



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

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NOTICE OF GRANT OPPORTUNITY **SEWAGE NOTIFICATION ASSISTANCE 2022-2023 GRANT PROGRAM**

Summary of Grant Opportunity: The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP or the Department) seeks proposals from Massachusetts regional or municipal wastewater utilities or systems that meet the definition of “Permittee” and are subject to 314 CMR 16.00, for innovative projects that will assist them in meeting the requirements of MassDEP’s recently promulgated Sewage Notification Regulations at 314 CMR 16.00 (the “Regulations”). The purpose of this grant program is to assist Permittees with expanding their efforts to meet the Sewage Notification regulatory requirements, which were promulgated to Promote Public Awareness of Sewage Pollution. Only projects that meet specific requirements of the Regulation will be considered for funding.

Grant Opportunity Application and Requirements: The Sewage Notification Assistance Grant Program document was issued on November 8, 2022, and is posted on MassDEP’s website at the following link:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/grants-financial-assistance-watersheds-water-quality#sewage-notification-assistance-grant-program->

Environmental Justice: MassDEP is committed to advancing equity, diversity, and environmental justice (EJ)¹ through its public investments. The agency seeks to prioritize the direction of these resources to benefit EJ communities and to address environmental inequities. To that end, MassDEP grant and funding programs include criteria and evaluation parameters that emphasize equity, diversity and environmental justice, consistent with each program’s statutory authority and source of funding. Preference will be given to projects that provide direct benefit to environmental justice populations.

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

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

TTY# MassRelay Service 1-800-439-2370

MassDEP Website: www.mass.gov/dep

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Information on which communities are classified as environmental justice populations can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/environmental-justice-populations-in-massachusetts>.

Eligible Entities: Eligible Applicants are regional or municipal wastewater utilities that meet the regulatory definition of “Permittee” and are subject to 314 CMR 16.00

Eligible Projects: Eligible Projects will result in non-operational expenditures, capital investments, planning projects, or installation of equipment that will help Sewage Notification permittees to meet one or more requirement(s) of 314 CMR 16.00. Eligible Projects must also provide a shared benefit to Permittee and its environmental justice populations (if present in the Permittee’s jurisdiction).

Examples of Eligible Projects include, but are not limited to:

- Signage at public access points or at CSO outfalls;
- Services to design and/or implement a public notification system for subscribers to receive emails/text message notifications of CSO activation which will be hosted and supported/operated by the municipal or regional utility beyond the grant funding cycle;
- Consultant services for design or improvement of a website that will be hosted and supported/operated by the municipal or regional utility beyond the grant funding cycle;
- Purchase/installation of meters or costs for renting meters²;
- Purchase/installation of other equipment including a one-time software or sensor installation used to detect/determine discharges and/or measuring volume (i.e., computer models);
- Services of metering companies (i.e., processing metering data);
- Consultant services for developing final CSO notification plans;
- Consultant services for modeling or of CSO events; or
- Translation services.

Examples of projects that are not eligible for funding include, but are not limited to:

- Salary for existing or new municipal or contracted employees involved in work related to 314 CMR 16.00;
- Funding for the Operation and maintenance of sewer systems; or
- Funding for the Operation of assets associated with metering or detecting discharges.

NOTE TO APPLICANTS regarding Eligible Projects: Both projects that were initiated on or after July 1, 2022, and Proposed Projects that have not yet been initiated by the Permittee are eligible for this grant

² A meter is defined as a device or equipment installed in outfalls, CSO regulator structures, tide gates, or the sewer system intended to detect, quantify, or communicate a discharge of wastewater to the environment, including but not limited to depth monitoring equipment, flow monitoring equipment, or inclinometers. Definition taken from: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/frequently-asked-questions-on-314-cmr-1600-notification-requirements-to-promote-public-awareness-of-sewage-pollution/download>

program, and funding will support work activities for any phase(s) of a project, from initial project planning through project implementation, if the work funded by this program is conducted during the contract period and is completed by June 30, 2023. All Applicants must provide a feasible timeline for completion of the project prior to this deadline. For projects that have been previously initiated on or after July 1, 2022, the Applicant must provide documentation in the Grant Application to support reimbursement of previously incurred costs (in addition to any additional project costs for work to be completed by June 30, 2023).

Funding Availability: The total funding currently available for projects through this Grant Program is up to \$600,000. Grant Awards may range from \$10,000 to \$600,000 per applicant, although the MassDEP review committee reserves the right, in its discretion, to grant smaller awards to proposals of exceptional merit. If there are remaining unspent capital funds available from other Department projects during the period between the announcement of this grant opportunity and the announcement of the grant awards, the Department will consider allocating supplemental funds to this grant solicitation. If any supplemental funds become available, additional projects may be funded. Applicants must only propose project scopes with timelines that can be completed between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023. In its discretion, MassDEP reserves the right to increase or eliminate the total funding amount available for this Grant Program based upon funding availability and/or other factors.

Grant Application Process: The Sewage Notification Assistance Grant Program document on MassDEP's website contains a grant application form, a procurement schedule describing the steps of the application process, all project proposal and qualification requirements, and a specific format for responding to this Grant Opportunity.

Bidders' Conference: A Bidders' Conference using Teams will be held on Wednesday November 16, 2022, at 1 P.M. To obtain the meeting link information or the Teams link please contact Nicole Galambos via email at Nicole.Galambos@mass.gov with "FY 2023 Sewage Notification Assistance Grant Bidder's Conference Details" in the email subject line.

Evaluation Criteria: The evaluation criteria components for MassDEP's review and scoring of proposals are as specified in the Sewage Notification Grant Program Document.

Application Deadline: Applications are due electronically by 5:00 P.M. on Wednesday, November 30, 2022.

Match and Other Obligations: Applicants are not required to provide matching funds. However, applicants are encouraged to identify other known sources of funding for a Proposed Project on the Application Form, from both secured and anticipated sources, which may make the Application more competitive during review and evaluation by MassDEP.

Additional Information: for additional information regarding the Sewage Notification Grant Program, please refer to the MassDEP website link:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/grants-financial-assistance-watersheds-water-quality#sewage-notification-assistance-grant-program->