

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

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Request for Response (RFR)

Ipswich River Basin Water Supply and PFAS Grant Opportunity

BWR 2025-01-WMA-Ipswich Basin

December 6, 2024

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Department of Environmental Protection

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Ipswich River Basin Water Supply and PFAS Grant Opportunity

Grant Summary

Total Funding Available: Up to \$950,000	Responses Due: January 10, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.
Grant Amounts: \$100,000 to \$950,000 per project	
Match Required: None Required	
Eligible Entities: Public Water Suppliers in the Ipswich River Basin with a WMA permit, a permit application filed, or WMA registration	
Eligible Projects: Planning and implementation projects that identify or construct water supply solutions for the Ipswich River Basin: (a) reduce demand on the Ipswich River Basin, particularly on sources impacted by PFAS, and/or (b) provide a connection to more sustainable water supply source(s).	

1. RFR Introduction and General Description

1.1. Grant Program Summary and Description

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP or the Department) seeks grant proposals for projects providing feasibility studies, infrastructure design, water chemistry analyses, and other activities needed to identify and advance water supply solutions for communities located in, or withdrawing water from, the Ipswich River Basin. The goals of this grant are to address:

1. The persistent drinking water quantity challenges faced by public water suppliers with sources in the Ipswich River Basin; and
2. The continued prevalence and harmfulness of PFAS6 (defined below) in drinking water in the Ipswich River Basin.

This grant will help communities with water supply sources located in the Ipswich River Basin to identify new or additional sources of drinking water, reduce water demand on the Ipswich River Basin, and/or improve drinking water quality.

MassDEP's Commitment to Environmental Justice: MassDEP is committed to advancing equity, diversity, and environmental justice (EJ)¹ through its public investments. The agency seeks to prioritize the direction of these resources to benefit EJ communities and to address environmental inequities. To that end, MassDEP grants and other funding programs include criteria and evaluation parameters that emphasize equity, diversity, and environmental justice, consistent with each program's statutory authority and source of funding. Through this grant, preference will be given to projects that provide direct benefit to environmental justice populations.

All costs associated with proposed projects must be incurred during state Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025).

1.2. Background Information

The Ipswich River was named one of the country's "most endangered" rivers by American Rivers in 2021.² Dry riverbeds result in fish kills, ecological damage, loss of recreation and threats to the quality and security of the water supply. Climate change is exacerbating the threat, with more severe and extended droughts creating increased risk to water supplies. Additionally, many drinking water supplies in the Ipswich River Basin are currently experiencing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination. PFAS bioaccumulate, are widespread, and persist for extremely long periods of time. Studies indicate that exposure to sufficiently elevated levels of certain PFAS may cause a variety of adverse health effects.

On April 10, 2024, EPA announced the final National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) for six (6) PFAS, establishing legally enforceable levels, called Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), for these six (6) PFAS in drinking water. PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS, PFNA, and HFPO-DA have individual MCLs, and PFAS mixtures containing at least two (2) or more of PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and PFBS are assessed using a Hazard Index MCL to account for the combined and co-occurring levels of these PFAS in drinking water. EPA also finalized health-based, non-enforceable Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs) for these PFAS.

¹ "Environmental justice is based on the principle that all people have a right to be protected from environmental hazards and to live in and enjoy a clean and healthful environment regardless of race, color, national origin, income, or English language proficiency. Environmental justice is the equal protection and meaningful involvement of all people and communities with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of energy, climate change, and environmental laws, regulations, and policies and the equitable distribution of energy and environmental benefits and burdens." See Environmental Justice Policy of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (updated June 24, 2021): <https://www.mass.gov/doc/environmental-justice-policy6242021-update/download>.

² See American Rivers, *America's Most Endangered Rivers 2021*, [MER2021 FINAL Report ReducedSize-1-1-1.pdf](https://americanrivers.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/MER2021_FINAL_Report_ReducedSize-1-1-1.pdf) (americanrivers.org).

EPA Drinking Water Goals & Standards for Drinking Water (2024)

Compound	MCL Goal Level	MCL Enforceable Limit
PFOA	Zero	4.0 parts per trillion (ppt) (also expressed as ng/L)
PFOS	Zero	4.0 ppt
PFHxS	10 ppt	10 ppt
PFNA	10 ppt	10 ppt
HFPO-DA (commonly known as GenX Chemicals)	10 ppt	10 ppt
Mixtures containing two or more of PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and PFBS	1 (unitless) Hazard Index	1 (unitless) Hazard Index

Sources of public water in the Ipswich River Basin may be associated with adverse environmental impacts to the basin and may be impacted by PFAS contamination. It is time to focus on long-range solutions that can accommodate future growth, protect the environment and public health, and adjust to the impacts of climate change.

