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Drinking Water Program

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WATER SYSTEM CONSOLIDATION GRANT APPLICATION

The Maine Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) has a grant program to provide partial funding to water systems for the purpose of consolidation with another water system to enhance system capacity. Water systems with a technical, managerial or financial capacity issue can receive partial funding to consolidate with a more viable public water system to enhance system capacity and de-regulate an existing public water system

Who is eligible?

All Community and Non-Profit Non-Community public water systems are eligible for the System Consolidation program (See qualifying criteria below). Federally owned systems are not eligible. Each eligible water system (system to be eliminated) may only receive one grant award for any consolidation effort.

How much money is available?

The Consolidation Grant will fund no more than 50 percent of the cost of the water system consolidation for for-profit facilities and no more than 75 percent of the cost of the water system consolidation for not-for-profit facilities. Grant awards may not exceed \$150,000. Payment shall be made on a one-time reimbursement basis. Consideration for greater than a single reimbursement will be made on a case by case basis determined by the financial need of applying system.

When can a system apply?

Eligible water systems may apply at any time. Applications will be accepted on a first come, first served basis until funds are exhausted.

When is the money awarded?

Payment shall be made on a one time reimbursement basis to the receiving system or abandoned system, after the Drinking Water Program has verified that the public water system in need has completely and permanently disconnected from its original supply of water.

Is there a project completion deadline?

A water system has 1 year to complete the project from the date the DWP approves the grant application. If this timeframe cannot be achieved the system must submit an extension request to the DWP for evaluation. If a system does not continue to demonstrate progress the DWP may consider the system ineligible to receive capacity funding.

The following criteria outline qualifications for a grant and disbursement criteria:

Qualifying Criteria:

1. The public water system applying for consolidation must have a technical, managerial or financial capacity issue that will be addressed by the consolidation with the more viable public water system.
2. The more viable, receiving public water system must neither exhibit technical, managerial or financial capacity issues nor result in system capacity issues.
3. Plans and specifications for the consolidation must be reviewed and approved by the Drinking Water Program.
4. Davis Bacon Wages and American Iron & Steel requirements that are part of the DWSRF construction loan program, apply to all Consolidation Grant projects.
5. The project must complete the environmental review process that is currently part of the DWSRF construction loan program.

Disbursement Criteria:

1. The Consolidation Grant will fund no more than 50 percent of the cost of the water system consolidation for private (for-profit) facilities and no more than 75 percent of the cost of the water system consolidation for public (not-for-profit) facilities.
2. Grant awards may not exceed \$150,000.
3. Payment shall be made on a reimbursement basis to the receiving system or abandoned system, after the Drinking Water Program has verified that the public water system in need has completely and permanently disconnected from its original supply of water. A water system may be required to permanently abandon any on-site sources of water (e.g. filling a well with concrete or bentonite).
4. Qualifying costs include, but are not limited to the following activities: planning and design, environmental review, as well as construction and abandonment of sources.
5. Funds cannot be used for Fire Protection Related service improvements. Consolidation Grant funds can be used only for the domestic water proportional share of a combined fire/drinking water service line.

Other Funding Sources:

The balance of the cost of system consolidation may be generated from any other sources, including other grants, loans or capital reserves. One possible funding source available is the DWSRF loan program. However, the consolidating water systems must meet the appropriate application deadlines for the DWSRF loan process. In addition, if the balance of the cost for the Consolidation Grant comes from another DWSRF loan program, the improvements completed under the Consolidation Grant are limited to the cost of installing a water service connection.

Ranking Criteria:

Because limited funding is provided for this particular Set-Aside, grant awards will be determined by time of application, anticipated construction date, and risk to public health. For specific ranking criteria, please refer to Section 6.H.II of the Drinking Water Program Intended Use Plan, available on the DWP website at www.medwp.com for ranking criteria.

Still have questions?

For more information please contact: McKenzie Parker (207) 557-2255 or your system inspector.

System Consolidation Grant Application

Please complete this form and return to the DWP. Contact McKenzie Parker at (207) 557-2255 or e-mail mckenzie.parker@maine.gov with questions.

PWS Name: _____ PWSID #: _____

Contact: _____ Telephone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Mailing address: _____

Provide a description of the project, including need for consolidation and any additional funding sources.

Signature: _____

Title: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____