

MASSACHUSETTS SWIG

SCHOOL WATER IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

SWIG Program Description

For More Information

Visit the Trust website at: www.mass.gov/swig

Email the SWIG team: swig@tre.state.ma.us or call (617) 367-9333 x 493

About the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust

The Massachusetts Clean Water Trust (the Trust), in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), helps communities build or replace water infrastructure that enhances ground and surface water resources, ensures the safety of drinking water, protects public health and develops resilient communities. It accomplishes these objectives by providing low-interest loans and grants to cities, towns, and water utilities through the Massachusetts State Revolving Funds (SRFs). The SRF programs are partnerships between the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Commonwealth. SRFs function like an environmental infrastructure bank by financing water infrastructure projects.



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Overview and Eligibility

Purpose

The purpose of this program is to provide grants to public and private schools, early education facilities and childcare centers to purchase point-of-use filtered water bottle filling stations (“bottle filling stations”) to reduce the amount of lead in the drinking water to the lowest levels possible.

Program Overview

Eligible facilities that have completed drinking water testing are eligible to receive grants for the purchase and installation of bottle filling stations. Applicants will submit a single application for all eligible education facilities. Selected grant recipients will receive an award letter which denotes the amount of grant funds awarded, the allotted number of bottle filling stations and the facilities they are assigned. Grant funds will be disbursed upon receipt of the executed grant award package. A recipient will then have 365 days to procure, install and test the bottle filling station. Once installation and testing are complete, recipients will notify the program and submit a grant closeout form.

Program Funding

- Chapter 142 of the Acts of 2019 authorized \$5 million in appropriated contract assistance from Chapter 273 of the Acts of 2018.
- U. S. Environmental Protection Agency - Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN) Reduction in Lead Exposure via Drinking Water Grant

Program Administration

This program is administered by the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust (the Trust) in cooperation with its program partner the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). The Trust will operate and support the application, award, and closeout process for this program. MassDEP will operate as a technical advisor and offer technical support, training to recipients and confirm the status of closeout results.

Eligible Recipients

The following facilities that have completed water quality sampling through MassDEP’s Lead Contamination Control Act (LCCA) program are eligible for SWIG awards. Funding will be prioritized to facilities located in communities with high risk of child lead poisoning, communities served by public water systems with lead exceedances and communities designated as Disadvantaged Communities by the Trust.

Eligible Facilities

Public and private early education facilities, childcare centers and schools that have:

1. Completed water quality sampling and testing through MassDEP’s Assistance Program for Lead in School Drinking Water, **OR**
2. Completed sampling and testing in a comparable process through a MassDEP certified lab, **AND**
3. Entered the corresponding data to MassDEP’s Lead Contamination Control Act (LCCA) Program Management Tool.

A list of disadvantaged communities may be on the Trust’s web page:

www.mass.gov/info-details/borrower-documents-reports-and-publications#annual-affordability-calculation-and-loan-forgiveness-distribution-

Facilities are required to sample based on MassDEP's Lead Contamination Control Act (LCCA) program recommendations. www.mass.gov/service-details/the-lead-contamination-control-act-lcca

MassDEP offers free technical assistance to public schools and public and private daycare facilities. The program will assist facilities in developing a water sampling plan, analyzing water samples, and assisting with identifying remediation actions. For more information on MassDEP's technical assistance program please visit: www.mass.gov/service-details/technical-assistance-for-lead-in-school-and-child-care-center-drinking-water

Eligible Costs

Eligible uses of the grant funds are:

1. Procurement of Point-of-Use (POU) filtered water bottle filling stations
2. Procurement of POU filtered water bottle filling retrofit fixtures
3. Procurement of replacement filters
4. Installation of the procured units
5. Post-Installation Testing

Note

Award funds may not be used to reimburse previously purchased fixtures or any remediation activity undertaken before the grant was awarded.