1.3. Funding Availability

MassDEP anticipates that up to \$950,000 in total funding may be available for projects through this program. Grant Awards may range from \$100,000 to \$950,000 per applicant, although MassDEP reserves the right, in its discretion, to grant smaller awards to proposals of exceptional merit. If additional funds become available during the period between the announcement of this grant opportunity and end of State Fiscal Year 2025, the Department reserves the right to allocate supplemental funds to this grant solicitation and/or initiate additional funding rounds.

Applicants may seek funding for Eligible Projects that will exceed the length of the grant award period (i.e., past June 30, 2025); however, only work that is proposed to be performed during FY25 (June 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025) is eligible for funding under this Grant Opportunity. Please be advised that in order to receive reimbursement for project expenses incurred during FY25 prior to the grant award, applicants must submit documentation (invoices, purchase orders, and/or contracts) during the contracting process. All funding for awards issued through this program are contingent upon appropriation by the Massachusetts Legislature, or availability of funds from other authorized Department sources.

1.4. Eligible Entities

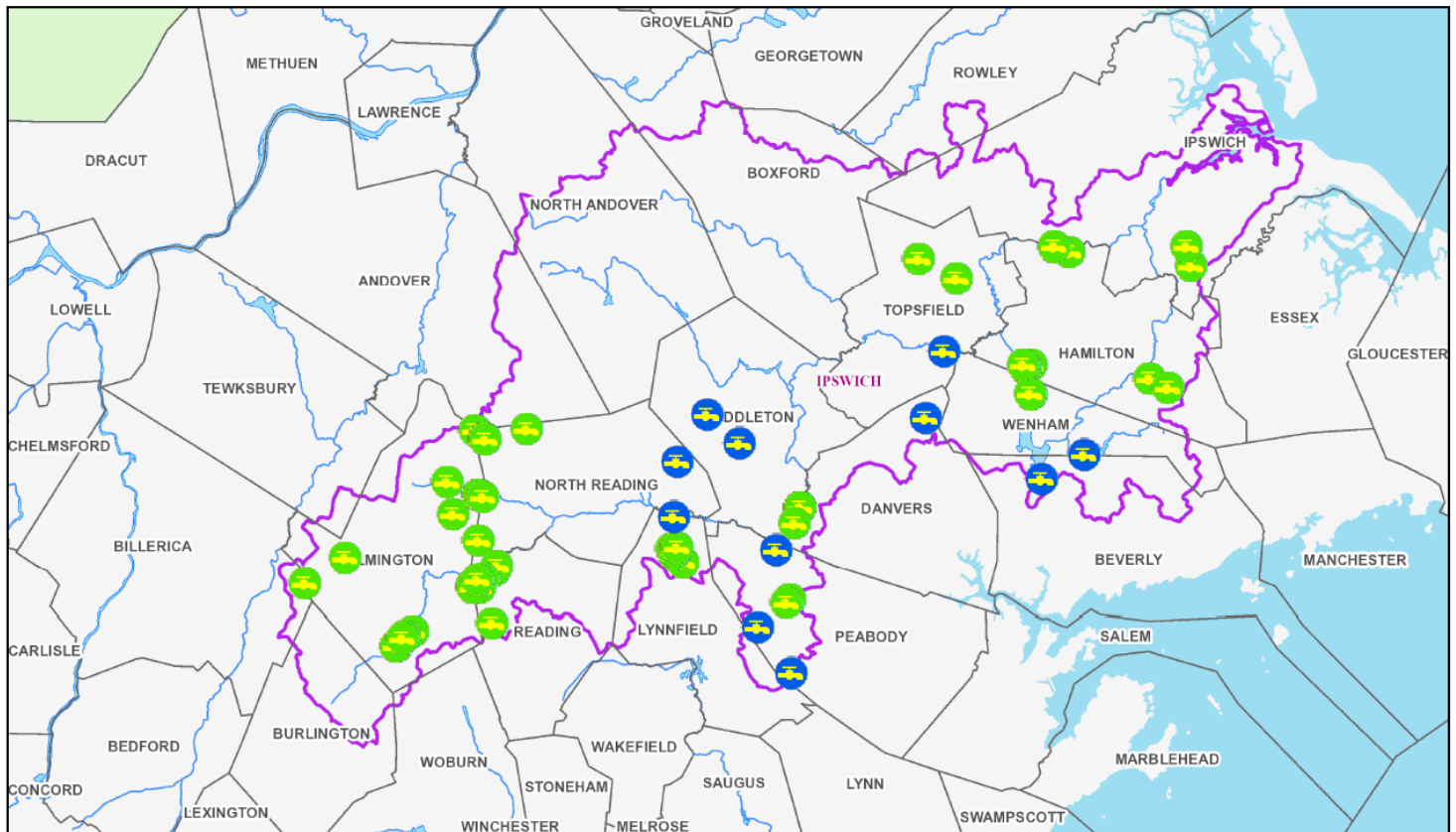
Eligible Entities for this grant opportunity include community public water systems serving municipalities, portions of municipalities, or a combination of these with drinking water sources located in the Ipswich River Basin that have either:

