



Department of Environmental Protection

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November 7, 2022

Grant Opportunity

MassDEP Small Public Water Systems PFAS Grant Program

Grants to Reimburse Small Public Water Suppliers for Measures to Address PFAS Contamination

GRANT OPPORTUNITY SUMMARY:

- 1. Applications sought:** Multiple scientific studies have shown that exposure to PFAS contamination (as defined further below in this Grant document) in the environment may be linked to harmful health effects in humans and animals. In 2020, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) promulgated regulations to establish a per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) drinking water Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 20 ng/L, or parts per trillion (ppt) for a sum of six PFAS contaminants (“PFAS6”): perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA), and perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA). In 2021-2022, MassDEP offered two Rounds of “PFAS Treatment Grants” for the implementation of treatment systems to remove or reduce PFAS, and two additional rounds of “PFAS6 Interim Response Program Grants” to eligible Public Water Suppliers (PWSs). **This Small PWS PFAS Grant Program Grant Opportunity provides funds (including reimbursement for costs and expenses already incurred) to impacted small PWSs (serving less than 3,300 in population) for implementing long-term measures, including the design, installation, construction or purchase of treatment systems that reduce PFAS contamination in the drinking water supply.** This PFAS grant funding also focuses on Environmental Justice (EJ) populations, disadvantaged communities, and sensitive receptors.
- 2. MassDEP Environmental Justice Commitment:** MassDEP is committed to advancing equity, diversity, and environmental justice (EJ)¹ through its public investments. The agency seeks to prioritize

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

This information is available in alternate format. Contact Glynis Bugg at 617-348-4040.

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the direction of these resources to benefit EJ communities and to address environmental inequities. To that end, this Program, and all MassDEP grant and funding programs, include criteria and evaluation parameters that emphasize equity, diversity, and environmental justice, in a manner consistent with the program's statutory authority and source of funding.

3. Overview and goals: This Small PWS PFAS Grant Program provides a funding opportunity for eligible small PWSs to receive grant funding for the implementation of a PFAS solution (as defined in the Eligible Applicants Section 6 below). Public water systems with PFAS concentrations exceeding MassDEP's drinking water Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) are required to immediately eliminate or minimize the threat to public health and ensure that clean drinking water is available to all system users.

In June, 2022, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) issued a Health Advisory for PFOA and PFOS that is even lower than MassDEP's MCL for drinking water (see <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos>). US EPA's Advisories are cautionary and, thus, are not legally binding upon the individual states, including Massachusetts. However, with the additional urgency brought about by the US EPA Health Advisory, MassDEP's goal for this grant program is to provide financial assistance to small PWSs (less than 3,300 persons in population) that have confirmed the presence of PFAS chemicals in the water supply, for the implementation of a long-term measure that will ensure the availability of clean drinking water for five or more years.

4. Grant purpose: The goal of this program is to provide grant funds, including reimbursement of previously incurred costs, to Small (under 3,300 users) Community (COM), Non-Transient Non-Community (NTNC), and Transient Non-Community (TNC) Public Water Suppliers for work that:

- eliminates a public health risk from PFAS contamination of public drinking water, and
- is necessary to achieve or maintain a level of PFAS (below 10 ppt) that is expected to ensure long-term compliance with applicable drinking water quality standards for PFAS and the MCL for PFAS established by MassDEP's Regulations and its Office of Research and Standards.

5. Definitions: Please refer to this section for important clarification of terms used in this Grant Opportunity.

PFAS: For purposes of this Grant Opportunity, PFAS means PFAS6 as further described in Section 1 of this document.

Disadvantaged Community: The term is used to evaluate affordability in a manner consistent with the Massachusetts Disadvantaged Community affordability tiers, see <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/the-disadvantaged-community-program>

Small Public Water Supplier (PWS): Community (COM), Non-Transient Non-Community (NTNC), and Transient Non-Community (TNC) MassDEP registered Public Water Supplier, under public or

Environmental Affairs (updated June 24, 2021): <https://www.mass.gov/doc/environmental-justice-policy6242021-update/download>.

private ownership, serving fewer than 3300 users, as defined by MassDEP's regulations at 310 CMR 22.00.

