



DAYCARE LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

At a glance

The Department of Water Management (DWM) launched the **Daycare Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) Program**, which offered free lead line replacement to daycares primarily located in low-income Chicago neighborhoods.

Equity Power



Instead of creating a universal Lead Service Line Replacement program for all Chicagoans, DWM created multiple LSLR programs tailored to different communities in need (e.g., homeowners, daycares, neighborhood blocks, etc.)

PROBLEM



The Daycare LSLR program emerged as DWM and other City departments participated in the City's Equity & Racial Justice Cohorts led by the Office of Equity & Racial Justice. During this cohort, DWM began analyzing data related to LSLR needs across the city. DWM cross-referenced daycare licensing data with childhood health data from the Chicago Department of Public Health's new Health Atlas. Their **analysis revealed that of the approximately 2,000 licensed daycares, both residential and commercial, 1,600 were in need of lead service line replacements.**

SOLUTION



While DWM does not oversee lead paint reduction, the department recognized that replacing lead service lines at daycares could reduce children's overall lead exposure. Therefore, DWM collaborated with communities most impacted by lead service lines in daycares to create **a program specifically for licensed daycares** (which is one among other tailored programs), and its engagement strategy.

RESULTS & IMPACT



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Community Informed Program

By co-creating a program with communities most impacted by lead service lines in daycares, DWM removed barriers for communities facing the greatest financial challenges in replacing lead service lines without City support.

By the end of December 2024, DWM had completed 207 LSLRs at daycare facilities.