1. a WMA permit, or permit application under review; and/or
2. a WMA registration.



Please refer to the map below to see potentially eligible public water supply systems with water sources within the Ipswich River Basin. This map is for planning purposes only and may not include all potentially eligible water sources.

Cooperative proposals between at least one (1) Eligible Entity (i.e., a public water supplier and/or a municipality) and a watershed association, regional planning agency or other public water supplier, etc. are encouraged.




Public Water Supply Sources Located within the Ipswich River Basin



Public Water Supply Sources

-  Community Groundwater
-  Well Surface Water Intake

Hydrography

-  Open Water
-  Rivers and Streams
-  Ipswich River Basin

MassGIS, Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, EPA, NPS | Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife | Esri, HERE, NPS |

1.5. Applicable Procurement Law

Grants: MGL c. 7A, § 7; St. 1986 c. 206, § 17; 815 CMR 2.00.

1.6 Contract Duration for Grant Award

The expected duration of this grant contract is from the execution date of all required contract forms, through June 30, 2025. There are no renewal options associated with this grant award.

All contracts shall be subject to available funding, whether through the appropriation and authorization of sufficient funds or the receipt of sufficient revenues. If available funding ceases for any reason, a contract shall be deemed under suspension and contract performance must halt. An applicant (contractor) will not be entitled to compensation for any performance provided during the period of contract suspension. MassDEP may lift the suspension if additional funding is received. In the absence of foreseeable available funding, MassDEP may terminate the contract.

1.7 Failure to Perform Contractual Obligations after Grant Award

Failure to perform contractual obligations as outlined in the Standard Contract Form, the Commonwealth Terms and Conditions, other relevant Grant Award documents, and this RFR may result in the Termination or Suspension of the Grant Contract.

In addition, any Applicant receiving a Grant Award must adhere to all requirements of the Grant Application, and all documentation submitted in support of that application. If, after award of a Grant to a Recipient, the Grant Review Team receives information that there has been a material omission or misrepresentation by the Grant Applicant regarding any aspect of the proposed project, MassDEP reserves the right to invalidate or terminate the Grant Award.

2. Eligible Grant Projects

Planning	Implementation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feasibility studies, infrastructure design, water chemistry analyses, permitting & other activities to reduce demand on the Ipswich River.• Planning, design or permitting of treatment systems that will remediate PFAS contamination• Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shovel-ready construction projects that will:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remediate PFAS contamination• Reduce the water demand on the Ipswich River Basin, and/or• Provide a connection to another water supply source.• Others

2.1 Introduction & Grant Program Goals

The Ipswich River Basin Water Supply and PFAS Grant Program is designed to help eligible public water suppliers and municipalities that have water supply sources in the Ipswich River Basin address: (a) the persistent water quantity challenges that exist in the Basin; and (b) the presence and public health threat of PFAS in the Basin's drinking water.

To be eligible, projects must satisfy one (1) or more of the following objectives:

- A. Increase the number of Ipswich River Basin communities that join another water supplier, such as the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority; and/or
- B. Reduce the water demand on the Ipswich River; and/or
- C. Remediate PFAS contamination in the Ipswich River Basin and improve access to clean drinking water. This will be demonstrated by: (1) achieving the Massachusetts PFAS6 MCL; and (2) working to achieve the MCLs of EPA's PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation.

