



# Department of Environmental Protection

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## **NOTICE OF GRANT OPPORTUNITY**

### **Round 2: Grants for Reimbursement or New Costs for Planning and Design of PFAS Treatment Systems in PFAS-Impacted Communities (Round 2 PFAS Treatment Grant) REQUEST FOR GRANT PROPOSALS**

**Summary of Grant Opportunity:** MassDEP has recently completed Round 1 of PFAS Treatment Grants (Round 1 or the First Round), which provided PFAS-Impacted Communities with grants or reimbursements for the planning and design of PFAS Treatment Systems. MassDEP is pleased to offer a second round of grants with similar eligibility and goals as Round 1, which will be referred to as “Round 2” or “Round 2 PFAS Treatment Grant.” Round 2 is intended to continue addressing the same goals and eligibility from the First Round, with an additional emphasis on new needs that have been identified as MassDEP’s Statewide PFAS Sampling Program and Round 1 of the PFAS Treatment Grants both **move forward**. For the purposes of this grant opportunity, “treatment” is any process that reduces the PFAS concentrations in a public water system. Examples of treatment include the systems that remove or reduce pollutants at a water treatment plant, connection to another water supply, and planning for development of a new well with water that can be used to blend with the affected water source to reduce the overall concentration of PFAS.

#### **Grant Program Goal:**

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a family of chemicals that have been used since the 1950s to manufacture stain-resistant, water-resistant, and non-stick products. PFAS are widely used in common consumer products as coatings, on food packaging, outdoor clothing, carpets, leather goods, ski and snowboard waxes, and more. Certain types of firefighting foam—historically used by the U.S. military, local fire departments, and airports to fight oil and gasoline fires—contain PFAS.

PFAS in drinking water is an important and emerging contamination issue nationwide. Because PFAS are water soluble, over time PFAS from some firefighting foams, manufacturing sites, landfills, spills, air deposition from factories, and other releases can seep into surface soils. From there, PFAS can leach into groundwater or surface water, and can contaminate drinking water. PFAS have also been found in rivers, lakes, fish, and wildlife. PFAS chemicals are stable, stay in the environment for a long time, and do not break down easily. As a result, PFAS contaminants have been detected in soil, water, air, and food. Human PFAS exposure can occur when humans use certain products that contain PFAS, eat PFAS-contaminated food, or drink PFAS-contaminated water. When ingested, some PFAS chemicals can build up in the body and, over time, may increase to a level where health effects occur.

Studies indicate that exposure to sufficiently elevated levels of certain PFAS chemicals may cause a variety of health effects, including developmental problems in fetuses and infants, and effects on the thyroid, liver, kidneys, certain hormones, and the immune system. Scientists and regulators are still working to study and better understand the health risks posed by exposures to PFAS, and MassDEP is closely following developments in this burgeoning area.

On October 2, 2020, MassDEP promulgated new regulations to establish a Total 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). These regulations are consistent with the recently promulgated groundwater (GW-1) clean up standard in the Massachusetts Contingency Plan, 310 CMR 40.0000.

**The goal of this program** is to provide grant funds to PFAS6-impacted communities served by Community and Non-Transient Non Community (NTNC) MassDEP approved Public Water Systems, as defined in 310 CMR 22.02, whether under public or private ownership, for the costs of planning, conducting pilot studies, performing pump tests, engineering, and design work that

- eliminates or mitigates a public health risk from PFAS6 contamination of public drinking water while maintaining adequate capacity to meet demand, and
- is necessary to achieve or maintain a reliable and consistent level of PFAS6 (below 10 ppt) that is expected to ensure compliance with applicable drinking water quality standards for PFAS6. These grant funds are also available to reimburse PFAS6- affected communities that have already expended funds for this work.

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#### **Eligible Projects and Entities:**

**Eligible Projects/Proposals:** This program provides

- A. Grants for financial assistance for the preparation of plans and specifications for drinking water projects that remove PFAS6 contaminants to a level at or below 10 ppt, including planning, conducting pilot studies, performing pump tests, engineering and design activities, and permits. The proposed work activities do not need to be completed to be eligible for Round 2 funding, and project proposals that include both reimbursement for previously incurred costs as well as grant requests for future work activities are eligible. Any proposed reimbursement for expenditures made to date shall be documented in accordance with the requirements outlined in section B below.
- B. Reimbursement for some or all of the eligible work activities described above. Applicants should note that for a limited time (until June 30, 2021) opportunities for current and future PFAS6 laboratory analyses are being conducted by MassDEP under a separately funded initiative. ***Therefore, any proposed future PFAS6 laboratory analysis is not an eligible activity for funding under this grant.***

**Examples of projects eligible for funding or reimbursement through this grant program include:**

- Design of new and upgraded drinking water treatment facilities to remove PFAS6 contaminants;
- Design incorporation of any other drinking water treatment that would impact the functionality of PFAS6 removal systems (e.g., Mn and Fe removal as necessary to support PFAS6 treatment);
- Planning and design projects to replace PFAS6-contaminated drinking water source(s);
- Planning and design of projects that restore or maintain hydraulic capacity of systems that are impacted by closures of PFAS contaminated sources;

- Studies, surveys, or engineering focused upon development of new water sources that are necessary to restore system capacity because of PFAS-related impacts to the system;
- Engineering, design fees, and final designs to construct PFAS6 removal systems;
- Pilot studies to verify the most efficient means of achieving PFAS6 removal from a public water supply; and/or
- MassDEP Drinking Water Permits for the final design.

