



Department of Environmental Protection

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MassDEP Official Responses to Questions regarding the November 7, 2022 Small Public Water Systems PFAS Grant Opportunity:

On November 7, 2022, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) announced the availability of the Small Public Water System PFAS Grant Program (also known as the “Small PWS PFAS Grant Program”) to help offset the cost of the implementation of measures taken to address Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) exceedances of 20 parts per trillion (20 ppt) of “PFAS6” (the sum of six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) contamination in drinking water. This Small PWS PFAS Grant Program provides a funding opportunity for eligible small Public Water Systems (PWSs) to receive grant funding for the implementation of a PFAS solution (as defined in the Eligible Applicants Section 6 of the PFAS Grant Opportunity). Public Water Systems with PFAS6 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.

The goal of this Grant 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 PFAS6 contamination of public drinking water, and
- is necessary to achieve or maintain a level of PFAS6 (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.

The full Grant Opportunity is posted at (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/water-resources-grants-financial-assistance>). Questions regarding the Small PWS PFAS Grant Opportunity were accepted by email until November 16, 2022. The following questions were received by that deadline, and MassDEP’s official responses are provided below each question.

Question 1: Is there someone I could have a phone conversation with about questions about our public water system and this grant?

Answer 1: As described on page 6 of the Grant Opportunity, at Section 13.B., all of MassDEP's communications to potential grant applicants regarding this Grant Opportunity must be through the official the question-and-answer process that is specified in the Grant Program. This is to ensure that this Grant Program provides a open and public competitive process for all applicants in accordance with the state's grant regulations at 815 CMR 2.05(3) and the State Comptroller's Policy dated September 8, 2014. .

Question 2: Is there an application in word form or editable PDF form?

Answer 2: No. All application materials that are contained within the Grant Opportunity are in PDF format that cannot be edited. As noted at page 11 of the Grant Opportunity, applicants must print and complete the Application Form, including the Requirement Checklist, and attach the required information/documentation outlines in the Requirement Checklist of the Application.

Question 3: Our small condo association will be applying for a grant to remediate PFAS in our private wells. We are exploring options but feel that connecting to a municipal water supplier nearby (Provincetown) would be the best long-term solution. In light of this very early stage, how would you suggest we address the budget portion of the grant application?

Answer 3: If your condo association is not a registered Public Water Supplier, you are not eligible to apply for this program. This grant program does not address PFAS in private wells. If you are a PWS, your application must reflect eligible costs that have already been spent (to be reimbursed), or costs that will be incurred and paid by June 30, 2023.