Accordingly, MassDEP has determined that grants awarded through this program may be for any of the following purposes:

1. Chemistry analyses, permitting, and other activities needed to identify and advance water supply solutions for the Ipswich River Basin that reduce demand on the Ipswich River Basin or provide a connection to another water supply source.
2. **Planning projects** to support the planning, design or permitting of treatment systems that will remediate PFAS contamination in drinking water derived from sources in the Ipswich River Basin.
3. **Implementation projects** that include shovel-ready construction projects that will remediate PFAS contamination, reduce the water demand on the Ipswich River Basin, or provide a connection to another water supply source.

All project work funded by *this* grant must be able to be completed by June 30, 2025.

2.2 Planning Projects

Eligible Planning Projects include, but are not limited to:

- Analysis of alternative water supply sources that, if used, would alleviate the impacts of water withdrawals on the Ipswich River Basin.
- Studies, permitting or infrastructure design that support the connection of one water supply system to another, including emergency connection.
- Water chemistry analysis for the combining of separate water systems.
- Design or permitting for new or upgraded drinking water remediation facilities to remove or reduce PFAS contamination, replace PFAS contaminated sources, or design of any other drinking water treatment that may be cost effective to include when designing PFAS treatment systems (e.g., manganese and iron removal).
- Planning and design projects to replace PFAS-contaminated drinking water source(s).
- Planning and design of projects that restore or maintain hydraulic capacity of systems that are impacted by closures of PFAS contaminated sources or the use of new sources.
- Permitting or engineering studies, surveys, or designs focused upon development of new water sources that are necessary to restore system capacity because of PFAS-related impacts to the system.
- Engineering, design fees, permitting costs, and final designs to construct PFAS remediation systems.
- Pilot studies to verify the most efficient means of achieving PFAS remediation at a public water supply.

2.3 Implementation Projects

Eligible Implementation Projects

Proposed Implementation Projects should be shovel-ready projects that: (1) have been previously identified during a systematic planning or design process; and (2) are able to cost-effectively remediate PFAS contamination, reduce the water demand on the Ipswich River Basin, and/or provide a connection to another water supplier.

At a minimum, proposals for Implementation Projects must include:

- **Project design(s):** Designs must be of sufficient detail, and include sufficient site work, to allow the proposal review committee to evaluate the viability of the proposal. Final designs must be prepared by a Professional Engineer (PE).
- **Permit Status:** Identification of any permits that are potentially required as part of the proposed scope of work and the status of the permit application.
- **Location Information:** Specific site location(s) information.
- **Site Maps:** Maps of the site and locus that show site characteristics, location of each specific work location in sufficient detail to defend the project, and watershed location(s) of the proposed work.
- **Estimated Cost of the Project:** A reliable budget for the project and a definitive description of project strategy and viability, as well as the environmental improvements that will result, should also be provided. Competitive proposals will also address the sustainability, operation and maintenance, and cost-effectiveness of the proposed project.

Eligible Projects Include, but are not limited to:

- Purchase of, and labor to install, water meters, valves, mains, and other equipment to improve water supply issues, as well as associated site work.
- Installation of replacement wells for water supplies affected by PFAS.
- Installation of replacement wells located outside of the Ipswich Basin to reduce the demand on the Ipswich River.
- Entrance fees to a Public Water Supplier for an alternative water source.
- Materials and labor associated with PFAS treatment designed to meet the PFAS6 MMCL and EPA's PFAS MCL under the National Primary Drinking Water Regulation.

2.4 Examples of Ineligible Projects and Costs:

- Purchase of water rights.
- Laboratory and sampling costs for new PFAS identification in drinking water Applicants (Public Water Systems) that are already required to regularly monitor for PFAS).
- Other non-capital expenses relating to ongoing maintenance and treatment at drinking water facilities.
- Studies, surveys, or engineering focused upon development of new water sources in the Ipswich River Basin that are not related to PFAS impacts to the system.

- Legal expenses associated with determining liability or addressing other legal matters.
- Projects that are required as mitigation for federal permits are not eligible.

2.5 Compensation Structure for Grant Awards

Compensation will be on a reimbursement basis and will be based solely on the proposed project budget (“Budget”) and Scope of Work (“SOW”) supplied by the Applicant and accepted by MassDEP, as the eligible costs of the proposal.

