



Department of Environmental Protection

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December 23, 2021

NOTICE OF GRANT OPPORTUNITY

ROUND 2

MassDEP PFAS6 Interim Response Program Grants to Reimburse Public Water Suppliers for Interim Measures Required to Address PFAS6 Exceedance

Summary of Grant Opportunity: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts appropriated \$2,281,450 to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) to establish a grant program (consisting of up to 3 Rounds of Grant Opportunities) in State Fiscal Year 2022 (which ends on June 30, 2022) to help offset the cost of emergency response to MCL exceedances of “PFAS6” (the sum of six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) contamination in drinking water. **This grant program provides funds (including reimbursement for costs and expenses already incurred) to impacted public water systems for measures taken to respond to a discovery of PFAS6 contamination in the drinking water supply. Round 1 was recently completed, resulting in the funding of grant awards in the total amount of \$1,281,450. MassDEP is now offering Round 2 of this grant program, which makes up to \$1,000,000 available for reimbursements for qualifying applications from eligible entities.** Only projects that meet the specific requirements of the PFAS6 program outlined in the Round 2 Grant Reimbursement Opportunity will be considered for funding.

Grant Program Goal:

The goal of the Round 2 MassDEP PFAS6 Interim Response Grant Program is to provide grant funds for **reimbursement of previously incurred costs** associated with a Public Water System’s (PWS) immediate response to PFAS6 contamination in its drinking water supply.

Eligible Projects and Eligible Entities:

Eligible Applicants: Community and Non-Transient Non-Community (NTNC) MassDEP registered PWSs, as defined in 310 CMR 22.02, under public or private ownership, with PFAS6 levels exceeding the PFAS6 MCL as defined in 310 CMR 22.00. **Transient Non-Community Systems (TNCs) are NOT eligible for this program.**

Examples of eligible costs that can be reimbursed:

- Reimbursement of costs for prior purchase and distribution of bottled water and/or alternative source of clean drinking water, whether purchased directly by the PWS, or as a reimbursement to the PWS for customers who previously made these expenditures in response to the PFAS6 exceedance;

- Procuring, installing, and maintaining water vending units;
- Engineering and construction costs associated with:
 - shutting down one or more wells;
 - reconfiguring the drinking water system to enable blending with a water supply with less (or no) PFAS6 contamination, such that the resulting concentration of PFAS6 does not exceed the MCL;
 - establishing an interconnection to an alternate water supply; and/or
 - installing temporary treatment;
- Purchasing water from an adjacent PWS via an interconnection;
- Purchase and distribution of Point of Use (POU) or Point of Entry Treatment (POET) units or water filtration pitchers through a program that has received prior approval from MassDEP’s Drinking Water Program; and/or
- Any other immediate action undertaken to provide safe drinking water to PFAS6 impacted users, where PFAS6 levels exceed the MCL.

Examples of ineligible costs:

- New work that might otherwise be eligible, but that has not yet been undertaken;
- Administrative and mailing costs associated with community notification of the PFAS6 exceedance;
- Laboratory and sampling costs for new PFAS6 identification in drinking water;
- Expenses relating to ongoing maintenance and treatment at drinking water facilities (whether or not related to PFAS6 treatment);
- Legal expenses associated with determining liability or addressing other legal matters;
- Planning, design, or construction of new or reconfigured drinking water treatment facilities;
- Costs that have been funded or reimbursed by another federal or state grant or loan program (such as, but not limited to, the State Revolving Fund Program);
- Pilot studies or other investigations that will lead to permanent resolution of the PFAS6 contamination problem; and/or
- Attorney fees, engineering fees, or other administrative expenses related to the PWS response to PFAS6 exceedance.

Grant Application Process and Evaluation Criteria:

Grant Program term: approximately 3 months, from March 28, 2022 through June 30, 2022.

Application Deadlines:

The Grant Application deadline for Round 2 of the PFAS6 Interim Response Program is February 1, 2022, at 5 p.m.

The Round 2 Grant Opportunity, which is posted on MassDEP’s website at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/water-resources-grants-financial-assistance> , includes a procurement schedule for Round 2 applications and announcements describing the steps of the application process, all project proposal and qualification requirements, and a specific format for responding to this Grant Opportunity.

Evaluation criteria:

This is a **reimbursement** grant program based upon presentation of eligible costs by Eligible Applicants to address PFAS6 contamination on an interim, emergency basis. Eligible applicants will receive funding in accordance with these application requirements:

- Documented PFAS6 exceedance per MGL 310 CMR 22.00
- Status as a Community and Non-Transient Non-Community (NTNC) MassDEP registered Public Water Systems as defined in 310 CMR 22.02, under public or private ownership

- No awards previously received by the PWS in Round 1 of this PFAS6 Interim Response Program
- Existence of an emergency that has not been funded or reimbursed by another federal or state grant or loan program (such as, but not limited to, the State Revolving Fund Program)
- Eligible expenses are already incurred to be submitted for reimbursement

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 MassDEP’s Grant Review Team’s final review meeting for the Round 2 applications, with respect to all applications submitted for funding through this Grant Program.

Estimated number of awards: 5+ awards. In its discretion, MassDEP reserves the right to alter the proportional amount of funding for Round 2, based upon applications received and/or public health risks identified that need immediate interim funding to address PFAS6 contamination.

Estimated Maximum award: per system size (number of users)

Large (>50,000)	\$200,000
Medium (>3300 – 49,999)	\$150,000
Small (>500 -3299)	\$10,000
Very Small (up to 500)	\$1,500

Funding Availability:

Funding availability: The total amount of funding currently available for all grant/reimbursement requests through Round 2 of this Program is up to \$1,000,000. Applicants should note that MassDEP reserves the right not to 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 for this application period (i.e., Round 2). 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 Round 2 application period.

Applicants should note that MassDEP currently anticipates that the following parameters will govern Round 2 of the PFAS6 interim grant awards:

- A maximum award per system size will apply, as noted above;
- If the total amount of eligible requests for Round 2 funds exceeds \$1,000,000, each award in Round 2 will be reduced by a prorated amount based on the Funding Distribution Formula (see Attachment B of the Round 2 Grant Opportunity); and
- If the total amount of eligible requests for Round 2 funds is less than \$1,000,000, in its discretion, MassDEP may direct all or a portion(s) of any remaining funds to those cases with extraordinary public health needs, based upon MassDEP’s review of both the facts and project-specific circumstances.

Application Completion and Submission Instructions:

For all requests, applicants must complete the application form provided with the Grant Opportunity. 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.

Applications must be submitted electronically, via email to:

Yvette DePeiza, PFAS6 Interim Response Program Round 2 Grant Coordinator
 Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

program.director-dwp@mass.gov

617-292-5857

In the subject line of the email, please write the Applicant's name and "PFAS6 Interim Response Program" and specify "Round 2."

All applications must be received electronically by MassDEP by 5:00 P.M. on Tuesday, February 1, 2022 for the PFAS6 Interim Response Program, Round 2. Applications received after the deadline will be rejected automatically. MassDEP reserves the right to reject any and all proposals or request additional information if needed.

Additional Information: For additional information regarding the PFAS6 Interim Response Program, Round 2, please refer to the Grant Opportunity posted at the MassDEP website link: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/water-resources-grants-financialassistance>.