

**Final Virtual
Question and
Answer Session**

January 8, 2025



Drought Resiliency and Water Efficiency Grant Program

NEW Funding Opportunity

Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

***Now Accepting Applications!
Send to purvi.patel@mass.gov
(Due Jan. 31, 2025)***

Purpose of the Program



Increasing Drought Frequency:

Due to climate change, Massachusetts faces rising drought frequency, impacting water availability.



Program Goal:

Support projects that reduce water use, promote climate resiliency, and ensure enough water for essential uses.



Focus Areas:

Indoor and outdoor water use reduction, water loss control programs, drought management/planning

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- **Municipalities**
- **Public Water Suppliers**
- **Non-profit Organizations**
- **Public Schools/Colleges/Universities**
- **Regional Planning Agencies**

*Collaboration between multiple organizations
encouraged!*

Examples of Project Types Eligible for Funding (including, but not limited to):

Water Loss Control

- Development and implementation of water loss control programs
- Leak detection and meter calibration

Water Conservation/Efficiency

- Development of water conservation plans
- Leak detection activities, incentive programs

Outdoor Water Use Efficiency

- Landscape transformation plans
- Irrigation system audits and upgrades

Drought Management Planning

- Local drought plan development
- Water use restriction programs



Award Information

Target Award: up to \$50,000 with potential for larger awards depending on the number of applications

Project Deadline: June 30, 2025

(funded portions of projects must be completed by this deadline to be eligible for reimbursement)



Estimated Program Timeline

Event	Date
Notice of Intent (NOI) posting on COMMBUYS	November 5, 2024
Preliminary Virtual Question and Answer (Q&A) Session (to be recorded and posted)	December 3, 2024 from 11AM-12PM
Request for Proposals (RFP) posting on COMMBUYS	December 18, 2024
Final Virtual Question and Answer (Q&A) Session (to be recorded and posted)	January 8, 2024
Deadline for Submission of Questions through COMMBUYS	January 15, 2024
Deadline for Submission of Proposals	January 31, 2025
Application Review	February 3-7, 2025
Approval process	February 10-24, 2025
Notification of Apparent Successful Applicants	February 25, 2025
Contract Start Date	February 25-March 4, 2025
Deadline for Completion of Projects	June 30 th , 2025

Collaboration Encouraged



Regional Scope Projects:

- Encourage collaboration among municipalities, water suppliers, and other organizations

Innovative Solutions:

- Regional projects and new technology approaches are welcome

Contact Information and Next Steps

- Now accepting applications!
 - Details both on Commbuys and the grant program promotional webpage: <https://www.mass.gov/eea-funding-opportunity-for-a-new-grant-program>
- Contact
 - Purvi Patel purvi.patel@mass.gov
 - Jason Duff jason.duff@mass.gov
- Questions?



Questions Already Received

What is the total available funding under this grant program?
\$500,000

Is there a match requirement from applicants?
No match is required.

Is the purchase of devices and equipment eligible for this grant opportunity?
Yes, equipment purchases are an allowable cost.

Is leasing leak detection equipment an allowable cost?
Yes, as long as the use of the leased equipment falls within the scope of the program. Additionally, we will not be able to reimburse for any lease payments that are due before or after the end of the contract period (June 30th, 2025).

Are there any requirements related to Minority Business Enterprise (MBE), Women Business Enterprise (WBE), and/or Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)?
No, there are no MBE requirements for applicants.

Do proposals need to be new or if an ongoing project fits the requirements, could you apply for funding?
The project does not need to be a new project to be eligible. However, only costs incurred between the start of the contract and June 30th, 2025 are eligible for reimbursement..



Questions Already Received

Do proposals need to be new or if an ongoing project fits the requirements, could you apply for funding?

The project does not need to be a new project to be eligible. However, only costs incurred between the start of the contract and June 30th, 2025 are eligible for reimbursement..

Are extra rating points given for Environmental Justice communities?

Preference will be given to projects that provide direct benefit to EJ populations. Information on which communities are classified as EJ populations can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/environmental-justice-populations-in-massachusetts>.

Can the project start before the award?

The project can start before the award. However, only costs incurred between the start of the contract and June 30th, 2025 are eligible for reimbursement.

Is the closing date for application a hard date or soft?

The closing date for applications is a hard deadline of January 31st, 2025.

Are applicants allowed to apply for multiple projects?

Yes, applicants are allowed to apply for multiple awards under the program guidelines. However, the number of awards and availability of funding per project is dependent on the number of qualified applicants.