MassDEP will reimburse eligible costs upon timely receipt of invoices, accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation, of expenditures made in accordance with the approved terms of the grant award contract.

Eligible costs include approved project expenditures incurred between the execution date of a grant award contract and June 30, 2025. In addition, costs incurred on or after July 1, 2024, but prior to the execution of the grant award contract, may also be eligible for reimbursement, provided they are detailed in the project Budget and Scope of Work approved by MassDEP.

Applicants are encouraged, but not required, to provide matching funds or in-kind resources.

2.6 Project Documentation

Please be advised if awarded, the following reports and documents are required through the contract period:

Progress Report and Invoices

All grant applicants shall provide the following reports to the Department in accordance with the contract Scope of Work. These reports shall be submitted via email on a standard form provided by the Department:

1. A mid-contract progress report.
 - The mid-contract progress report shall contain a summary and percentage of all work completed by task during the reporting period and planned activities for the next period.
2. A fiscal report.
 - A fiscal report shall be provided on the same schedule as the progress report, on a standard form provided by the Department. All fiscal reports shall provide backup invoices to document the funds spent. The fiscal reports should list the spending for the time period, itemized by the expense categories listed in the Scope of Work.
3. A match form, if applicable.
 - A match form, if match is being provided as part of the contract agreement, shall also be provided to the Department on a standard form provided by the Department.

Final Technical Report

All grant applicants agree to provide a final Technical Report to MassDEP by July 31, 2025, summarizing the project, and containing all deliverables or a description of all deliverables. These results may be a combination of tables, graphs, photographs, and written descriptions, as well as a technical evaluation of the effectiveness and cost of the options evaluated or implemented. A failure to submit required reports may impact future funding opportunities.

MassDEP reserves the right to request additional materials, information, or other documentary evidence demonstrating completion of work and/or compliance with program requirements. MassDEP also reserves the right to withhold funding until receipt of satisfactory materials, information, or other documentary evidence demonstrating completion of work and/or compliance with program requirements.

3. Application and Contract Requirements

3.1 Mandatory Application Requirements

1. **Eligible Grant Applicant:** Applications will only be accepted from Massachusetts public water suppliers or municipalities in the Ipswich River Basin with either: (1) a valid Water Management Act (WMA) permit or permit application; or (2) a valid WMA registration, unless otherwise noted. Cooperative proposals between at least one (1) Eligible Entity (i.e., a public water supplier and/or a municipality) and a watershed association, regional planning agency or other public water supplier, etc. are encouraged.
2. **Cost Table:** Both Planning Projects and Implementation Projects must include a cost table that includes the estimated costs by task for the various phases of the scope of work.
3. **Consistency with Regulations:** Proposed Eligible Projects must address activities that are consistent with the most current WMA Regulations and the Drinking Water Regulations found at: [310 CMR 36.00: Massachusetts water resources management program | Mass.gov](#) and [MassDEP Drinking Water Regulations | Mass.gov](#).

3.2 Grant Criteria Evaluation Components

Project Description (20 Points):

- Does the Proposed Project description state the extent to which the project will reduce demand on Ipswich River Water and/or mitigate PFAS in the public drinking water supply? Particular consideration may be given to proposals where there is a demonstrated increase in demand on Ipswich River water sources and/or the existence of contamination, and/or proposals that include cooperation between more than one entity.
- If some or all of the proposed project includes a request for reimbursement for eligible costs incurred on or after July 1, 2024, and before submission of the Application, does the Application include a description of the portion of the project that is partially or fully completed?
- Are all elements of the proposal eligible under the listed criteria for this grant program?

Meet Regulatory Requirements (15 Points):

- Does the Application describe how the Proposed Project will minimize and mitigate water withdrawals and/or PFAS contamination in the Ipswich River basin and promote compliance with the EPA National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR)?

Financial Need (5 Points):

- How well does the Application demonstrate the Applicant's need for financial assistance to support the Proposed Project?

Project Budget and Timeline (10 Points):

- Does the Application include a detailed project budget that includes cost and time estimates by project task and milestone? Does the budget indicate responsible parties by task? Pricing information, such as quotes, rates for staffing, and other budget information may be attached as supporting information.
- If the Proposed Project includes a request for reimbursement for eligible costs incurred on or after July 1, 2024, and before submission of this Application, does the Application include all documentation supporting the request for reimbursement for these project costs?
- Does the Application demonstrate a realistic timeline to achieve the proposed work?