Sensitive receptor: as defined by EPA: "Sensitive receptors include, but are not limited to, hospitals, schools, daycare facilities, elderly housing, and convalescent facilities. These are areas where the occupants are more susceptible to the adverse effects of exposure to toxic chemicals, pesticides, and other pollutants. Extra care must be taken when dealing with contaminants and pollutants in close proximity to areas recognized as sensitive receptors." (EPA Region 1, <https://www3.epa.gov/region1/eco/uep/sensitivereceptors.html>)

Environmental Justice (EJ) Community: See description in Section 2 above. Evaluation of EJ communities are based on criteria shown here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/environmental-justice-populations-in-massachusetts>

6. Eligible Applicants: Eligible Applicants include Small (under 3300 users) Community (COM), Non-Transient Non-Community (NTNC), and Transient Non-Community (TNC) MassDEP registered PWSs, under public or private ownership, as defined by MassDEP's regulations at 310 CMR 22.00, that can demonstrate an exceedance of PFAS chemicals in the water supply. **NOTE: PWSs that have already received funding for the same project under MassDEP's previous Rounds 1 and/or 2 of the PFAS Treatment Grant Program, the State Revolving Fund, or any other state or federal grant or loan, are not eligible for this Grant Opportunity.**

7. Eligible Projects (including Examples of eligible costs):

- Engineering, design fees, and final designs to construct PFAS treatment systems;
- Purchase and installation of treatment systems that will minimize or eliminate PFAS in drinking water on a long-term basis;
- Purchase and installation of pre-treatment equipment necessary to make PFAS treatment effective (such as for iron and/or manganese), provided that the PFAS treatment system is also installed concurrently;
- Construction or expansion of structures necessary to house the new PFAS treatment system;
- MassDEP Drinking Water Permits for the final design;
- Connection to a municipal or other PWS to provide clean drinking water;
- Reimbursement of eligible costs that were expended prior to contract start date; and/or
- Any other action undertaken to provide drinking water on a long-term basis that complies with PFAS requirements.

8. Examples of ineligible projects/costs:

- Administrative and mailing costs associated with community notification of the PFAS exceedance;
- Laboratory and sampling costs for PFAS identification in drinking water;
- Expenses relating to ongoing maintenance and treatment at drinking water facilities (whether or not related to PFAS treatment);
- Legal expenses associated with determining liability or addressing other legal matters;

- Pilot studies or other investigations that will lead to permanent resolution of the PFAS contamination problem;
- Work that has already been funded by a prior MassDEP PFAS Grant, the State Revolving Fund, or any other state or federal grant or loan (see also Section 6 above);
- Bottled water, vending units, or other temporary solutions;
- Attorney fees or other administrative expenses related to the PWS response to PFAS exceedance; and/or
- Any other actions that do not result in the long-term delivery of safe drinking water in response to the discovery of PFAS contamination.

9. Grant Program term: From the date of Grant contract award through June 30, 2023.

10. Program structure, including Application Deadline: A total of \$1.05 million is currently available through state funds. MassDEP will accept Applications from the initiation of the Small PWS PFAS Grant Program (i.e., November 7, 2022), through the Grant Program Application deadline of December 15, 2022. (see Section 15 below, Estimated Grant Procurement Calendar). Applications from Eligible Applicants for Eligible Projects will be received, reviewed, selected, and awarded following the evaluative criteria outlined below, and consistent with the deadlines set forth in the Estimated Grant Procurement Calendar (see Section 15 below). In its discretion, MassDEP reserves the right to alter or revise the Application Date, or other deadlines associated with this Small PWS PFAS Grant Program.

