



Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant Program

**Information Session
Wednesday, January 13, 2025**

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

Sibley/Warner Farm, Spencer

Agenda

- Grant Program Goals
- Eligibility
- Application Process & Required Appraisals
- Grant Evaluation & Awards
- Additional Project Approvals
- Timeline & Reimbursement Requirements
- Questions

Grant Program Goals



Protect and conserve the quality and quantity of public drinking water supply sources in the Commonwealth.



Acquisition of land in DEP approved drinking water supply protection areas or estimated protection areas, if a planned future wells or intakes.



Encourage compatible public passive recreation use.

Grant Awards



Maximum Award:
\$350,000



Reimbursement Rate:
60%



Application Deadline:
March 7 at 3:00PM



Grant Program Eligibility

Eligible applicants: municipality, municipal water suppliers, water or fire districts.

Eligible projects: purchase of land in fee simple, a conservation restriction (CR) or watershed preservation restriction (WPR).

Eligible Projects



Land that protects **existing** wells or reservoirs.

- 50% or more of the land must be located in DEP approved Zone I (pre-1990)/II/III (for groundwater) or Zone A/B/C (for surface water) or an Interim Wellhead Protection Area (IWPA).
- Projects with >50% in Zone II are ranked highest.

Land that protects **future** wells or reservoirs.

- Must be in an area anticipated for future water supply through an appropriate process or that has been submitted for DEP new source review. (See page 3-4).

Eligible Projects



Projects cannot:

- Include Zone I land designated *after* 1990 (*must exclude this acreage from the project*).
- Be permanently protected under Article 97 or a CR, APR or WPR. (Chapter 61/61A/61B enrolled land is eligible.)
- Be owned by the applicant.
- Be owned by a 501 (c)(3) environmental or conservation organization unless it was purchased no earlier than November 25, 2023 with the sole intention of pre-acquiring for Grant purposes.

The goal is to conserve unprotected acreage.



Eligible Projects – Additional Notes

- Applicants may submit more than one application.
- Municipalities may apply on behalf of any public water supplier (PWS).
- Water supply land can be in another municipality.



Eligible Expenses

- Property (fee, CR or WPR) purchase
- Recording fees
- Title research & Certification
- Property survey / plan of land
- Baseline Documentation Report for CR (up to \$1,500)

Expenses can only be reimbursed after a grant award is finalized and contract has been executed.

Grant Application



An application must include the following:

- Appraisal report(s)
- Application form.
- Cover letter by authorized signatory (Selectboard Chair, Mayor etc.) authorizing the project manager to submit the grant
- Vote authorizing the acquisition for water supply protection
- Project narrative
- Maps
- NHESP letter
- A draft CR (or WPR) *if funding is requested for the purchase of a CR or WPR.*

Appraisals



< \$ 100,000: A certified appraisal report or a restricted appraisal report



\$100,000 - \$1 million: A certified appraisal report.



> \$1 million: Applicants strongly encouraged to obtain a second appraisal report, or review appraisal.

Appraisals must not be more than one year old at the grant deadline (obtained after March 7, 2024)

More information on page 5 of Grant Bid document.

Application evaluation



Site visit to verify project details

Applications are scored by EEA & DEP review committee and ranked

Grant recommendations made to Secretary & Governor according to ranking

Application Evaluation

Demographics (11%)

- Population served
- Environmental justice

Resource Management (17%)

- Existing water resource management / rate structure

Project Quality (72%)

- Project importance
- Resource protection
- Landscape conservation
- Recreational opportunity
- Applicant's stewardship capacity
- Overall project quality

Bonus Points (2pts maximum)

- Drought Management Plan

Grant award constitutes preliminary DEP approval for drinking water land acquisition.



Must finalize approval through public hearing process.

Contact your Regional Drinking Water Program for instructions

Up to 6 weeks to complete

Abutters must be notified, a public notice posted

Final approval letter issued; required of grant

Additional Project Approvals

Conservation Restrictions



If you are **purchasing a CR** with grant funds

See DEP template for groundwater or surface water protection CRs
Submit to DEP for preliminary review prior to DCS review and approval.

