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Biden Administration Releases Lead Pipe and Paint Action Plan

In mid-December the Biden Administration released its Lead Pipe and Paint Action Plan to deploy resources from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and mobilize existing resources and programs, technical assistance, rulemaking and policy standards, and other tools to accelerate progress toward eliminating all lead water lines in the next decade and remediating lead paint.

The Action Plan includes more than 15 new actions, including:

- Collaborating with local, state, and federal partners to accelerate the replacement of lead pipes;
- Allocating $3 billion from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for lead service line replacement in 2022 and calling on states to prioritize underserved communities;
- Launching a new regulatory process to protect communities from lead in drinking water;
- Clarifying that the $350 billion in the American Rescue Plan for state and local governments can be used for lead service line and lead faucet and fixture replacements;
- Establishing regional technical assistance hubs to fasttrack lead service line removal projects in partnership with labor unions and local water agencies;
- Awarding grants to remove lead paint in low income communities;
- Closing gaps in childhood lead testing through the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, signed by the President in November, provides $15 billion in direct funding for lead service line replacement via the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF), and an additional $11.7 billion in SRF funding for which lead pipe replacement is eligible. Significant additional funding for lead line removal was included in the Build Back Better Act passed by the House of Representatives and awaiting consideration in the Senate.

The full Action Plan is online here.