



FACT SHEET: AB 2370 and the State Water Board \$5M Grant

Which centers might be eligible for the State Water Board grant and how are they identified?

Per Senate Bill [862, Chapter 449, Statutes of 2018](#), funding assistance is prioritized based on a combination of factors, such as economic need and age of the children served. For example, assistance will be prioritized toward centers providing infant care. The first step for centers to be considered for assistance is to complete the eligibility form, which will be distributed to all centers via email. All centers are encouraged to complete the eligibility form. Centers will be ranked in priority order as specified in statute, and the grant team will assist the highest-priority centers first. Other centers will be contacted by the grant team or Resource and Referral (R&R) Network as resources allow.

Prioritization of Child Care Centers will include the following:

- CCCs that serve infants (0 to 2 years old),
- Those that own and operate only one center, and...
- Those with at least 50% of the children receiving subsidized care.

What funding is available?

The State Legislature has allocated \$5 million per Senate Bill [862, Chapter 449, Statutes of 2018, to the State Water Resources Control Board \(SWB\)](#).

What are the basic requirements in AB 2370 concerning lead in drinking water?

Assembly Bill 2370, Chapter 676, Statutes of 2018, requires that Licensed Child Care Centers (centers) operating in buildings constructed before January 1, 2010 must have their drinking water tested for excessive lead levels¹ by January 1, 2023. This requirement applies to centers only and does not apply to Family Child Care Homes. If lead levels in water exceed an Action Level of 5 Parts per billion, centers are required to take certain actions. More details are in the [written directives](#), which were released by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS).

¹ For more information, see the [CDSS Provider Information Notices 21-21 CCP](#) (other resources are located [here](#)).

Who receives the State Water Board grant funds and what activities will it cover?

The State Water Board provides funds to the grant team, led by the Office of Water Programs (OWP) at Sacramento State, to support testing, fixture replacement, and retesting for centers meeting eligibility for funding assistance. OWP has partnered with the California Rural Water Association (CRWA) to provide testing services, which includes both sample collection and laboratory analysis, as well as with the R&R Network and certain R&R agencies to assist in outreach to centers.



California
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How do centers apply for State Water Board grant assistance?

The initial application and status for all grant applicants is available at

<https://ab2370assistance.owp.csus.edu/>

How long should centers wait to see if funds are available?

The deadline for initial testing is January 1, 2023, so it is recommended that centers pursue their own testing if they have not been contacted regarding grant assistance by the end of 2021. However, delays may extend children's possible exposure to lead. So, to expedite the protection of children, centers that are financially capable should do their own testing as soon as possible.

How do centers find qualified samplers?

For centers that receive grant-funded sampling, OWP will directly mobilize samplers to the centers; therefore, those centers should not seek out and hire a water sampler. For centers funding their own sampling work, CDSS is developing a list of samplers who are willing to assist centers with sampling. All samplers must complete the [External Water Sampler Self-Certification Form](#) and watch a [training video](#).

Will all centers be eligible for new fixtures under the State Water Board grant?

No. Only centers that receive grant-funded sampling may be eligible for reimbursement of new fixture costs, as needed based on sampling results. The grant team will provide more direction to such centers after initial sampling results are available.

When will the State Water Board's grant-funded testing start?

An initial testing phase for approximately 100 centers is anticipated to occur in late 2021. Most grant-funded testing will occur in 2021 and 2022.

What is the impact of COVID-19?

The grant team will comply with all current state and local orders regarding the COVID-19 public health emergency. Providing clean drinking water is an essential service, which allows the grant team to continue to work. All recommended local public health department safety procedures for social and physical distancing will be implemented to minimize risks of exposure to the virus and protect the sampling professional, center staff, and children.

Contacts:

Centers with general questions about AB 2370 should email:

cccwatertesting@dss.ca.gov

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