Qualifications of Organization and Project Manager (10 Points):

- Does the Application describe the qualifications of the Eligible Entity, their contractor(s), the project manager, and any other staffing assigned to carry out the Proposed Project?
- Does the Eligible Entity, and/or their contractor(s) have sufficient qualifications and project experience to perform the Proposed Project?
- Does the project team have prior experience in conducting projects funded under this grant program, or other grant programs, administered by MassDEP?

Project Benefit (30 Points):

- How well does how the Proposed Project decrease water withdrawals from the Ipswich River basin and/or mitigate PFAS contamination?
- Does the Proposed Project include a water system(s) that currently transfers Ipswich River basin water outside of the Ipswich River? Does the Proposed Project promote interconnections to alternative sources of water located outside of the Ipswich River basin? Does the project mitigate PFAS contamination in the PFAS river basin?
- Will the project include any community engagement with local stakeholders such as the general public, local boards, committees, commissions, EJ populations, and other groups to inform them of project goals and outcomes?

Environmental Justice (10 Points):

- How does the Proposed Project benefit environmental justice (EJ) populations within the project area? (Information on which communities are classified as EJ communities can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/environmental-justice-communities-in-massachusetts>).

3.3 Contract Requirements for Grant Awards

If selected for a Grant Award, the Applicant will be required to submit the following forms to complete the Grant Award contracting process. Forms with an asterisk (*) need not be submitted, if they have been completed previously and are already on file with the Commonwealth:

- Commonwealth Standard Contract Form, filled out and signed by the applicant. The Standard Contract Form is listed under Contracts on this website: www.macomptroller.org/forms
- Commonwealth Terms and Conditions. www.macomptroller.org/forms
These Terms and Conditions are incorporated by reference into the Standard Contract Form, and do not need to be executed separately.
- Commonwealth W-9 tax information form filled out and signed by the applicant with DUNS number and Federal Tax ID(*). www.macomptroller.org/forms
- Completed Contractor Authorized Signatory Listing Form. www.macomptroller.org/forms
- Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) form(*). <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/tips-for-completing-the-electronic-funds-transfer-eft-form>
- Scope of Work

Applicants are encouraged to review these forms prior to submission of an application. Applicants who are issued awards must be registered in COMMBUYS in order to do business with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. To register, please visit:

<https://www.commbuys.com/bsol/>

3.4 Ownership of Equipment

If any part of the grant is used to purchase any durable assets or equipment, ownership of such assets or equipment shall be transferred to the grant recipient, or their designee, upon the completion of the grant.

4. Estimated GRANT Procurement Calendar

Event	Date	Time
Notice of Grant Opportunity (posted on COMMBUYS and MassDEP website)	Friday, December 6, 2024	
Bid Release Date (Posting Date) on MassDEP website	Friday, December 6, 2024	
Deadline for Submission of Questions to MassDEP, via email to: Jen D'Urso at jen.durso@mass.gov	Monday, December 16, 2024	5 P.M.
Official Answers for Q&A published on MassDEP website	Monday, January 3, 2025	5 P.M.
RFR Bid Amendment Deadline	Monday, January 3, 2025	5 P.M.

Event	Date	Time
GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE; Electronic Submission via email to Jen D'Urso at jen.durso@mass.gov	Friday, January 10, 2025	5 P.M.
Notification of Grant Award(s) (Estimated) (POSTED ON COMMBUYS AND MASSDEP WEBSITE)	Est. Monday, March 10, 2025	

4.1 Written Questions via the Grant Q&A Process

As noted in the Estimated Grant Procurement Calendar, grant applicants may submit written questions, via e-mail, to Jen D'Urso at jen.durso@mass.gov on or before Monday, December 16, 2024 at 5:00 pm E.S.T. MassDEP will post official responses to questions regarding this grant RFR on or before Monday, January 3, 2025 at 5:00 pm E.S.T. It is the Applicant's responsibility to verify receipt of questions with MassDEP.

MassDEP reserves the right to condense, summarize, or combine related questions and/or answers.

The Q&A document for this Grant RFR will be available on COMMBUYS, as well as online at the following link: The Q&A document for this Grant RFR will be available online at the following link: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/water-management-act-grant-programs-for-public-water-suppliers>.

All answers are final when posted. Any subsequent revisions to previously provided answers will be dated.

