



Department of Environmental Protection

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MassDEP Official Responses to Questions regarding the May 13, 2021 PFAS6 Interim Response Grant Opportunity:

On May 13, 2021, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) announced the availability of the PFAS6 Interim Response Grant Program to help offset the cost of the implementation of emergency response measures to 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 grant program provides funds (including reimbursement for costs and expenses already incurred) to impacted public water systems for emergency measures taken to respond to a discovery of PFAS6 contamination in the drinking water supply. The full Grant Opportunity is posted at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/water-resources-grants-financial-assistance>. Questions regarding the PFAS6 Interim Response Grant Opportunity were accepted by email until May 27, 2021. The following questions were received by that deadline, and MassDEP's official responses are provided below each question. Please note that, where multiple applicants essentially asked the same question, MassDEP has combined the content of these duplicate questions in order to provide a single, consistent, and uniform response.

1. Is there a timeline restriction as to when eligible costs were incurred to be able to seek reimbursement?

MassDEP Response: No. Awarded applicants will be required to submit documentation of all invoices that are requested to be reimbursed for emergency response activities, and all eligible invoices will be reimbursed regardless of when these costs were incurred.

2. Is the grant applicable to projects that have received loans through the SRF program?

MassDEP Response: Yes. There are no restrictions on the grant or reimbursement of eligible work activities that may also be receiving funds from other sources.

3. Can the PFAS6 Interim Response Program grant money be used to extend a public water supply water main into an area of private wells that have PFAS contamination over the 20ppt MCL?

MassDEP Response: No. The PFAS6 Interim Response Grant Program is intended to provide funds for the short-term emergency response actions for the protection of public health that a PWS must take in order to provide clean drinking water until a permanent solution can be developed. The grant would not pay for extension of a PWS water line, which would be regarded as a long-term or permanent solution.

4. Are facilities such as non PWS airports eligible to apply for the PFAS Treatment Grant?

MassDEP Response: No. Applicants are required to submit a PWS ID number as part of the application materials to establish their eligibility. Only Community (COM) and Non-Transient Non-Community (NTNC) MassDEP registered Public Water Systems, as defined in 310 CMR 22.02, whether under public or private ownership, are eligible to apply.

5. What specifically would our community do if we got this grant money?

MassDEP Response: Multiple examples of eligible work activities for which grants and/or reimbursement funding are available are described in the Interim PFAS6 Response Program Grant Opportunity document.

6. Are costs associated with a rebate program eligible for coverage under the PFAS6 Interim Response Grant? For example, if a PWS offered rebates for POU systems or bottled water to PFAS-impacted customers, would the cost to the PWS for the rebates be eligible for reimbursement?

MassDEP Response: Yes. The Grant Opportunity specifically includes cost eligibility for the purchase and distribution and/or the reimbursement 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 (i.e., in compliance with 310 CMR 22.23), as well as for bottled water and/or alternative source(s) of clean drinking water; whether these expenses were incurred directly by the PWS, or indirectly as a reimbursement to the PWS on behalf of customers who previously made these emergency expenditures in response to the PFAS6 exceedance. Therefore, this funding includes the reimbursement for the cost of rebates provided by the PWS for POU's or bottled water, provided that the PWS provides supporting documentation that these emergency expenses were incurred in response to the PFAS6 exceedance.

7. Please confirm that our receipt of an earlier PFAS Treatment Grant does not disqualify us from receiving PFAS6 Interim Response Program funds.

MassDEP Response: MassDEP confirms that the current May 13, 2021 PFAS6 Interim Response Grant Opportunity is a separate program from MassDEP's 2020 Grants for Reimbursement or New Costs for Planning and Design of PFAS Treatment Systems in PFAS-Impacted Communities (both Rounds 1 & 2) that were offered in 2020. Therefore, any PWS that previously received funding through Rounds 1 and/or 2 of the 2020 PFAS Treatment Grant Program are still eligible to apply for and receive Interim PFAS6 Response grant/reimbursement funding for emergency measures that were undertaken to protect public health in response to a PFAS6 exceedance.