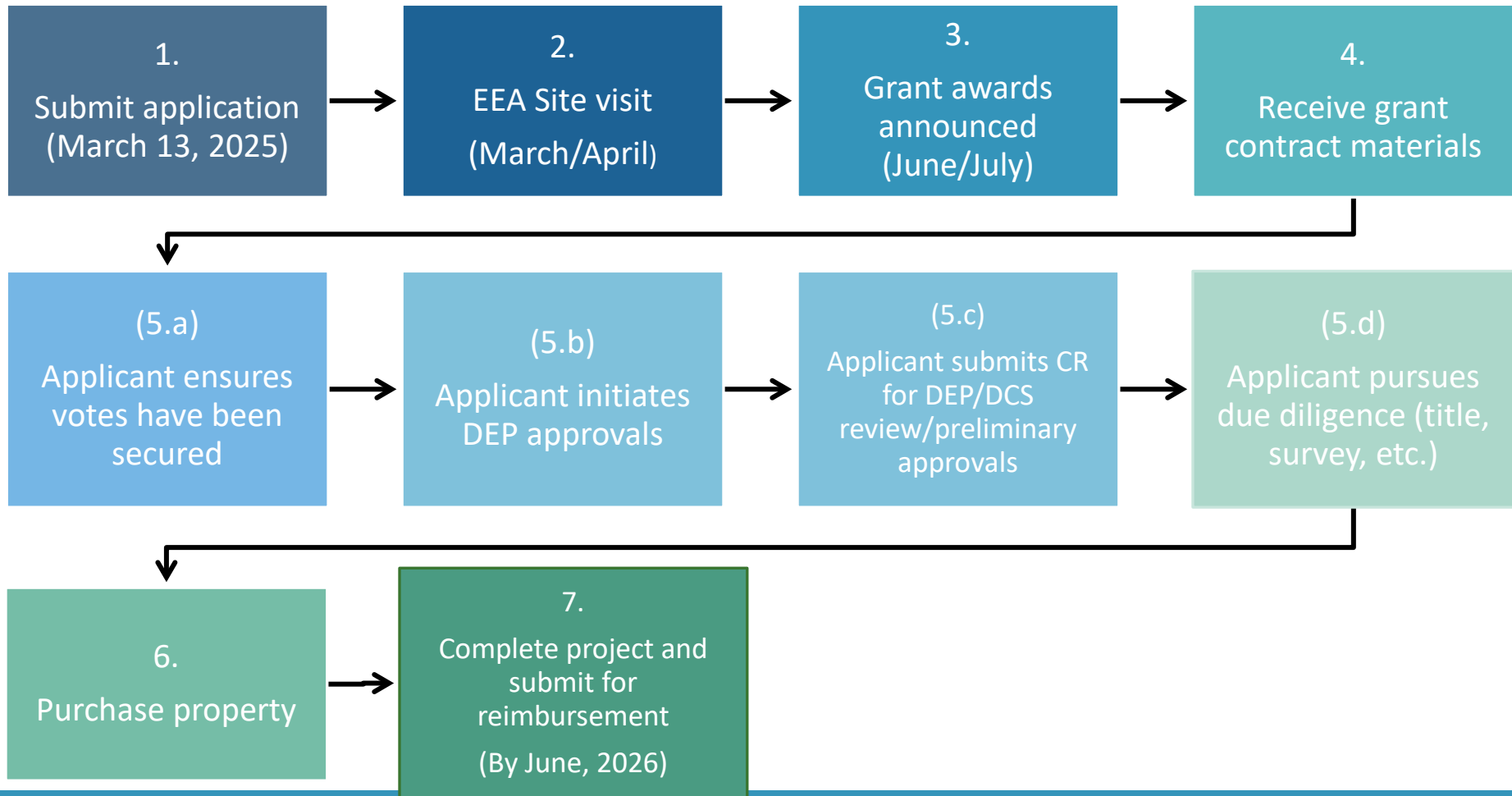


If you are **purchasing land** but a **CR is required** to satisfy CPA or other requirements

See DCS template for CRs and submit directly to DCS.
DCS will coordinate review with DEP.

See page 10 of Grant Bid document.

Grant Timeline & Project Requirements



Reimbursement Requirements



Formal DEP approval of acquisition and related recorded documents.



Recorded plan with metes and bounds descriptions



Executed, recorded CR as applicable.



Title certificate of clear, marketable title vested in applicant if purchasing fee (landowner if purchasing CR).



Appropriate accommodations for public access.

Contact Information

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A scenic landscape featuring a river or stream in the foreground, surrounded by lush greenery and trees. The sky is bright blue with scattered white clouds. The word "Questions?" is prominently displayed in large, white, sans-serif font across the center of the image. A thin white horizontal line is positioned below the text.

Questions?