



Protecting Child Care Facilities from Lead in Water

Chicago's Child Care Community Supported through the Lead in Water Resource Program



Lead in Water Resource Program Impact

- Over **750 child care providers** received resources
- **7,900 children** were protected from lead in water
- Over **4,200 of these children** were under the age of six

“ I think it's very important that everybody gets educated on [lead testing] and knows what to do in case they do have it. Like in my home, for example, the steps that I've had to take, not just because I care for these children but for my own family and my own health,”

Diana Macias,
Chicago Child Care Provider

Diana Macias is a child care provider in the Belmont Cragin neighborhood of Chicago. She runs a day care out of her home for seven children, the youngest of whom is her own 15-month-old child. She has operated her child care facility for the 11 years that she has lived in her home and primarily serves other families from her neighborhood.

In April 2019, Diana tested her water for lead after attending two of Elevate Energy's lead in water workshops. She tested five different water sources throughout her home and her results revealed lead levels well over the action-threshold of 2.01 parts per

billion (ppb) established for child care facilities by the state of Illinois.

To comply with Illinois rules, Diana was required to develop and implement a mitigation plan to ensure the children in her care were protected from lead in their water. To help with her mitigation plan, Diana was an active participant in Elevate Energy's Lead in Water Resource Program. The program provided free resources to home-based child care providers in the Chicago metro area throughout 2019, including reimbursement for lead testing costs and short-term mitigation tools. It was the only

program to offer free resources to help child care providers comply with the new state requirements. She received a water pitcher, faucet mount filter, and reimbursement for her lead in water testing costs through the program.

Diana positioned herself as an advocate and leader in the Chicago child care community. She encouraged more providers to test for lead and invested the money she saved from the program into ensuring the safety of others. Diana also taught the families she serves the importance of testing the water in their own homes.