

City of DeKalb – Utility Division Lead Service Line Replacement Program

The City of DeKalb is committed to providing clean, safe, and reliable drinking water to all DeKalb residents. To support this mission, the City has established a Lead Service Line Replacement Program (LSLRP). **Under the Lead Service Line Program, the City will pay 100% of the replacement cost of replacing an existing lead water service line from the water main, to a maximum of 18-inches inside the home.**

Lead is a toxic metal that is persistent in the environment and can accumulate in the body over time. Because no safe blood level has been identified for young children, all sources of lead exposure for children should be controlled or eliminated. The EPA has set the maximum contaminant level goal for lead in drinking water at zero because lead can be harmful to human health even at low exposure levels. The City of DeKalb is committed to minimizing or removing all potential sources of lead exposure in drinking water.

Lead can enter drinking water when plumbing materials that contain lead corrode, especially where the water has high acidity or low mineral content that corrodes pipes and fixtures. The most common sources of lead in drinking water are lead pipes, faucets, and fixtures. In homes with lead pipes that connect the home to the water main, also known as lead services lines, these pipes are typically the most significant source of lead in the water.

Under the new Illinois Lead Service Line Notification and Replacement Act (ILSLNRA), signed into law by Governor Pritzker on August 30, 2021, Illinois public water supplies are mandated to remove all lead service lines within its distribution system.

By City Ordinance, the City owns and maintains the water service line located in the public right-of-way, typically from the water main to the shut-off box (public side). The homeowner is responsible for maintenance of the water service line from the property line to the water meter inside the home (private side) (Exhibit A). **Under the Lead Service Line Replacement Program, the City will pay 100% of the replacement cost of an existing lead water service line from the water main to a maximum of 18-inches inside the home. This includes both the public and private side of the water service line.** The DeKalb City Council has allocated \$1.1 million dollars from the American Rescue Plan Act to fund this Program. If interested, please review the following:

- Program Description
- Program Requirements
- Submission and Approval Process
- Application for Participation
- Agreement to Participate
- Access Agreement

Should you have any questions regarding the program, please contact the Utility Division at 815-748-2050 or email Bryan Faivre at bfaivre@cityofdekalb.com

Program Description:

The purpose of the Lead Service Line Replacement Program (LSLRP) is to reduce lead exposure in drinking water. By City Ordinance, the City owns and maintains the water service line located in the public right-of-way, typically from the water main to the shut-off box (public side). The homeowner is responsible for maintenance of the water service line from the property line to the water meter inside the home (private side). **Under the LSLRP, the City will pay 100% of the replacement cost of an existing lead service line from the water main to a maximum of 18” inside the home.** This includes both the public side and the private side of the water service line. The DeKalb City Council has allocated \$1.1 million dollars from the American Rescue Plan Act to fund this Program.

Program Requirements:

The City of DeKalb has determined that certain requirements for this program are necessary to protect the City's water supply system, to ensure that the work performed complies with City of DeKalb standards and for the financial well-being of the City's public water supply and its customers. The requirements for participation in this program are as follows:

1. The applicant must own the residence served by the lead water service line and must be registered as the current utility account owner. Only homes with a verified lead service line are eligible for this program.
2. The applicant must be in good standing with the City of DeKalb regarding any outstanding bills owed to the City.
3. Financial participation in this program is limited by availability of budgeted funds, which are determined annually and may vary year-to-year.
 - a. Priority for program participation will be given to homeowners or owners of facilities that function as preschools, day care centers or other high priority facilities, as required under Section 17.12 of the Illinois Lead Service Line Replacement and Notification Act.
 - b. All other applicants will be addressed on a first come, first-serve basis, until program funds are depleted.
4. A homeowner desiring to participate in this program must complete the steps described in the “*Submission and Approval Process*” section of this program document.
5. Homeowner must allow City staff member(s) to inspect the home and water service line to verify that the pipe material is made of lead.
6. All plumbing work must be performed by licensed contractor(s) that are registered on the City's Qualified Plumbers List for Lead Service Line Replacement. To receive a copy of qualified contractors, please contact Bryan Faivre at bfaivre@cityofdekalb.com or the Utility Division at 815-748-2050.
 - a. Applicant must submit a minimum of two quotes from contractors that clearly show project scope, costs, and materials. The plumber must pay prevailing wages. The City reserves the right to request additional quotes if needed.
 - b. Contractor/Homeowner must obtain all necessary permits from the City of DeKalb
7. All work performed must meet applicable City of DeKalb standards, ordinances and building codes for the construction/installation of water service lines.



8. This program will be evaluated annually by the City of DeKalb and may be changed or eliminated at the City's discretion.
9. Other than final payment of invoice, the City of DeKalb shall not be a party to any contract between homeowner and/or any contractor(s) and will not warranty work provided by contractor.
10. The City of DeKalb will have sole authority to determine eligibility through the LSLRP.
11. The following costs are deemed eligible for reimbursement through the LSLRP.
 - a. Cost of location, excavation, and exposure of private lead water service line.
 - b. Cost of materials and labor associated with installation of new water service line.
 - c. Hardscape (driveway, sidewalks), disturbed as a direct result of water service line installation, may be eligible. Limits of disturbance will be reviewed by the City Engineer and must be pre-approved to be eligible for reimbursement.
12. The following costs are deemed ineligible for reimbursement through this program:
 - a. Incidental restoration costs such as drywall repair, paint, carpeting, flooring, exterior plantings, landscaping, and or hardscape (retaining walls, pavers etc.) including any additional interior or exterior work related to relocating of electrical wires/panels or any other utilities or upgrades of any nature.
 - b. Use of materials not in compliance with City of DeKalb municipal standards, ordinances, or codes.

Submission and Approval Process:

1. Complete the "Application for Participation in Lead Service Line Replacement Program" and mail to City of DeKalb – Utility Division, 1216 Market St., DeKalb, Illinois 60115, or email application to Bryan Faivre at bfaivre@cityofdekalb.com
2. Homeowner will schedule property inspection with Utility Division staff member(s) within 14 days of receipt of Application. If a lead service line exists, application will be Approved. If one does not exist, application will be Denied.
3. Homeowner must then submit all required documentation, including two quotes from Qualified Plumbers List to determine projected costs, within two months of receiving approved Application.
4. Upon approval, Utility Division will issue "Agreement to Participate in Lead Service Line Replacement Program." Homeowner will sign agreement and submit along with proposal for installation from selected contractor within 30 days.
5. Upon submittal of Agreement to Participate and signed proposal with selected contractor, homeowner/contractor must obtain all permits and complete the work specified by contractor within six months of approval. After completion, City plumbing inspector/Utility staff will inspect the site to determine if the work is within acceptable standards, ordinance, and codes.
6. Upon submittal of all final documents and completion of final inspection, the contractor shall submit a detailed invoice to the City. Payment will be paid directly from the City to plumber. Payment will only be made in the amount of approved quoted price. Any additional costs must have been pre-approved, prior to incurring those costs, to be eligible for payment from the City.

