



Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant Program

Information Session
February 11, 2026

Executive Office of
Energy and Environmental Affairs

Agenda

- Grant Overview
- Eligibility
- Application Process
 - EnviroScreen Tool
 - Grant Management System
- Project 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.



Protect DEP approved drinking water supply areas or estimated protection areas, if a planned future wells or intakes, through purchase of land, CRs, or WPRs.



Encourage compatible public passive recreation use.

Grant Awards



Maximum Award:
\$350,000



**Reimbursement
Rate: 60%**



Deadline:
April 13, 2026



Eligible Applicants

- Municipalities
- Municipal Water Suppliers
- Water or Fire Districts

For the purchase of land, a Conservation Restriction (CR), or a Watershed Preservation Restriction (WPR)



Eligible Expenses

- Property (fee, CR or WPR) purchase
- Recording fees
- Title research & Certification
- Property survey / plan of land

Eligible expenses must be incurred after a grant contract has been executed.



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 Projects



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.

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.
- 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 January 5, 2025 with the sole intention of pre-acquiring for Grant purposes.

The goal is to conserve unprotected acreage.

Grant Application



An application must include the following:

- Appraisal report(s)
- Letter by authorized signatory (Selectboard Chair, Mayor etc.) authorizing the project manager & grant submission
- 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



< \$ 350,000: A certified appraisal report **or** a restricted appraisal report



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



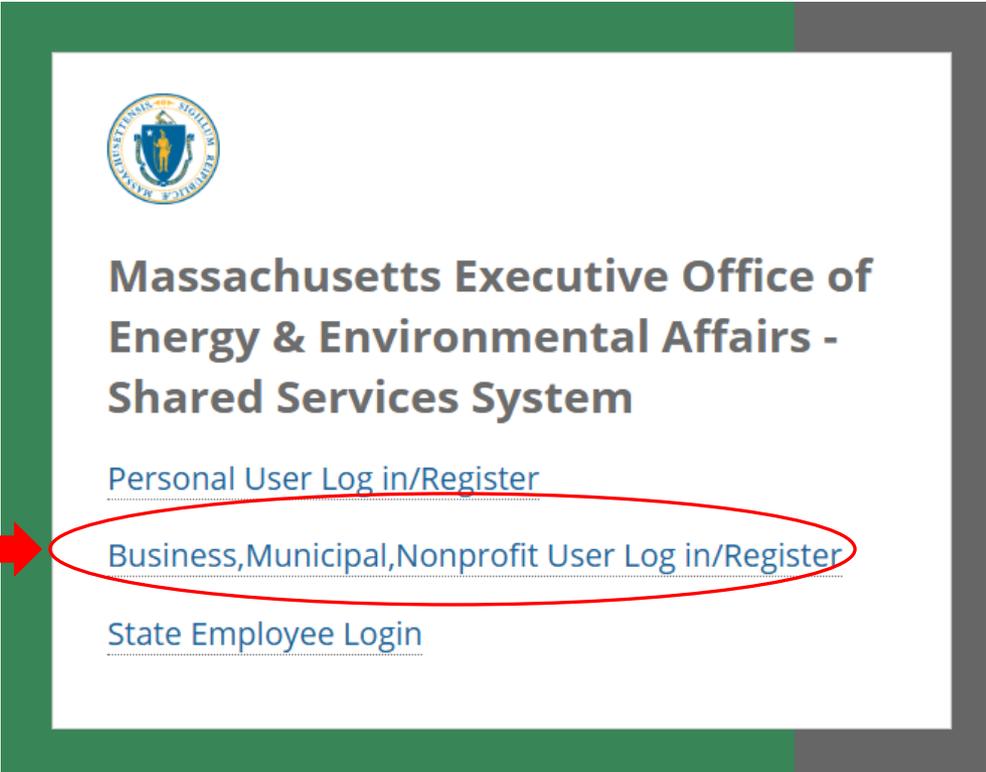
> \$1 million: Applicants strongly encouraged to obtain a second appraisal report, or review appraisal.

Appraisals must not be more than one year old at the grant deadline (*e.g. dated after April 13, 2025*)

More information on page 5 of Grant Bid document.

