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| MassDEP logo | Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Department of Environmental Protection |
| 100 Cambridge Street Suite 900, Boston, ma 02114, or call 617-292-5000 |

**Maura T. Healey, Governor Rebecca L. Tepper, Secretary**

**Kimberley Driscoll, Lieutenant Governor Bonnie Heiple, Commissioner**

# 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 *September 2, 2025*, and MassDEP’s deadline for Responses to the RFR is **October 3, 2025.** All Grant documents can be located at the following link: [WMA Grant I Mass.gov](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 hat 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: [WMA Grant I Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/service-details/water-management-act-grant-programs-for-public-water-suppliers)

**Funding Availability:** The total funding currently available for projects under this Grant Announcement and at the time of posting is $1,000,000. Grant Awards may range from $20,000 to $600,000 per applicant, although MassDEP reserves the right, in its discretion, to grant smaller or larger awards to proposals of exceptional merit. If additional funds become available during the period between the announcement of this grant opportunity and end of State Fiscal Year 2026, the Department reserves the right to allocate supplemental funds to this grant solicitation and/or initiate additional funding rounds. Grant Awards will only be made available to Public Water Suppliers that are located within communities that are either not subject to, or in compliance with M.G.L. CH.40A §3A, the MBTA Communities Act Law. For more information, please visit: [MBTA Communities Act Compliance Resources I Mass.gov.](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/multi-family-zoning-requirement-for-mbta-communities)

**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 to Jen D’Urso via email at: [jen.durso@mass.gov](mailto:jen.durso@mass.gov) by **5:00 P.M. on October 3, 2025** with “FY2026 [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, 2026, and grantees are strongly encouraged to submit written requests for payment, and any corresponding supporting documentation, on or before June 30, 2026, as well.

**Disadvantaged Communities:** MassDEP is committed to advancing Disadvantaged Communities through its public investments. To that end, preference will be given to projects that provide direct benefit to Disadvantaged Communities. Information on how communities are classified as Disadvantaged Communities and which communities they are can be found at [The Disadvantaged Community Loan Forgiveness Program | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/the-disadvantaged-community-loan-forgiveness-program#disadvantaged-community-designation)

**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>

**This information is available in alternate format.**

**Please contact MassDEP at 617-292-5500 or TTY# MassRelay Service 1-800-439-2370**

**MassDEP Website: www.mass.gov/dep**