



# Media Release

## Hundreds of School Districts Still Eligible For \$9.5 Million Of Drinking Water Grants

*Grant Funding Available for Replacing Fixtures Containing Lead and Other Issues  
Link to List of Eligible School Districts at Bottom of Release*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**October 25, 2018**

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More than 300 school districts and individual schools serving low-income communities throughout California are eligible to apply for \$9.5 million worth of grants to increase access to safe drinking water.

The grants are available for a range of projects, but the schools and school districts must act quickly to claim the money through a statewide grant program administered by the State Water Resources Control Board. The [testing for lead in drinking water](#) at all K-12 schools must be completed by July 1, 2019, after which time the State Water Boards' Division of Drinking Water will begin issuing enforcement action to water systems that have not contacted the schools and completed lead testing.

There are several possible projects that qualify for the grants, including new or replacement water bottle filling stations or drinking fountains; new point-of-entry or point-of-use water treatment devices; and the repair or replacement of drinking water and plumbing fixtures to resolve lead contamination issues.

The program also allows for funding interim solutions – including bottled water or hauled water – while more comprehensive, long-term drinking water projects are being completed.

Eligible schools and school districts are encouraged to act promptly to submit applications and claim some of the available grant money, as the deadline is five months away.

“We are aware that 40 school districts have submitted or are working on applications. However, there are more than 300 that are eligible for these grant funds,” said Kim Hanagan, a State Water Board engineer who is overseeing the program. “We’d like to hear from them soon so we can help them meet the March 1, 2019 application deadline. Interested districts are encouraged to begin the application process now.”

The individual grants are significant and are available for everything from a single school to an entire school district. The breakdown looks like this:

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY



STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

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- Minimum grant amount is \$25,000 per applicant
- Maximum grant amount is \$100,00 per school, and \$1 million per eligible district or county office
- There is no match requirement for the grant!

Schools and school districts without engineering and design expertise need not go it alone when it comes to figuring out new solutions for safe drinking water. Technical assistance is available for eligible applicants serving a population of 20,000 or less.

**Application Deadline:** March 1, 2019

For information about the program, technical assistance or to view a list of preliminary award projects, see the web page here: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/schools/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/schools/)

The list of low-income schools and school districts eligible for funding is on an Excel spreadsheet and can be emailed to media upon request.

\*Some individual schools serving disadvantaged communities will be eligible even if their school district overall is not.