Submissions are via EEA
Grant Management
Software (GMS) on
MyMass.Gov

<https://greenhub.appianportals.com/applicants-portal/page/grantee-portal>





**Massachusetts Executive Office of
Energy & Environmental Affairs -
Shared Services System**

[Personal User Log in/Register](#)

[Business, Municipal, Nonprofit User Log in/Register](#)

[State Employee Login](#)

Grant Management System

- Here's how to sign up for GMS: Visit [Grants Management System \(GMS\) | Mass.gov](#) for instructions
- Watch our instructional playlist on YouTube: https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzQVK6KiTOqyPW5PUOcFE42iRJgdm8LA_&si=Wm2l78OgFDZ-1nA_
- See our user guide at the GMS Portal: [Help - Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs Grants Management System](#)

Application evaluation



Site visit to verify project details

Applications are scored by EEA & DEP review committee and ranked

Grant recommendations made to Secretary & Governor based upon available funding.

Application Evaluation

Demographics (11%)

- Population served
- Environmental justice

Resource Management (17%)

- Existing water resource management / rate structure

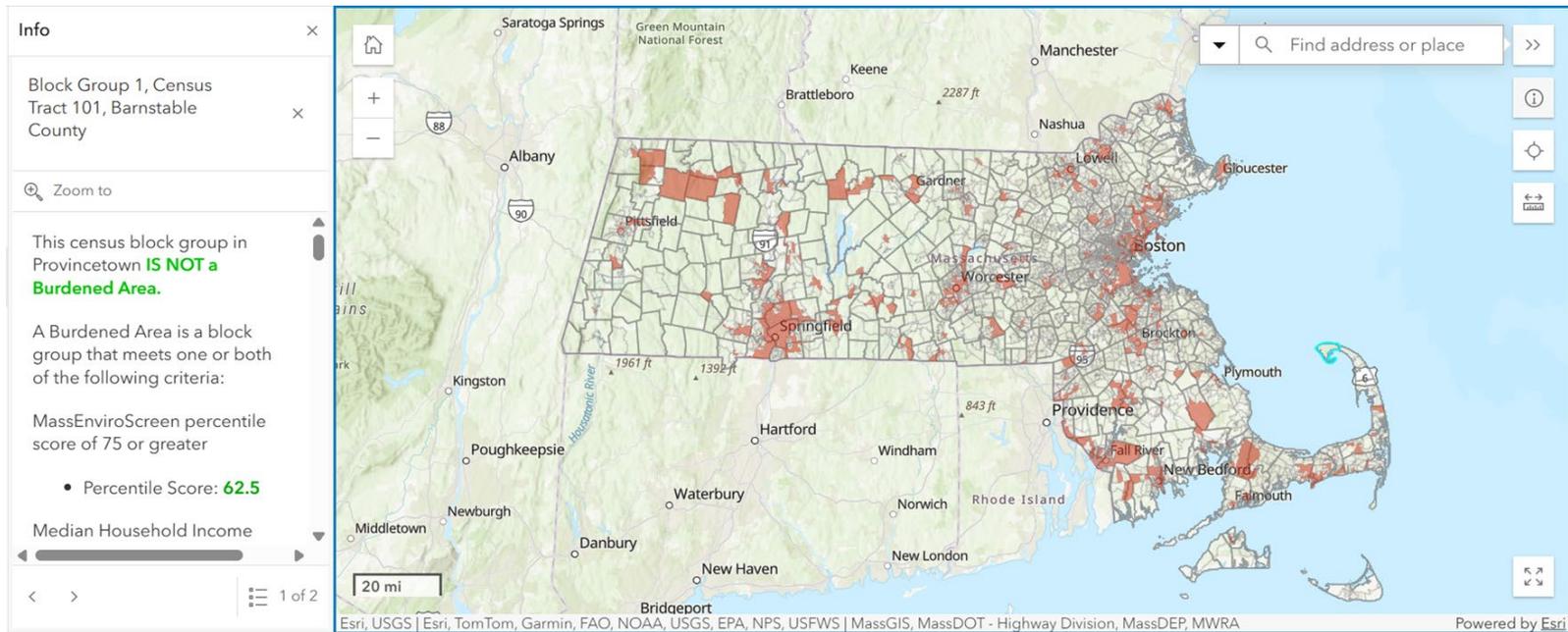
Project Quality (72%)

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

Bonus Points (2pts maximum)

- Drought Management Plan

MassEnviroScreen Tool



<https://mass-eoea.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/sidebar/index.html?appid=4be63e892a3d42d69334615a64095a39>

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.

