



## Rural Communities of Color and Federal Funding for LSL Replacement

### April 20, 2023 Webinar *Questions & Answers*

**Q1:** Many communities without LSLs still face a huge issue with lead at the tap due to the random and erratic release of lead particles that can have industrial levels of lead. What is the LSLRC doing to address this in rural communities?

**A1:** The Lead Service Line Replacement Collaborative's mission and work is centered on accelerating voluntary lead service line replacement across the country.

**Q2:** Early and incomplete data indicates 30% of the services are leaded in CWSs that serve 3,000 or under. I am not sure what the overlay with rural and small towns is within this population.

**A2:** The following data came from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (2022) Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) Inventory Summary Report:

There are 152,548 Public Water Systems in the US serving a total population of 319,662,707 people. 49,665 of those public water systems are **Community Water Systems (CWS)**; 18,580 are **Non-Transient, Non-Community (NTNC)** public water systems such as schools, daycare centers, offices, etc., and 84,303 are **Transient, Non-Community (TNC)** water systems such as rest areas and convenience stores that have their own water systems. Of the 49,665 CWS, **40,151 (80.8%)** are serving populations of **3,300** or less. and 26,852 *of them* are serving communities with populations of  $\leq 500$ . The overlay with rural communities is significant.

**Q3:** Can you share the links via email?

**A3:** Links from our webinar are included below.

- Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc. <https://sercap.org/>
- Black Millennials for Flint <https://www.blackmillennials4flint.org/>
- Rural Coalition/Coalición Rural <https://www.ruralco.org/>
- Lead Service Line Replacement Collaborative <https://www.lslr-collaborative.org/>
- Tennessee Water Infrastructure Advisory Committee <https://www.tn.gov/environment/arp/committee.html>

**Q4:** How do we get affected rural populations a seat at the table around the coming EPA Lead & Copper Rule Improvement rulemaking coming up this September in eight weeks. The LCR and the LCRR are weak and even communities that meet the federal and state LCR can have unimaginable levels of lead coming out of the tap.

**A4:** The Lead Service Line Replacement Collaborative does not engage in advocacy regarding EPA's Lead & Copper Rule Improvement (LCRI). Rural community advocates interested in the LCRI can engage EPA through the National Drinking Water Advisory Council or the Local Government Advisory Committee, or by commenting directly to the rulemaking this fall or speaking with their congressional representatives.



**Q5:** Lead pipe replacement is not a priority because of the false narrative that lead paint, soil and dust are the problem and that lead from water is a minimal part of the problem. This does not take into account lead particle release and the fact that blood lead tests are designed to miss lead. How are we going to turn around this false narrative?

**A5:** The Lead Service Line Replacement Collaborative's membership is broad, with a common interest in reducing lead exposure, and is united in its shared interest to advance lead service line replacement as one step toward that larger goal.