Fixtures Eligible for Replacement

Grant funds will be awarded for the replacement of universally accessible water fountains, water chillers and bubblers. Universally accessible in this instance means a fixture that is located in a hallway, library, cafeteria, gym, or other area outside of a classroom. Replacement bottle filling stations may be relocated to maximize use of the station but must still be in a universally accessible area. For facilities that care for infants, toddlers and pre-kindergarten students' locations could include a shared kitchen or food prep areas.

Procurement

The Trust recommends that eligible grant recipients procure bottle filling stations through the Commonwealth's Operational Services Division's (OSD) FAC100: Building Maintenance Repair and Operations Project Materials and Supplies statewide contract. Recipients may also procure installation services through the TRD01 Tradesperson Installation, Repair, Maintenance Services statewide contract. For more information related to eligibility to use a Statewide Contract, please visit: www.mass.gov/service-details/who-may-use-statewide-contracts

The procurement recommendations apply to any entity or organization that has legitimate access to statewide contracting services provided through OSD. For grant recipients that are not eligible to utilize the OSD's statewide contracts, the Trust's suggest utilizing suppliers and installers from the statewide contracts as these distributors and contractors have been vetted by the Commonwealth. Additionally, non-OSD eligible facilities must receive at least three quotes for the procurement and installation of bottle filling stations. These quotes must be itemized and available for review by the Trust.

Application and Award Process

Application Process

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Applicants will submit a preliminary application online through a link supplied by the Trust. Once preliminary eligibility has been confirmed, a detailed application package will be sent by the Trust. The application process is broken down into two parts detailed below under Application Method. The Trust will review applications, announce award recipients, and offer a training webinar on the closeout process.

Application Method

The preliminary grant applications will be submitted through an online application form. Eligible applicants will then be supplied a detailed application package by the Trust. The application package consists of two parts:

Part 1: Requests specific information about the Applicant and the designation of a point of contact (POC) for the organization.

Part 2: Requests specific information about the facilities that will be considered for SWIG awards (have locations with known lead exceedances).

Please see the detailed application instructions on the SWIG webpage for a more information.

Program Support

The Trust has provided detailed application instructions and will provide application and program support via phone and email. MassDEP will provide technical support with post installation testing or updating the LCCA Program Management Tool.

Application Review and Scoring

The Trust will review, and sort applications based on a weighted scoring system that prioritizes high-risk populations based on the community's Disadvantaged Community Status.

Grant Awards

Grant awards will be calculated per eligible water fountain. Each facility will receive \$3,000 for procurement and installation for each eligible water fountain. An organization's request will be subject to a maximum fixture award. Eligible facilities will receive a minimum of one bottle filling station dependent on the availability of program funds.

Large Award Review

The Trust reserves the right to review grant requests outside of the application process if their award request would have a significant impact on funding capacity of the program. Any request that will exceed 10% of funds available during a funding round will be flagged for review by Trust management.

Grant Award Process

Applicants who successfully complete the application process and subject to funding availability will receive an award letter and grant agreement.

Award Letter Package

The Trust will issue a letter to the award recipient detailing the following:

1. Award Letter

- a. Details total award by facility
- b. Details grant requirements
- c. Directions for executing the agreement and receiving the award

2. Grant Questionnaire

- a. Provides financial information to the Trust
- b. Confirms organization's POC

3. Grant Agreement

Award Disbursement

Once the Trust receives the executed agreement, supporting documents and confirms that the POC has viewed the closeout process webinar, the Trust will disburse the total award amount to the organization.

Award Allocation

The award letter will detail the number of bottle filling stations allocated to each facility, but the district may transfer allocated funds between facilities as needed to meet the procurement and installation needs.

Award Deadlines

Recipients will have one (1) year from the date of award disbursement to procure, install and closeout the grant. If more time is needed, then recipients may request an extension as detailed in the grant agreement.

Post Installation Requirements

Results Reporting Requirement

Once the bottle filling station(s) have been installed, organizations are required to complete post-installation sampling and testing of water for lead. Post-installation sampling and testing will need to follow MassDEP's guidelines for POU fixtures (bottle filling stations) and comply with LCCA program sampling procedures, including using the correct chain of custody. Testing must be conducted by a laboratory certified by MassDEP for lead in drinking water. The laboratory should use the MassDEP electronic reporting system, eDEP. Failure to meet these standards may require the organization to resample their bottle filling station(s) at their own cost.

