



# STATE OF UTAH

GARY R. HERBERT  
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH  
84114-2220

SPENCER J. COX  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

December 19, 2018

Mr. Andrew Wheeler  
Acting Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of the Administrator - MS 1101A  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Acting Administrator Wheeler,

With this letter, I notify you of Utah's intent to participate in the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN) Lead Testing in School and Child Care Facilities Drinking Water Grant and to have it administered by the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Drinking Water (DDW). Utah's demographics and current efforts to address lead in schools position it well to benefit from the WIIN Grant.

Utah has more children per capita than any other state in the nation (U.S Census Bureau, 2016). With more school-aged children as a percentage of the total population, Utah is at greater risk to the toxic effects of lead. To protect this vulnerable population, I request that Utah's distinctive demographics be considered in the awarding of this grant and that a larger allotment be given than total population alone would dictate.

In 2017 the DDW conducted a study that showed 92% of Utah schools had levels of lead in their drinking water above the detection limit. Of the schools tested, 40% had levels between 1 microgram/liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) and 15  $\mu\text{g/L}$ , and just over 2% had levels above Environmental Protection Agency's distribution system action level of 15  $\mu\text{g/L}$ .

Utah has created two special programs to address lead in schools. *Lead Sampling in Schools* was created by the Utah Division of Drinking Water in 2017 to assist schools in testing for lead at two consumable taps in each school. This program used the EPA's 3Ts guidance to provide technical assistance to schools wishing to voluntarily test for lead. The Lead Sampling in Schools program also archives and publishes the occurrence data and participation of each school in Utah at [leadfreeschools.utah.gov](http://leadfreeschools.utah.gov). This one-time effort created a robust sample set of over 1700 samples the results of which indicate detectable lead levels in the majority of Utah schools. Funds from the WIIN grant will allow the *Lead Sampling in Schools* program to be

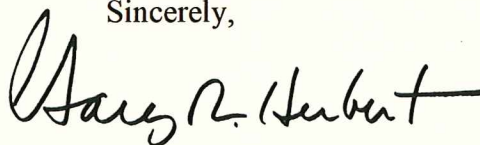
expanded to include more schools, a larger number of sampling locations within each school, include licensed daycare facilities, and establish ongoing monitoring.

Utah also developed the *Partnership for Lead-Free Schools* program. This program unites a group consisting of the Utah Lead Coalition, state and local health departments, county and civic leads, as well as rural and urban community stake-holders, for the purpose of informing educators and administrators about the dangers of lead, and the benefits of testing.

Funds from the WIIN grant will be used to reimburse schools for the cost of sample collection and laboratory analysis. Additionally, the DDW will use WIIN grant money to further develop its capacity to publish testing results online.

I request that the funds from the WIIN Lead Testing in School and Child Care Facilities Drinking Water Grant be administered by the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Drinking Water to aid its efforts in the *Lead Sampling in Schools* program in order to increase school and daycare facility participation in testing and further develop the publication of data. Marie Owens, the director of the DDW, can be reached at [mowens@utah.gov](mailto:mowens@utah.gov) or by phone at 801-536-4207 to coordinate further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary R. Herbert". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Gary R. Herbert  
Governor