

**Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Division of Conservation Services**



Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant Program

Grant Workshop

December 5, 2019



Grant Program Goals

- Funding for protecting and conserving the quality and quantity of public drinking water supply sources in the Commonwealth
- Acquisition of land in existing Department of Environmental Protection approved drinking water supply protection areas or land in estimated protection areas of identified and planned future water supply wells or intakes



Grant Program Eligibility

Eligible applicants: municipalities, public water suppliers, and water/fire districts

Eligible projects: purchase of land in fee, purchase of a Conservation Restriction, purchase of a Watershed Preservation Restriction

Maximum award: \$300,000

Reimbursement rate: 50%

Application deadline: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 3:00 pm

Contracts will be issued for Fiscal Year 2020 and 2021

Land Acquisition: Eligible Interests

- ❑ Fee simple
- ❑ Conservation Restriction
- ❑ Watershed Preservation Restriction





Eligible Projects

1. Land to protect existing wells/intakes

50% or more of the parcel must be located in a MA DEP-Approved Zone I (pre-1990), II, or III, Zone A, B, or C / Interim Water Protection Area

2. Land to protect planned new wells/intakes

Must be in anticipated zone and be identified by appropriate planning process

Eligible Projects

Land to protect planned new wells/intakes

Must be in anticipated Zone and be identified by appropriate planning process

Applicants that have begun the new source review process with DEP will be given priority

- ▣ Drinking water resource management plan
- ▣ Integrated water resource management plan
- ▣ Wastewater resource management plan
- ▣ Regional watershed plan
- ▣ Water assets report
- ▣ Direct testing

Eligible Projects



- Must:
 - Not include any Zone I land designated after 1990
 - Be currently unprotected by Article 97
 - Not already be owned by the applicant
- Applicants may submit more than one application
- Municipalities may apply on behalf of a PWS
- Water supply land can be located in another municipality

Eligible Expenses



- Acquisition
- Recording fees
- Title research and certification
- Property survey
- Baseline Documentation Report & Land Management Plan

Please don't incur any reimbursable expenses until the grant contract is executed.

Application Contents

- Appraisal
- Application form
- Maps
- Itemized budget
- Project narrative
- Supporting plans and documentation



Appraisals

- **Parcels with estimated value up to \$1 million:**
One full, self-contained, narrative appraisal
- **Parcels with estimated value over \$1 million:**
One certified appraisal report, however, applicants are strongly encouraged to obtain a second appraisal report or review appraisal

Appraisals must be dated not more than one year prior to the application deadline

Evaluation Procedures

- In-person site visit
- Rating system
- Funded according to ranking



Evaluation Criteria

□ Demographics

- Population served
- Environmental Justice

□ Resource Management

- Rate of water use
- % unaccounted for water
- Water rate structure

□ Project Quality

- Importance (differs by project type)
- Resource protection (current zoning, level of threat, planned)
- Size
- Public access
- Stewardship
- Distribution of state resources
- Project quality

MASS DEP Approval of Acquisition

Grant award constitutes a preliminary approval to acquire the property. Approval must be finalized by:

- ❑ Submitting a Permit Application for Land Acquisition (form BRP-WS-26)
- ❑ Abutter notification
- ❑ Public hearing at DEP regional office
- ❑ DEP final approval
- ❑ <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/service/approvals/brp-ws-26.html>

Contact Information

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