After receiving the results, review them and report actions taken through the online MassDEP LCCA Program Management Tool. All sampling results reported by a Massachusetts certified laboratory to MassDEP electronic reporting system, eDEP, utilizing the correct chain of custody, will be posted two weeks from the date the samples were reported to eDEP on the MassDEP website at:

www.mass.gov/service-details/lead-and-copper-in-school-drinking-water-sampling-results

If your facility's lead sampling results are not available through the LCCA Program Management Tool please contact the MassDEP Drinking Water Program via email at program.director-dwp@mass.gov (Subject: LCCA Reporting Tool – Sampling Results).

Notification Requirement

Recipients are required to follow the consumer notification requirements.

1. Contact the Local Public Water Supplier

Contact the Local Public Water Supplier If the sampling was conducted by you or on your behalf, make your public water supplier aware of any results that exceed the lead Action Level or any samples above the MassDEP recommended laboratory detection limit of 1 ppb. You should also notify the MassDEP Drinking Water Program of any sampling result with lead detections. Notification should be sent to MassDEP Drinking Water Program at 617-292-5770 or program.director-dwp@mass.gov.

2. Conduct Outreach to Staff and Parents

Provide staff, students, and parents with a letter informing them of the lab results and describing the remediation actions you have taken. See Additional Resources on www.mass.gov/swig for sample/template letters.

Award Closeout and Certifications

Recipients are required to submit a grant closeout form to the Trust once completing the award requirements. The closeout form will ask that the recipient confirm the number of filling stations procured, cost of bottle filling stations and cost of installation. Based on approval from the Trust, recipients may retain unexpended funds for future O&M costs.

1. Certification of Operation and Maintenance Agreement

All recipients are required certify that facilities will comply with Operation and Maintenance (O&M) guidance as it applied to point of use drinking water fixtures.

www.mass.gov/doc/tips-on-operation-maintenance-for-point-of-use-devices/download

2. Certification of Installation and Final Testing Results

All facilities will be required to update the MassDEPLCCA Program Management Tool with notes on completing the installation and post installation testing results.

Facilities Receiving Federal Funds

Facilities receiving federal funds may be required to complete additional forms or deliver additional information during the application and award process. These requirements will be detailed in writing to these applicants or award recipients.

Appendix A: Technical Requirements of Fixtures, Fittings and Filters

Below is a list of technical specifications that procured fixture must meet for the SWIG program

1. Bottle Filling Stations, Filter Additions and Retrofit Units, must be

- a. Constructed of a durable anti-microbial, anti-corrosion material or stainless steel;
- b. Certified to National Sanitation Foundation International (NSF) and American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards for the number of contaminants that leach from the products into the drinking water (NSF/ANSI 61) and a maximum lead content by weight (NSF/ANSI 372);
- c. Contain a visible LED indicator for filter maintenance;
- d. Meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines for reach range and wheelchair access.

2. Filters and Replacement filters, must be

- a. Certified to NSF International /ANSI standards 42 and 53 for the removal of lead and other contaminants with documented evidence that the filters reduce lead below 1 ppb and
- b. Have at least a 3,000-gallon capacity.

Note

Eligible bottle filling stations and filters must be certified by NSF/ANSI and must be listed on the [nsf.org](https://www.nsf.org) website.

Additional Recommendations from MassDEP

• Particulate Filters

Utilizing a particulate filter in addition to the onboard filter could extend the useful life of fixtures and filters while decreasing the risk of filters being compromised by particulates.

• Vandal-Resistant

In locations with heavy traffic or high-fixture-usage should consider the more durable construction found in vandal-resistant fixtures.

• Filter Shut Off

MassDEP recommends the use of fixtures that will shut-off when the filter has reached the end of its service life.



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