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For Immediate Release

LCA Receives \$4.9 Million in Grants and Low-Interest Loans from PENNVEST

July 21, 2023

Funds to remove lead service lines and protect public health

Allentown, PA – Lehigh County Authority (LCA) was recently awarded a \$3.4 million grant and \$1.6 million in low-interest loans from the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) to fund a pilot project to remove lead service lines in Allentown. The project, set to kick off later this year, is expected to replace approximately 150 lead service lines, including the private-side portion owned by the homeowner.

"LCA is pleased to learn of the award from PENNVEST, and we are grateful for the support of Governor Josh Shapiro and Sen. Nick Miller. We are looking forward to the start of our project to remove some of the lead service lines in the city," said Liesel Gross, CEO. "Grant funding and low-interest loans for a project like this support our efforts to keep customer rates as low as possible."

The pilot project will allow LCA to put protocols in place to support a long-term, robust pipe replacement program. LCA will develop service line verification processes to identify lead service line locations and plan for future projects. Details on the pilot will be shared as they develop. LCA plans to pursue additional grant opportunities to fund more lead pipe replacements, especially important for homeowners who are unable to afford to do the work on their own.

Customers can help LCA in their effort to remove lead by verifying the water service line material in their home and sharing it through an online survey tool. Instructions on testing pipe material are easy-to-follow and available on the LCA website, along with other helpful fact sheets and lead information. Customers should complete the survey to share their findings, no matter what type of material they find. Customers with lead pipes or who cannot determine the pipe material should take steps to reduce potential lead exposure. Lead exposure has health impacts, especially for more vulnerable groups like children or people with health conditions.

Resources on lead and the online survey are available at www.lehighcountyauthority.org/pipes.

About [Lehigh County Authority](http://www.lehighcountyauthority.org): Lehigh County Authority (LCA) is a public water and wastewater utility committed to protecting public health and the environment by providing high-quality, safe, and reliable water and wastewater services, serving a population of approximately 200,000 people. A nonprofit, public agency, LCA was founded in 1966 by the County of Lehigh and is governed by a nine-member board of directors appointed by the County.

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