4.2 Amendment Deadline

MassDEP reserves the right to make amendments to the Grant RFR after initial publication on or before the Application Submission deadline noted in the Estimated Grant Procurement Calendar. It is each Applicant's responsibility to check for any amendments, addenda, or modifications to this Grant RFR, as well as any Q&A related to this RFR and any amendments thereto. The Commonwealth and MassDEP accept no responsibility for, and will provide no accommodation to, Applicants who submit a Response to this RFR that is based on out-of-date information.

4.3 Application Deadline

Applications shall be submitted electronically via email to Jen D'Urso at jendurso@mass.gov. Applications are due Friday, January 10, 2025, by 5 P.M. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

It is the responsibility of the Grant Applicant and awarded Grant Recipient to maintain a current email address for the Applicant's contact person and prospective Grant Project Manager, if awarded a contract, and to monitor that email inbox for communications from MassDEP, including requests for clarification.

ATTACHMENT A

IPSWICH RIVER BASIN WATER SUPPLY AND PFAS GRANT OPPORTUNITY **SFY2025 Grant Program Application**

Overview: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP or the Department) seeks grant proposals for projects providing feasibility studies, infrastructure design, water chemistry analyses, and other activities needed to identify and advance water supply solutions for communities located in, or withdrawing water from, the Ipswich River Basin. The goals and objectives of this grant are: (A) to address the persistent drinking water quantity challenges faced by the Ipswich River Basin; (B) reduce demand on the Ipswich River Basin; and (C) to address the continued prevalence and harmfulness of PFAS6 (defined below) in drinking water in the Ipswich River Basin.

Section 1: Applicant Information

Applicant Name: _____

Project Title: _____

Short description of the work (<5 sentences)

Requested Funds: _____ Matching Funds: _____

Project Contact Person*: _____ Title: _____

Contact person must be from the entity requesting funding.

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

By checking this box ☐ the applicant confirms that they are authorized to submit this grant application on behalf of the specified Permittee listed above.

Section 2: Ability to Perform Proposed Project

A. Ability to Use Funds: If awarded this Grant, the awardee must be able to enter into a contract with MassDEP within 15-30 days of Grant Award.

By checking this box ☐ the Applicant acknowledges and agrees that its entity is able to enter into the contract and perform the project and meet all requirements of this state grant.

Section 3: Required Proposal Format

Proposals shall be limited to 10 pages exclusive of attachments. Attachments shall include maps, reports or links to reports, drawings, designs, photographs, resumes of key staff, examples of similar projects, support letters, and other supporting material. Please use the following format for your proposal:

- 1. Project Description (20 Points):** Describe the proposed project and how it will reduce demand on Ipswich River Water and/or mitigate PFAS in the public drinking water supply.
- 2. Meet Regulatory Requirements (15 Points):** Describe how the proposed project would minimize and mitigate water withdrawals and PFAS contamination in the Ipswich River basin and promote compliance the EPA National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR).
- 3. Financial Need (5 Points):** Describe the need for financial assistance to implement the proposed project, including other anticipated or secured funding sources that will support portions of the project (if applicable).
- 4. Project Budget and Timeline (10 Points):** Please fill out the budget table below for the proposed project (use as many rows as needed).

Ipswich River Basin Water Supply & PFAS Grant Budget Table

Key Project Tasks/Milestone (Responsible Party)	Estimated Cost (before match)	Estimated Match* (optional)	Known or Estimated Task Completion Date
Estimated Cost & Match Subtotals:			
Total Project Cost:			
Grant Request Amount:			
Source of Match*: If your grant application includes any in-kind or monetary match, explain how extensive it is and how it will be made available to the project here.			

- 5. Qualifications of Organization and Project Manager (10 Points):** Describe the qualifications of the Eligible Entity and/or their contractor and the project manager relevant to carrying out the proposed project.
- 6. Project Benefit (30 Points):** Describe how the proposed project contributes to minimize and mitigate water withdrawals from the Ipswich River basin, while promoting compliance with the NPDWR. Priority will be given to proposed projects that most greatly reduces the demand on Ipswich River water, and/or mitigates PFAS contamination in the public water supply.
- 7. Environmental Justice (10 Points):** Describe in detail how environmental justice populations will benefit from the proposed project, and whether EJ populations, EJ communities, or EJ organizations will be involved in the proposed project.