

# SMALL DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY EMERGING CONTAMINANT GRANT (SDC-EC)



A qualifying water system may receive up to a \$4,00,000 grant to cover project costs for projects that are needed to resolve PFAS related contamination issues through the installation of an approved treatment process, drilling a new well or consolidation with another regulated public water system.

Grant funds can also be used to extend water mains to homes served by private wells containing PFAS. The Drinking water Program will cover half of the cost of this project up to a maximum grant of \$2,000,000. To qualify, all federal and state requirements must be met.

## Criteria for eligibility (All criteria must be met):

1) Contamination level must exceed one of these thresholds:

20 ppt	combined or alone for: PFOA, PFOS, PFHpA, PFNA, PFDA, and PFHxS
4 ppt	PFOA
4 ppt	PFOS

2) Must be a community public water system with <10,000 population or the water system must be disadvantaged. Maine DWP defines a disadvantaged community in 2023 as a community that the year-round residential water consumers have a median household income of \$64,767 per year or less OR when the ratio of average annual water bill to median household income is 0.8 or greater.

**Eligible project costs:** Grant funds for may be applied to engineering services, contractor labor, materials, equipment, and legal fees associated with implementation of the project. Grant funds may be used for installation of treatment and the construction of an appropriately sized structure to house treatment if adequate space is determined to be unavailable elsewhere within the existing property facilities. Grant funds may also be used for consolidation with another regulated public water system or to drill a new well or to extend water main to private homes containing elevated PFAS.

**Non-eligible project costs:** Grants will not be awarded for projects which involve the maintenance of water system infrastructure, maintenance of treatment facilities, or costs that are part of normal system operation (i.e., media replacement). Installation of treatment point-of-use units are not eligible; treatment must be installed at the drinking water source. Grant funds may not be used to purchase or install treatment equipment for non-PFAS related contaminants unless required as a pre-treatment for effective PFAS removal. Awards will only be issued to public water systems (homeowners cannot be grant recipients).

**Award amount:** For PFAS treatment/removal projects individual grants will be awarded up to a maximum reimbursement of \$4,00,000 total. For water main extensions to private homes grants will be awarded at 50% of the project cost not to exceed \$2,000,000. For a project estimate over the grant amount, Drinking Water SRF project loan funds can be applied for.

**Deadline for applications:** Water systems need to **apply by October 6, 2023**. Projects will be ranked and awarded.

**How to apply:** Submit an application to the Maine Drinking Water Program (using the same application that the DWSRF projects use), it can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/ECSDC>

**How can I get more information?** Contact McKenzie Parker at (207) 557-2255 or e-mail [mckenzie.parker@maine.gov](mailto:mckenzie.parker@maine.gov).