

RCAP Joins New White House Partnership on Lead in Drinking Water

Washington, DC—January 27, 2023 — Today, the Rural Community Assistance Partnership Incorporated (RCAP) joined a new Environmental Protection Agency-led [partnership](#) to advance lead service line replacement across the U.S. The partnership consists of representatives from the federal government, states, Tribes, local communities, nongovernmental organizations, water utilities, labor unions, and private companies. We thank the Administration and the EPA for allowing us to join this new partnership to continue improving the lives of rural Americans.

“Removing the lead from our water, especially in our rural communities and small towns is big priority for RCAP and our network of partners on the ground,” said RCAP CEO Olga Morales-Pate. “We deeply appreciate the White House and EPA for spearheading this effort to reduce lead in our drinking water and protecting the health of all Americans. We look forward to the partnership and leveraging RCAP’s expertise in assisting small systems with lead challenges.”

In 2022 RCAP developed our "rural get the lead out" strategy and we have been actively working beside small, rural, and Tribal communities to build local capacity. We are currently partnering with a number of states to help small water systems develop and map out required lead service line inventories as well as helping them to apply for funding to implement their subsequent lead replacement strategies. In recent years RCAP has also provided dozens of workshops for small system operators, boards/community leadership and staff on LCR, LCRR and now LCRI.

As an active member of EPA's 3Ts MOU group, RCAP also helps get the lead out of schools through its Agua4All program which includes interim and long term solutions to increase access to and consumption of safe drinking water. On January 31st, RCAP will feature its first Michigan lead in schools intervention at Benton Harbor High School in partnership with its Great Lakes regional affiliate, Great Lakes Community Action Partnership, the Chris Long Foundation, and Liquid IV. RCAP recently received additional funding under EPA's WIIN program to help schools and childcare facilities in 9 states remove lead from drinking water, helping protect the public health of thousands of students and staff. This work will commence in the Spring of 2023.

“RCAP is eager to support EPA, the current Administration and rural America in helping get the lead out to protect public health in underserved communities. As we have for the last 50 years we stand at



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the ready to help in any way we can to protect vulnerable populations in small, rural and Tribal communities, especially children, from the dangers of lead in drinking water,” said Morales-Pate.

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The Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) is a national network of non-profit partners working to provide technical assistance, training, resources, and support to rural communities across every state, the U.S. territories, and Tribal lands. Through RCAP’s regional partners, more than 350 technical assistance providers (TAPs) build long-term, trusted relationships with thousands of communities across the country.

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