

Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) Informational Meeting

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Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup
MassDEP**

April 22, 2025, 4 p.m.



Presentation Overview

- Overview and purpose of TAG Program
- Available funding
- TAG eligibility requirements
- TAG application and award process
- Questions & Answers
- TAG Program webpage: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/technical-assistance-grants-waste-site-cleanup>

Overview of TAG Program

- Public Involvement is a key component of the Waste Site Cleanup Program and Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP)
- TAG purpose is to support effective public involvement during assessment and cleanup of disposal sites by:
 - Assisting community and citizens' groups in obtaining expert technical assistance to understand and evaluate disposal site cleanup response actions
 - Enhancing public education about and participation in disposal site assessment and cleanup activities

Background of TAG Program

- First TAGs were awarded in 1995
- Continued for most years through 2002
- Additional funding rounds 2007-2010
- Offered funding rounds annually from SFY2022 through SFY2025



Available TAG Funding, SFY26-27

- Total funding anticipated to be \$200,000
- Grant award to any individual applicant up to \$20,000
- Payment is made as reimbursement for costs incurred by grantee

Who can apply?

Eligible applicants include:

- Groups of individuals, such as community groups and neighborhood associations (also, existing "PIP groups")
- A district or other body politic that owns or operates a public water supply
- A city, town or agency
- “[A]ffected by oil and/or hazardous materials from any eligible disposal site”

Who is ineligible?

Groups that:

- Own or operate the disposal site
- Are conducting or funding assessment or cleanup work at the disposal site
- Do not have legal authority to manage grant funds

Which disposal sites are eligible?

Disposal sites in Massachusetts that are actively involved in the assessment and cleanup process:

- Classified as a Tier I or Tier II disposal site
- Listed on EPA's Superfund National Priorities List
- Considered "Adequately Regulated" by another regulatory program

Which disposal sites are ineligible?

- Not classified as a Tier I or Tier II disposal site or deemed adequately regulated
- Disposal sites that have reached a Permanent Solution

Find Out About a Contaminated Property

Find locations and details about oil and hazardous material disposal sites in Massachusetts.

There are over 44,000 hazardous waste sites in Massachusetts. These include simple spills during a fuel oil delivery and complex Superfund sites. You can use this service to search for waste disposal sites that are close to you. This app links to information about the chemicals spilled and the cleanup completed. You can search for a site at a specific address or find all the sites in your town.

First time? Start here.

Watch: The Waste Site Cleanup Program »



What would you like to do?

Top tasks

Waste Site & Reportable Releases/Spills Look Up »

Search by eDEP Form/Submittals »

Create a Priority Resource Map for a location/site »

What you need to know

Video: Using the Waste Site/Reportable Release Lookup tool »

Video: Using the eDEP Form/Submittal Viewer »

Video: Using Google to Find Out About Sites »

Statistics About Site Cleanups »

More Information: EEA Data Portal »

Search U.S. EPA's Site Database ("SEMS") »

<https://www.mass.gov/find-out-about-a-contaminated-property>

How May TAG Funds be Used?

Eligible activities include:

- Obtaining expert advice
 - Licensed Site Professional (LSP), environmental consultant, attorney, other professional (e.g., interpreter/translator)
- Interpreting technical information and environmental data from the disposal site
- Conducting public education activities

TAG Funds May Not be Used

- Develop new environmental or medical data
- Conduct or arrange any cleanup actions
- Litigation or other adversarial legal proceedings
- Activities that “interfere with the efficient, expeditious, and safe conduct of response actions”

Recent TAG Projects

- Funded a technical expert to facilitate communication between the public and other stakeholders about ongoing response actions occurring at an adequately regulated landfill
- Funded risk assessment experts to review existing disposal site data sets and provide an evaluation of risk characterization
- Funded translation of information on response actions being conducted at disposal site in a multi-lingual neighborhood
- Funded a Licensed Site Professional to assist municipality in understanding and communicating to the public complex technical information related to PFAS contamination at an eligible disposal site that has been established to be impacting downgradient residential drinking water wells

Estimated Grant Timeline

Grant Procurement Activity	Date	Time
Pre-TAG Release Informational Meeting	Wednesday, April 22, 2025	4 P.M.
Notice of Grant Opportunity (posted on COMMBUYS and MassDEP website)	Wednesday, May 14, 2025	
TAG Grant Opportunity and Grant Application Release Date (Posting Date) on MassDEP website	Wednesday, May 14, 2025	
Deadline for submission of written questions via email to MassDEP TAG POC	Friday, July 11, 2025	5 P.M.
Official answers for Q&A published on MassDEP webpage	Friday, July 25, 2025	
GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE	Friday, August 29, 2025	5 P.M.
Estimated announcement of Grant Awards (posted on COMMBUYS and MassDEP webpage)	Friday, December 12, 2025	
Estimated contract start date	Friday, February 13, 2026	





Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup
Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) Program
Application SFY2022
COMMBUYS #



I. Applicant Information	
Name of Entity/Group: <input type="text"/>	
Contact Name: <input type="text"/>	Title: <input type="text"/>
Address: <input type="text"/>	
City/Town: <input type="text"/>	Zip Code: <input type="text"/>
Telephone (primary): <input type="text"/>	Telephone (other): <input type="text"/>
Email: <input type="text"/>	
Copy of By-Laws attached? (if available) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
II. Disposal Site Information	
Disposal Site Name (if available): <input type="text"/>	
Disposal Site Street Address: <input type="text"/>	
City/Town: <input type="text"/>	Zip Code: <input type="text"/>
Release Tracking Number(s) (RTN): <input type="text"/>	
To your knowledge, has a Technical Assistance Grant been previously awarded for this disposal site? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
If yes, briefly describe the relationship between the past project and current proposal. <input type="text"/>	
Is the Applicant currently a Grantee for other grant funding program(s), or have other sources of funding, for the disposal site? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<input type="text"/>	
III. Eligibility	
A. Applicant Description (please check one):	

TAG Application

- Fillable Word document
- Submitted by email



TAG Application Review Process

- Eligibility Criteria
- Evaluation Criteria
- Grant Review Team – composed of MassDEP staff
- Projects awarded funding will be those that best address the TAG Program goals

Application Evaluation Criteria

- a) **Severity and Complexity of the Disposal Site** - Relative to potential impacts on health, safety, public welfare, and the environment.
- b) **Connection to Waste Site Cleanup Program Goals** - Relationship of proposed project to the impacts of the disposal site on health, safety, public welfare, and the environment.
- c) **Promote Public Awareness** - Potential of proposed project to foster increased public awareness and understanding of response actions.

Application Evaluation Criteria (cont'd)

- d) **Outreach Capability** - Applicant's demonstrated capacity to communicate with and involve individuals affected by the disposal site.
- e) **Implementation Potential** - Applicant's demonstrated capacity to implement the proposed project.
- f) **Project Budget and Timeline** - Feasibility of meeting identified goals, completing project within work schedule and budget, and proposed types of experts to be hired.

Application Evaluation Criteria (cont'd)

- g) **Benefits to Environmental Justice Communities** - Potential of proposed project to benefit Environmental Justice Communities. http://maps.massgis.state.ma.us/map_ol/ej.php
- h) **Benefits an Economic Target Area** - Relevance of the disposal site for local economic development efforts.

Elements of a Successful TAG Project

- Fulfills Evaluation Criteria
- Presents focused and clearly defined mission and goals
- Applicant group has the ability to manage funding and successfully move the project forward

TAG Application Process

- All application materials will be available for download on Wednesday, May 14, 2025 (tentative) at:
<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/technical-assistance-grants-waste-site-cleanup>
- Applications and all supporting documents must be sent electronically by 5pm on Friday, August 29, 2025 (tentative) to Nancy.Fitzpatrick@mass.gov

Grant Award Details

- One award per applicant group
- One award per disposal site
- An award may be used by a group for more than one disposal site
- Duration: contract ends on June 30, 2027; contract extension is at MassDEP discretion

Grant Contracts

- Commonwealth Standard Contract
- Scope of Services Agreement
- Commonwealth Terms and Conditions
- Contractor Authorized Signatory Listing
- Payment:
 - Electronic Funds Transfer form
 - MA W-9

Award Payment Details

- Reimbursement for expenses incurred after TAG contract has been executed
- Group receiving the award must have legal authority to receive and disperse funds at the time the grant is awarded
<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/corporations/corporations.htm>
- Taxpayer ID Number required to receive funds

Question and Answer Period

- Official Q&A period: May 14 – July 11, 2025
 - Begins when TAG Opportunity and Application are posted
 - Official answers to written questions will be posted online by July 25, 2025 (tentative)
- Prior to the TAG Opportunity and Application Announcement
 - Applicants may contact us directly with questions about the grant opportunity or to discuss potential projects

For further information....

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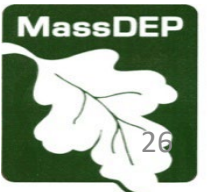
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<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/technical-assistance-grants-waste-site-cleanup>



Questions???