**Examples of Ineligible activities or costs include:**

- Purchase of water rights;
- Laboratory and sampling costs for new PFAS6 identification in drinking water (Applicants should take advantage of MassDEP’s current no-cost laboratory analysis program);
- Other non-capital expenses relating to ongoing maintenance and treatment at drinking water facilities;
- Studies, surveys, or engineering focused upon development of new water sources that are not related to PFAS impacts to the system;
- Legal expenses associated with determining liability or addressing other legal matters;
- Administrative, contingency, and overhead charges in excess of 10% of the total grant/reimbursement award;
- Applications from Transient Non-Community Public Water Systems; and
- Construction of any kind, including but not limited to new sources or treatment systems.

**Eligible entities: Community and Non-Transient Non Community (NTNC) MassDEP approved Public Water Systems** as defined in 310 CMR 22.02, under public or private ownership. Eligible Entities should note the following with respect to availability of Round 2 funding:

1. **All PWS entities that did not apply for, and/or did not receive a grant or reimbursement award under Round 1 will be given first preference under Round 2:** MassDEP strongly encourages any PWS applicants who did not apply for Round 1 funding, and/or did not receive a grant or reimbursement award under Round 1, to submit a grant/reimbursement proposal under Round 2. **All applicants should note that, in Round 2, MassDEP will give first preference to any PWS which has not previously received funding under this Grant/Reimbursement program.**
2. **PWS entities that received a project grant or reimbursement under Round 1 may only apply for a distinctly different/separate project under Round 2:** Public water suppliers who previously received funding or reimbursement for a project under Round 1 are not eligible to receive additional grant or reimbursement funding for the same project under Round 2. However, these PWS funding recipients can apply for a grant or reimbursement for a different/separate project for Round 2, provided the applicant supplies sufficient detail to establish that the Round 2 proposed project is distinctly separate from the previous Round 1 Grant/funding request. **One example of a Round 2 project that is separate from a Round 1 project:** In the Round 1 project, the PWS applied for and received reimbursement for engineering design costs for a PFAS6 removal system at a contaminated well. The PWS relies on several wells, and a separate PFAS6 removal system is necessary to treat a second well that will provide needed capacity for the overall system. In Round 2, the PWS is seeking a grant to design the treatment system for the second well. **MassDEP will give first preference to any PWS which has not previously received funding under this Grant/Reimbursement program. Therefore, the total final score of a Round 2 application submitted by a PWS that has previously received a grant or reimbursement award under Round 1 and has applied for funding for a distinctly different/separate project under Round 2 will be multiplied by 0.7.**

**Funding Availability:**

**Funding Availability:** As was the case with Round 1, MassDEP anticipates that the typical grant/reimbursement award to any individual applicant under this Round 2 program will be up to a maximum of \$200,000 per applicant. However, in its discretion, MassDEP reserves the right to award individual Round 2 grants or reimbursements in excess of \$200,000 for proposals of exceptional merit, based upon the total number, quality, and quantity of the proposals received for the Round 2 funding opportunity. **The total potential funding available for all grant**

proposals/reimbursement requests through this program is up to \$3 million. Applicants should note that MassDEP reserves the right not to award the total funding currently available for this Round 2 program. Applicants must only propose grant/reimbursement project proposals with timelines (for eligible reimbursable activities) that have been completed or (for eligible future activities) can be completed by June 30, 2021.

**Grant Application Process and Evaluation Criteria:** The 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 describing the steps of the application process, all project proposal and qualification requirements, evaluation criteria, and a specific format for responding to this Grant Opportunity.

**Proposal submission:** All applications must be received by MassDEP by **5 p.m. on Wednesday, December 30, 2020**. Applications received after the deadline will be rejected automatically.

Applications must be submitted electronically, via email, to:

**Grants Program Manager:**

Yvette DePeiza, PFAS Treatment Grant Coordinator  
Massachusetts Department of Environmental  
Protection [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov) 617-292-  
5857

**Evaluation Criteria:** The evaluation criteria components for MassDEP's review and scoring of Round 2 Grant/Reimbursement Proposal Responses are specified in the Grant Opportunity for the Round 2 PFAS Treatment Grant, found at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/water-resources-grants-financial-assistance>.

**Question and Answer Period:** Written questions can be submitted to the Round 2 PFAS Treatment Grant Coordinator, Yvette DePeiza, at [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov) until Wednesday, November 25, 2020, at 12:00 noon. A complete question and answer document will be posted on the MassDEP Website (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/water-resources-grantsfinancial-assistance>) by Wednesday, December 9, 2020, at 5 p.m..

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