



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

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NOTICE OF GRANT OPPORTUNITY STATEWIDE WATER MANAGEMENT ACT GRANT

Summary of Grant Opportunity: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), Bureau of Water Resources, is soliciting Water Management Act (WMA) grant proposals from Applicants who are Eligible Entities, in response to MassDEP's Request for Responses, for projects providing planning assistance, (including Drought Planning and resiliency projects and select Firm Yield studies), rate studies, and implementation assistance, such as demand management, minimization, and mitigation activities for new withdrawal impacts in local communities.

Grant Opportunity Application and Requirements: MassDEP's Request for Responses (RFR) for WMA grants was posted on MassDEP's website on July 26, 2024, and MassDEP's deadline for Responses to the RFR is August 30, 2024. All Grant documents can be located at the following link:

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/water-management-act-grant-programs-for-public-water-suppliers>

Eligible Entities: Public water suppliers with a WMA permit or permit application under review, or public water suppliers with a WMA registration (including eligible municipalities) are eligible to submit proposals in response to this RFR for this grant program. Cooperative proposals are encouraged.

Eligible Projects: The focus of the WMA grants is for: 1) planning projects for specific watersheds or sub-watersheds that identify implementation projects focused on improving ecological conditions, including (but not limited to) planning projects that identify the capacity of the water system to meet its demands from sources unaffected by per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances sources (non-PFAS sources) and provide alternative source options; 2) demand management projects aimed at improving the efficiency of water use within a municipality or a watershed; these projects may include studies to develop and implement Drought Plans consistent with the MA Drought Management Plan and Rate studies that help control demand; and 3) minimization and mitigation projects in one or more of the following categories: improving or increasing instream flow, wastewater projects that keep water local, stormwater management projects that improve recharge, reduce impervious cover and/or improve water quality, water supply operational improvements, habitat improvement, and other projects that can be demonstrated to mitigate the impacts of water withdrawals. A full description of Eligible Projects can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/water-management-act-grant-programs-for-public-water-suppliers>

This information is available in alternate format. Please contact Melixza Esenyie at 617-626-1282.

TTY# MassRelay Service 1-800-439-2370

MassDEP Website: www.mass.gov/dep

Printed on Recycled Paper

Funding Availability: It is currently anticipated that the total funding available for this program is approximately 1 million dollars. Any additional grant funding is contingent upon appropriation by the Massachusetts legislature. Interested Applicants should note that there is a 20% match requirement for all eligible proposals.

Pre-Application Meeting: A Pre-Application Meeting using Microsoft Teams will be held on August 12, 2024, at 1:00 P.M. To obtain the meeting link information or the Teams link please contact Courtney Starling via email at Courtney.starling@mass.gov with 'FY 2025 WMA Pre-Application Meeting Details' in the email subject line.

Grant Application Process: The RFR contains all terms and requirements for the WMA grant, including a schedule for each step of the application process and the timeline for submission of Responses to the RFR, as well as a listing of all legal forms that grant recipients must complete to be awarded a WMA grant contract. Applications are reviewed and recommended by an inter-agency screening committee comprised of personnel from MassDEP, Department of Fish and Game, Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

Grant Evaluation Criteria: The grant evaluation criteria are as specified in the RFR.

Application Deadline: Applications are due via email to Courtney.starling@mass.gov by 5:00 P.M. on August 30, 2024 with "FY2025 [Applicant Name] WMA Grant Application" in the email subject line.

Match and Other Funding Obligations: Applicants are required to provide twenty percent (20%) in matching funds or in-kind services. Applicants will need to identify other known sources of funding for a proposed project on the Application Form, from both secured and anticipated sources. In addition, applicants are advised that grant awards involving capital funds, which is the case here, are required to be disbursed on a cost reimbursement basis, meaning that grantees will be reimbursed for funds already expended. To receive reimbursement for funds expended, grantees must submit a written request for payment, along with any other required documentation. All work must be completed on or before June 30, 2025, and grantees are strongly encouraged to submit written requests for payment, and any corresponding supporting documentation, on or before June 30, 2025, as well.

MassDEP Commitment to 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. 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

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>.

evaluation parameters that emphasize equity, diversity and environmental justice, consistent with each program's statutory authority and source of funding

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The RFR and additional information can be found at:

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/water-management-act-grant-programs-for-public-water-suppliers>