11. Funding availability: The total amount of funding currently available for all grant/reimbursement requests through this Program is \$1.05 million. Applicants should note that MassDEP reserves the right to not award the total funding currently available for this Program and also reserves the right to award lesser individual grant/reimbursement amounts, based on availability of funds. MassDEP currently anticipates that the maximum award per application will be \$50,000; however, MassDEP reserves the right to grant larger or smaller awards based upon the review of the quantity and quality of the applications received. MassDEP also reserves the right to increase individual awards if all applicants have received the maximum awards and funds remain to be distributed at the end of the application period. Contingent upon the availability of funding, MassDEP may, in its discretion, offer one or more additional rounds of grant/reimbursement opportunities in the future for this Program. Applicants must only propose project scopes that can be completed by June 30, 2023. In its discretion, MassDEP reserves the right increase or eliminate the total funding amount based upon funding availability and/or other factors.

12. Eligibility Requirements and Evaluation Criteria

This grant program is open to Small PWSs that have a documented exceedance of the PFAS MCL and prioritizes those small PWSs that serve Environmental Justice populations, disadvantaged populations, and/or sensitive receptors as defined in Section 5 above.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Documentation of a PFAS6 MCL exceedance in the public water supply by a laboratory certified by MassDEP to conduct PFAS testing (<https://www.mass.gov/how-to/find-a-certified-laboratory-for-water-testing>);
- Eligible Status as a Small Community (COM), Non-Transient Non-Community (NTNC), or Transient Non-Community (TNC) MassDEP registered PWS, under public or private ownership;
- No awards received through a previous MassDEP PFAS Grant, the State Revolving Fund, or any other state or federal grant or loan; and
- Eligible Expenses are proposed, or submitted for reimbursement, by or before June 30, 2023.
- Proposals describing a solution to address the PFAS contamination that can be expected to function effectively for at least five years (i.e., long term)

Proposals that do not meet these Eligibility Requirements will be deemed ineligible and will not be evaluated.

Evaluation Criteria: Applications from eligible applicants will be evaluated and given points according to the following evaluation criteria. Awards will be granted to the highest scoring proposals, in descending order, until available funds are exhausted.

Total available points: 100

(1) Proposed Work (35 Points)

Applicants must provide: (1) a narrative that describes the overall project goals and rationale; and (2) a detailed description of specific tasks proposed or already completed to create a long-term solution(s) to PFAS contamination in the water supply. More specifically, the project will be judged based on a demonstrated preparedness for, and commitment to, the Proposed Project by outlining a strategy for operation and maintenance, planning for disposal costs, and generally describing a management plan to ensure that the Project will be a feasible and effective solution.

(2) Degree of Documented PFAS Contamination (20 points):

The extent to which the PWS is affected by PFAS. Confirmed samples over the MCL from certified laboratories will receive the highest points; single or unconfirmed samples will receive fewer points.

(3) Environmental Justice (15 points)

Work that benefits historically disenfranchised communities that commonly experience disproportionate environmentally poor conditions is a priority for this grant program. The proposal must include a narrative that outlines how EJ populations would benefit from and/or be involved in the proposed project. PWSs that serve 100% EJ users and/or provide a greater benefit to EJ populations will receive the highest points.

(4) Status as Disadvantaged Community, as defined in Section 5 above (15 points)

The points for this criterion will be awarded as follows:

- For Tier 3: 15 points.
- For Tier 2: 10 points.
- For Tier 1: 5 points.
- Not disadvantaged: 0 points.

(5) Percentage of Sensitive Receptors (as defined in Section 5 above) (15 points).

Maximum points for high percentage of sensitive receptors.

In its discretion, the Grant Review Team may consider any and all relevant information that is or may become available through MassDEP's Statewide Sampling Program or its Drinking Water Program activities, up to and including the date of the MassDEP's Grant Review Team's final review meeting for the Small PWS PFAS Grant Program applications, with respect to all applications submitted for funding through this Grant Program.

