



Sampling Schools and Child Care Facilities for LCRI

How Utilities Can Utilize the Indiana Finance Authority's (IFA) Lead Sampling Program for LCRI to Reduce Costs (October 1, 2025)

Since 2017 the Indiana Finance Authority (IFA) has managed the *Lead Sampling Program for Schools and Child Care Facilities* to help schools and child care facilities assess if there is a presence of lead in drinking water within their buildings. The voluntary program covers the cost of the sample bottles and analysis, postage to send the bottles to the facilities and to the laboratory once collected, online database, and technical assistance with how and where to sample and interpreting results. The IFA invites utilities to leverage the Lead Sampling Program to reduce costs, manage data, and streamline the process of sampling for the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) at the schools and child cares they serve. Enrollment will be on a first-come, first-served basis until available funding is expended. Although the compliance date (11/1/2027) is a few years away, sampling now could reduce future workload. Sampling at elementary schools and child cares prior to 11/1/2027 may allow the utility to be eligible for a waiver from sampling those locations in the initial five-year sampling cycle (2027-2032).

Steps to Utilize the IFA's Lead Sampling Program

Utilities Determine the Schools and Child Care Facilities Served and their Exemption Status

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For Child Care Facilities, utilities should contact Stacy Jones (sjones@idem.in.gov) at IDEM to receive a list of child care facilities in their county. For Schools, utilities can download an Indiana School Directory on the Indiana Department of Education's website (<https://www.in.gov/doe/it/data-center-and-reports/>). See "Indiana School Directory" in the "General School Information" section of the page. Schools and child cares constructed or fully replumbed after 1/1/2014 and served by a non-lead service line (both conditions must be met), are exempt from sampling requirements. For more information, refer to LCRI.

Utilities Submit List of Schools and Child Care Facilities to the IFA

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Utilities will send the list of facilities that are not exempt from lead sampling to the IFALeas@ifa.in.gov. The IFA will mail application and fact sheet about the program to eligible facilities and invite them to apply. All Indiana public K-12 schools recognized by the Indiana Department of Education and all child care facilities recognized by the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration are eligible.

Schools and Child Care Facilities Submit Application to the IFA

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Schools and child cares that want to participate will submit an application to the IFA. Once approved, the IFA will upload information about the facility into the online database and create a unique profile for each facility. Both the designated utility and school or child care representative will be able to access the facility's profile.

Utilities Confirm Sampling Locations within the Facilities and Create a Sampling Plan

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Working with the school or child care representative, the utility will identify the sampling locations within the facilities (this may require a site visit), enter data into online database, which orders the sample bottles. Requirements for LCRI include two samples at child care facilities and five samples at schools. Location requirements can be found in LCRI.

Utilities Collect the Samples and Share Results

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Once the pre-labeled bottles have arrived, the utility will collect the samples and mail them for analysis. Sampling results will be uploaded to the online database for the utility and school or child care representative to view. The LCRI requires utilities to share results with local and state health departments and IDEM within 30 days of receipt of the results. The school and child care facility must share results with their constituents.

The IFA and IDEM are in the process of verifying waivers for previously sampled facilities. If you want to know if any of your child cares or schools have already sampled using the IFA Program, contact IFALeas@ifa.in.gov. For questions related to waivers, contact IDEM at DWBMGR@idem.IN.gov