

Case Study: Northwestern Illinois City of Kewanee

June 2024

Background

The Kewanee community water system is managed by the local government Department of Public Works and serves a population of 12,299. As of May 2024, out of the water system's total of 5,456 service lines, the service line inventory identified 1,192 service lines as lead on the public/utility side and 1,259 on the private/customer side. Since 2020, Kewanee has replaced 262 lead service lines.

Kewanee has primarily used historical data such as maintenance records (main and service line installation date), building construction year (county records), and tap cards to build their service line inventory. In instances where historical records were not available, visual inspections were performed during routine meter maintenance to determine the service line material on the private side. Kewanee is continually increasing the quality and accuracy of their service line inventory data through visual inspection during routine operations (e.g., water main/service line work, meter/valve work, service visits). One of Kewanee's grant-funded programs, the [Targeted Minor Home Repair Program](#), can be used towards lead service line replacement (LSLR) on the private side. This program is income-based and requires an application for eligibility to receive up to \$7,500 per residence. This reduces replacement costs for homeowners.

In order to support the replacement planning of their lead service lines, Kewanee is receiving technical assistance from U.S. EPA's Get the Lead Out (GLO) Initiative, which is funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.



GLO Technical Assistance

U.S. EPA's GLO Initiative provides technical assistance (TA) to water utilities in identifying and planning to replace lead service lines in their water systems.

GLO TA for the City of Kewanee consists of a comprehensive funding support plan that includes the identification of potential funding sources, development of a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) LSLR funding application, and assistance with implementation of the utility's existing LSLR funding. In addition to funding support, GLO TA is also providing technical assistance to Kewanee for creating a field verification plan to confirm recorded materials, development of an initial Lead Service Line Replacement Plan to meet Illinois EPA's April 2024 deadline, development of a comprehensive Community Engagement Plan, and support to create Request for Proposals (RFPs) and evaluation of contractor proposals.

More Information

For more information about the GLO Initiative or to request GLO technical assistance for your community, please visit the [GLO Initiative website](#) or fill out EPA's [Water Technical Assistance Request Form](#). If you have any questions, please contact WaterTA@epa.gov.