13. Other requirements and information for Applicants concerning the Small PWS PFAS Grant Program:

- A. Match Requirement:** There is no match requirement for the Small PWS PFAS Grant Program
- B. No Bidders' Conference:** No bidders' conference will be held for this grant program. Applicants are encouraged to send questions to program.director-dwp@mass.gov by the deadline for submission of questions by the date shown on the Estimated Grant Procurement Calendar in Section 15 below. MassDEP's official Answers to all questions submitted will be posted on this website (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/water-resources-grants-financial-assistance>) by 5:00 P.M. on Wednesday, November 23, 2022, as listed in the Estimated Grant Procurement Calendar in Section 15 below.
- C. Total Anticipated Duration of Grant(s):** The grant contract duration period for this Small PWS PFAS Grant Program will be through June 30, 2023.
- D. Applicable Procurement Law:** Grants-- MGL c. 7A, § 7; St. 1986 c. 206, § 17; 815 CMR 2.00.

14. Application Completion and Submission Instructions

Complete proposals will consist of:

(1) A concise application addressing the evaluation criteria listed above. Applicants should strongly consider using the following sections in their application and should submit written questions to MassDEP by the question deadline specified in the Estimated Cost Procurement Calendar (Wednesday, November 16, 2022) if they desire to use a different format:

- a. Application Form (required);
- b. Cover letter (on Applicant’s letterhead summarizing the request);
- c. Degree of Documented PFAS Contamination;
- d. System Type and Size;
- e. Project description;
- f. Environmental Justice;
- g. Status as Disadvantaged Community (tier);
- h. Percentage of Sensitive Receptors; and
- i. Project Budget.

(2) Application Form

For all grants and reimbursement requests, Applicants must complete the attached Application Form. Once the Application Form is complete, the document can be submitted electronically in Microsoft Word; or, to reduce file size, the document may be converted and submitted as an Adobe PDF file.

Submission Instructions: All grant submissions must include (1) the application, and (2) all supporting documents in electronic format. All application materials may be submitted either in Microsoft Word; or, to reduce file size, the document may be converted and submitted as an Adobe PDF file. The grant application materials shall be submitted **electronically** by 5:00 PM on **Thursday, December 15, 2022** to:

Name	Position	Contact Information
Yvette DePeiza	Small PWS PFAS Grant Program Coordinator, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection	Email: program.director-dwp@mass.gov Phone number: (617) 292-5857

In the subject line of the email, please write the Applicant’s name and “Small PWS PFAS Grant Program” (i.e., Organization Name – Small PWS PFAS Grant Program).

All applications must be received electronically by MassDEP by 5:00 P.M. on Thursday, December 15, 2022, the required deadline for the Small PWS PFAS Grant Program as shown on the Estimated Grant Procurement Calendar in Section 15 below.

Applications received after the deadline will be automatically rejected. MassDEP reserves the right to reject any and all proposals or request additional information if needed.

Additional Required Documentation: If selected for a grant/reimbursement award, the Applicant will be required to submit the following forms to complete the contracting process. Forms with an asterisk * need not be submitted if they have been previously completed and are already on file with the Commonwealth:

- **Commonwealth Standard Contract Form**, filled out and signed by the Applicant https://www.macomptroller.org/wp-content/uploads/form_standard-contract.docx
- **Commonwealth Terms and Conditions** https://www.macomptroller.org/wp-content/uploads/form_commonwealth-terms-and-conditions.pdf 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 https://www.macomptroller.org/wp-content/uploads/form_w-9.pdf
- **Completed Contractor Authorized Signatory Listing Form** https://www.macomptroller.org/wp-content/uploads/form_contractor-authorized-signatory-listing.pdf
- **Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) form*** <https://www.mass.gov/doc/electronic-funds-transfer-sign-up-form-0/download>

Applicants are encouraged to review these forms prior to submission of an application.

