



Lincoln County Health Department
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To: Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Grants Coordinators
From: Lincoln County Health Department
Date: March 20, 2024

Lincoln County Health Department is writing to express our support for the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene's (WSLH) application to CDC-RFA-PW-24-0080, for their project titled "Expansion of the accessibility and capacity for lead isotope testing and database creation for source identification in challenging lead poisoning cases".

The WSLH project plan would provide lead source tracking testing to public health departments and develop an accessible database of lead isotopes in common environmental samples. Lead contamination is a significant issue in Wisconsin and across the U.S. and needs to have more resources aimed at addressing it. In many cases, the lead issue originates from a paint or drinking water source, but for other cases, it can be much more complicated.

Here at Lincoln County Health Department, we have had difficult cases of lead contamination where this lead isotope testing would have been extremely helpful. Isotope testing is not broadly accessible to public health departments due to its complexity, cost and limited availability. We do not currently have the budget to request this analysis without the funding support that this grant would supply. We would use this analytical tool if it were available to us.

We work in partnership with the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene on many programs and projects both small and large. One example of an environmental partnership with the WSLH is in our collaboration to increase data on the groundwater Manganese levels in our county. During this project, 133 samples were analyzed by WSLH. This data was essential in notifying well owners and their neighbors on the environmental hazards they faced and prevention techniques

The WSLH has been providing Covid-19 wastewater surveillance data that has been very helpful to our department. Besides processing water test results and child lead screening, we have also partnered with the WSLH on disease outbreak testing for facilities in our county.

We are very supportive of this project and look forward working with the WSLH to tackle our most challenging lead contamination cases. We are hopeful for the opportunity to work together on this very important project.

Sincerely,

Angela Cummings
Lincoln County Board of Health Chair

Shelley Hersil
Lincoln County Health Department Health Officer

LINCOLN COUNTY VISION STATEMENT:

Lincoln County will preserve the unique characteristics and resources that make it an exceptional place to live, work, and play; we will work together, holding ourselves and each other accountable, to weave the fabric of community and provide opportunity to our citizens.