



NEWS RELEASE

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Illinois EPA Announces Over \$1.6 Million in Funding to the City of Sycamore to Replace Lead Service Lines

SPRINGFIELD – Illinois EPA Director John J. Kim today announced a total of \$1,606,426 in funding to the City of Sycamore (DeKalb County) to replace lead service lines in the community water supply. The funding is provided through a low-interest loan from the Illinois EPA’s State Revolving Fund, which provides funding for drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater projects. The City of Sycamore is eligible to receive principal forgiveness for the loan, and the full amount of the loan will be forgiven by the Illinois EPA.

“Our State Revolving Fund has provided communities a needed resource to remove the threat of lead in their potable water and further protect their residents,” said Director Kim. “As communities continue to identify lead service lines, they are encouraged to seek funding to remove and replace lead service lines through the Illinois EPA State Revolving Fund.”

The City of Sycamore will replace approximately 120 lead service lines with the funding. According to the most recent Service Line Material Inventory Report, the City has 224 known lead service line in the community water supply. Service lines are small pipes that carry drinking water from the water mains into homes. Older service lines may be constructed from lead. Household plumbing fixtures and faucets made prior to 1986 may also contain lead. Lead can enter drinking water when corrosion of pipes and/or fixtures occurs. Lead is a toxic metal that can accumulate in the body over time. Eliminating lead services lines will reduce exposure to residents living in homes currently utilizing lead service lines.

The Illinois EPA provides Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) Principal Forgiveness towards projects directly related to activities that reduce or eliminate lead from potable water. Illinois EPA has made more than \$107 million in funding available in the form of principal forgiveness to complete LSLR activity in fiscal years 2021 – 2023, until the allotted funds are expended. As of June 30, 2021, \$25,694,950 of the funds were committed to LSLR projects in Illinois. LSLR principal forgiveness is available up to a maximum amount of \$4 million in fiscal year 2022 for any one loan recipient.

To learn more about Illinois EPA’s State Revolving Fund, visit

<https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/grants-loans/state-revolving-fund/Pages/default.aspx>.

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