15. Estimated Grant Procurement Calendar, Small PWS PFAS Grant Program

Procurement Activity	Date	Time
Notice of Grant/Reimbursement Opportunity (posted on COMMBUYS And MassDEP website)	Monday, November 7, 2022	
Grant/Reimbursement Opportunity Release Date (Posting Date) on MassDEP website (https://www.mass.gov/info-details/water-resources-grants-financial-assistance)	Monday, November 7, 2022	
Deadline for Submission of Questions to MassDEP (prior to deadline, via email, to): program.director-dwp@mass.gov	Wednesday, November 16, 2022	12 noon
Official Answers for Q&A published on MassDEP website (estimated),(https://www.mass.gov/info-details/water-resources-grants-financial-assistance)	Wednesday, November 23, 2022	5:00 P.M.
GRANT/REIMBURSEMENT APPLICATION DEADLINE; ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION TO program.director-dwp@mass.gov	Thursday, December 15, 2022	5:00 P.M.
Notification of Grant/Reimbursement Award(s) (Estimated) (POSTED ON COMMBUYS AND MASSDEP WEBSITE, https://www.mass.gov/info-details/water-resources-grants-financial-assistance)	Friday, January 27, 2023	
Estimated Contract Start Date	Tuesday, February 28, 2023	

ATTACHMENT A

Grant/Reimbursement Program Application Form
Small PWS PFAS Grant Program

Overview: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has appropriated \$1.05 million to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) to help Small Public Water Suppliers (PWS) to offset the cost of their response to the discovery of PFAS contamination in drinking water. **This grant program provides funds (including reimbursement for costs and expenses already incurred) to impacted Small PWSs for measures taken to remove PFAS contamination in the drinking water supply.** Only projects that meet the specific requirements of the **Small PWS PFAS Grant Program** outlined in this Grant/Reimbursement Opportunity will be considered for funding.

Applicant Information (NOTE: Applicant must be authorized by the specified organization to submit this application).

Applicant Name: _____

PWS ID number: _____

***Instructions:** Enter contact information for the primary contact. This person will be the principal point of contact with MassDEP for grant administration and management on behalf of the PWS performing the work. Add sections as needed or delete any unneeded sections. Also remove any dead space between sections.*

PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION

Primary contact name:	ENTER HERE
Primary contact position:	ENTER HERE
Organization name:	ENTER HERE
Legal mailing address (as would appear on W9):	ENTER HERE
Phone number:	ENTER HERE
Email contact:	ENTER HERE

***Instructions:** Enter project information below.*

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project title	ENTER HERE
Affected Community	ENTER HERE

Type of System (check one)	<input type="checkbox"/> Community <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Transient Non-Community <input type="checkbox"/> Transient Non-Community and <input type="checkbox"/> Private or <input type="checkbox"/> Public
System Size (actual number of users during the maximum period of use (i.e., seasonal populations))	
Amount of funding requested	<u>Total:</u> <i>ENTER HERE</i> <u>Reimbursement:</u> <i>ENTER HERE</i> <u>New Cost:</u> <i>ENTER HERE</i>

Application Narrative and Checklist: Applicants should attach additional pages of documentation as necessary. The Checklist below should be attached to the Application with a cover letter.

Requirement Checklist:	Page/location in proposal
Application Form (required)	
Cover letter (on Applicant's letterhead summarizing the request)	
Degree of Documented PFAS Contamination	
Project description	
Environmental Justice status and percentage	
Disadvantaged Community (tier) status and percentage	
Percentage of Sensitive Receptors	
Project Budget	

Application instructions:

Applicants must print and complete this Application Form, including the Requirement Checklist, and attach the required information/documentation outlined in the Requirement Checklist in support of this Application. Applicant must submit all completed Applications electronically to MassDEP by the Grant Application deadline (December 15, 2022) as outlined in Sections 13 and 14.

If the Applicant's request is for the reimbursement of Eligible Costs, please provide all invoices and a summary explanation of why these costs were incurred as part of the Application, which will expedite contract paperwork and payment if a grant is awarded.

Signature

Date

Please either (1) print this page, hand sign, scan, and add to the final PDF file or (2) add an appropriate electronic signature.

By checking (clicking on) this box , the applicant confirms they are authorized to submit this grant application on behalf of the specified Eligible Entity.