage
- Contractor availability

PWSB Service Area Lead Loan Program
Participants



Contact Information

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