

The Florida Rural Water Association is working under contract with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection on a Federal program known as “The Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act”. The WIIN Act authorized several drinking water grants that promote public health and the protection of the environment including *WIIN 2107: Lead Testing in Schools and Child Care Facilities*. This grant provides funding to establish voluntary lead drinking water testing program for schools and child care facilities. We are contacting schools and childcare facilities in Florida to request their participation in this voluntary program.

FRWA will be arranging sample collection and laboratories to go into the schools to collect both first draw and running water samples. Once a school district volunteers in your water utility service area, we will contact you to let you know. We suggest your utility install a sample collection tap prior to the school’s service line and collect a lead sample on the same day the school’s internal lines are sampled. We also suggest working further with the school to flush their lines prior to school openings. If lead is a discovered issue within the school, assisting the school district with suggestions on remediation efforts may be helpful.

Currently, there are no federal regulations that require testing of drinking water in schools and childcare facilities that do not own or operate their own public water system. With the funding appropriated under section 1464(d) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, amended by the WIIN Act section 2107, Florida has established a program for testing drinking water lead levels in schools and child care facilities. Protecting Florida’s children is one of our top priorities. This voluntary program which will assist Florida in furthering this priority by assuring that schools are providing the highest quality drinking water to our children.

In an effort to promote public confidence and to help K—12 schools, child care and pre-K facilities minimize child exposure to possible high levels of lead in drinking water, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Education (DOE) will assist schools, child care facilities, and Pre-K programs with voluntary testing for lead in drinking water. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection, in conjunction with Florida stakeholders, will utilize the funding to support testing of drinking water in schools and child care programs, to ensure that children are not being exposed to lead in the water they consume.

A key component of the program will assist in educating the risk of lead in schools using EPA’s 3Ts (Training, Testing, and Taking Action) is used as the guidance for Florida’s Implementation Plan.

To learn more about this grant and EPA’s WIIN grant programs visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/safewater/grants>