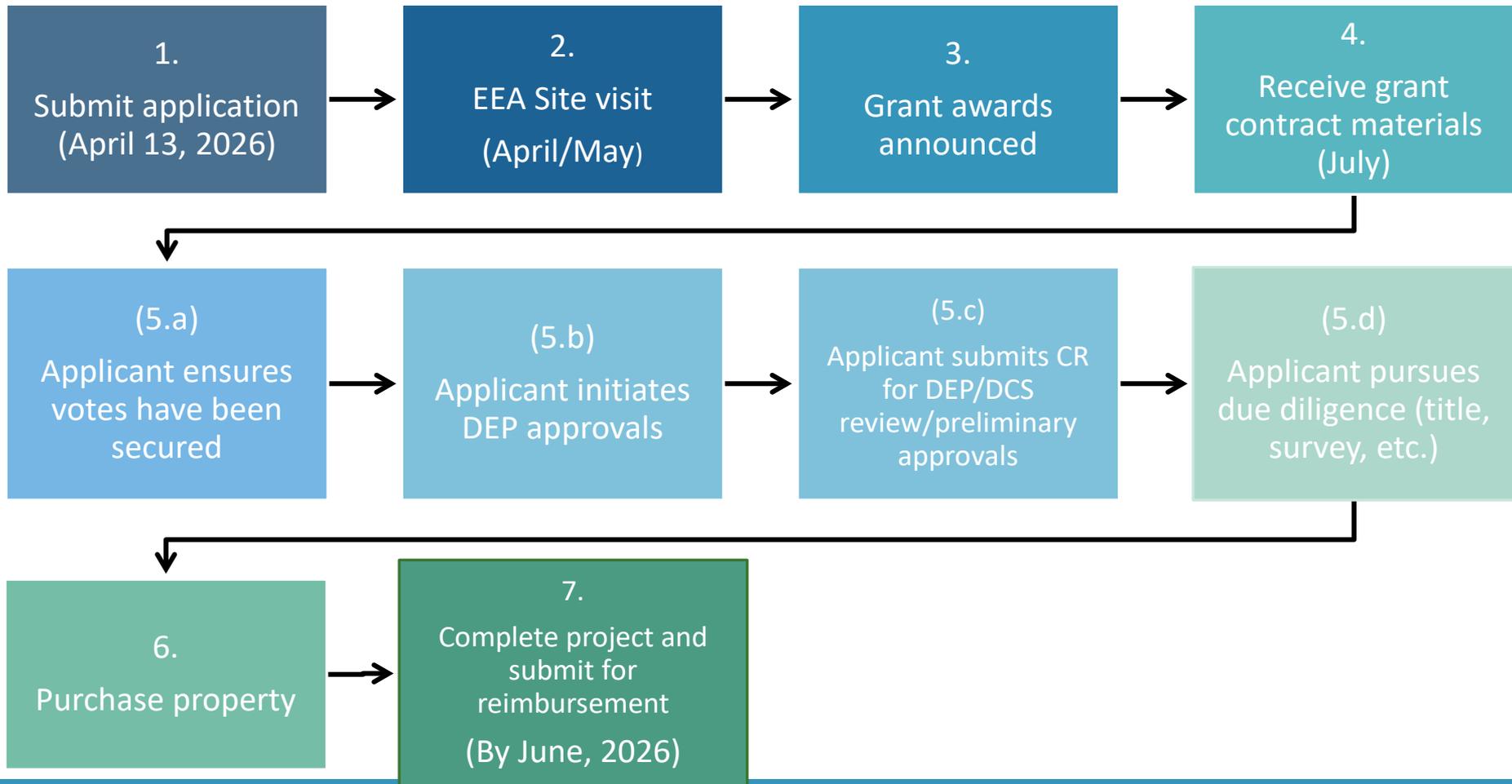


If you are **purchasing land** but a **CR is required** to satisfy CPA or other requirements

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



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?

Contact Information

Vanessa Farny

(857) 330-1978

vanessa.farny@mass.gov

www.mass.gov/eea/dcs-grants