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2021 WELLHEAD PROTECTION GRANT

Applications must be postmarked by March 31, 2021.

Community and non-profit non-community public water systems (PWS) may apply for grants for planning or implementing projects that protect their groundwater source. Grants will be awarded up to \$5,000, with grants of \$10,000 available depending on the scope of the project. Only those projects that demonstrate a significant commitment to ongoing source water protection will be considered for the higher grant award.

Eligible water systems may only apply for one grant per application year. Any water system that has previously been awarded a Wellhead Protection Grant must first complete that grant project before applying for a new grant.

Contact Ashley Hodge at (207) 822-2341 or e-mail Ashley.Hodge@maine.gov with questions about the application or granting process.

What types of projects are eligible? Projects that demonstrate a commitment to the ongoing protection of a system's drinking water source. Examples of eligible projects include:

- ◆ Preparing or updating a Wellhead Protection Plan
- ◆ Establishing local protective ordinances or legal agreements in the source protection area
- ◆ Developing or implementing drinking water education programs
- ◆ Establishing or enabling a source monitoring program
- ◆ Identifying and/or removing potential sources of contamination from the source protection area

Which water systems are eligible? All community and non-profit non-community public water systems that use a groundwater source are eligible for grant awards. Examples include water utilities, mobile home parks, apartment buildings, nursing homes, and schools.

How much money will be awarded? The DWP has set aside up to \$100,000 for the 2021 grant program. Individual grants are typically \$5,000 or less. However, up to \$10,000 may be awarded for projects that demonstrate a commitment to ongoing source water protection, such as developing or implementing an existing Wellhead Protection Management Plan, establishing source water protection ordinances or zonings within a wellhead protection area, collaborative efforts in source protection outreach and education, etc.

What types of projects are NOT eligible? Grants will not be awarded for projects which involve the maintenance of water system infrastructure or roads in the wellhead protection area, installation or maintenance of treatment facilities, purchasing land or conservation easements, or costs that are part of normal system operation. Also, the water system may not be reimbursed for equipment use or water system employee labor costs, even if the work is in support of an eligible

wellhead protection project. Grants will not be awarded for projects that have already been completed. Water systems may not use Wellhead Protection Grants to correct compliance issues or deficiencies identified in a sanitary survey.

Projects that seek to replace single-walled oil storage tanks with double-walled tanks will not be funded under the Wellhead Protection Grant Program. Water systems that wish to replace single-walled home heating oil tanks with double bottom tanks can contact the Maine Department of Environmental Protection's Aboveground Home Heating Oil Storage Tank Replacement Program. Contact Peter Moulton at (207) 287-8161 or peter.moulton@maine.gov.

What is the deadline for applications? Applications must be postmarked no later than **March 31, 2021**.

If there is funding remaining after the normal grant cycle, the DWP may accept applications from qualified public water systems for eligible grant projects after March 31, 2021. Please contact the grant administrator if you wish to explore this possibility.

When will the grant awards be announced? Grant award recipients will be announced by **May 1, 2021**.

How will the DWP determine which proposals will be awarded grants? Three to four reviewers will score eligible projects based on seven categories of scoring criteria (see below). Projects are ranked by total points and grants are awarded beginning with the highest scoring project until all funds are assigned. Eligible projects that cannot be funded may be resubmitted in future years.

What are the scoring criteria?

- 0 – 5 points* **Demonstrated need for the project.** *Systems must describe how a project will protect their source and why the project is needed. For example, an outreach and education project should describe why outreach/education is needed and how it will protect a drinking water source.*
- 0 – 2 points* **Previous wellhead protection work.** *Systems will receive points if they have participated in source water protection work in the past.*
- 0 – 3 points* **Community involvement.** *Protecting drinking water sources is a community effort. Projects that involve work with local partners, including water systems, land conservation groups, local schools, or other organizations, to enhance drinking water protection will receive the highest points. Alternatively, if the proposed project does not involve community partners but the system worked collaboratively on source protection in the past, the system will receive a point. This could be anything from a watershed-wide collaboration to a small local partnership.*
- 0 – 1 point* **Identified risks or Wellhead Protection Plan implementation.** *Systems will receive one point if their project will address a specific risk or implement part of a current Source Water Protection Plan.*
- 0 – 1 point* **Development or updating of a Wellhead Protection Plan, wellhead protection ordinance or other legal agreement in the wellhead protection area.** *One point*

is given to projects that involve wellhead protection plans, ordinances, or conservation easements in the source protection area.

0 – 1 point **Cost sharing.** *Systems that contribute money up front to fund a portion of the project costs will receive one point. For example, systems that offer to contribute \$100 toward the removal and conversion to propane of each home heating oil tank within their wellhead protection zone, will receive this point.*

0 – 1 point **Previous grant awards.** *Systems that have never received a Wellhead Protection Grant will receive one point.*

Total possible points: 14

If I am awarded a grant, how do I get reimbursed? Complete your project and submit a *2021 Wellhead Protection Grant Reimbursement Request Form* (available on the Drinking Water Program website) to the DWP by **May 1, 2022**. You must provide:

1. Documentation that the project was completed. This could be a copy of an ordinance or WHP plan, pictures of the site, or copies of educational materials;
2. Copies of **paid** invoices for reimbursable costs up to the award amount; and
3. Copies of at least three written quotes for any materials or services.

Please note, only one reimbursement check will be written per system and only for projects that have reached completion.

Can I get a project extension?

A water system may apply for one project extension, for up to 6 months, using the Drinking Water Program Grant Project Extension Form, available on the Drinking Water Program website. If a project is not completed by the date approved in the grant or extension, the water system forfeits the grant award and must re-apply for project funding. ***Additionally, a water system may request an extension up front, if it is anticipated the project will take longer than the time allotted. Please indicate this on your application.***

If there is funding remaining after the normal grant cycle, the DWP may accept applications from qualified public water systems for eligible grant projects after March 31, 2020. Please contact the grant administrator if you wish to explore this possibility.

MAIL OR EMAIL APPLICATION TO:

Maine CDC Drinking Water Program
ATTN: Ashley Hodge
151 Jetport Blvd.
Portland, ME 04102-1946

or Ashley.Hodge@maine.gov

2021 WELLHEAD PROTECTION GRANT APPLICATION

Applications must be postmarked by March 31, 2021.

Please complete this form and return to the DWP no later than **March 31, 2021**. The application scoring criteria can help you design your project to maximize the likelihood of approval. Contact Ashley Hodge at (207) 822-2341 or email Ashley.Hodge@maine.gov with questions.

PWS NAME: _____ PWSID#: _____

CONTACT: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ TOWN/CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

1. Provide a brief description of the project; include estimated costs and implementation schedule.

2. Demonstrated need for the project. *How will the project help protect your groundwater source?*

3. **Previous wellhead protection work.** *Has your system demonstrated a commitment to source water protection by dedicating time or financial resources to source protection? What other projects have you completed that evaluate or manage threats to your water supply?*

4. **Community involvement.** *Protecting drinking water sources is a community effort.*

- a. **Does your project have community involvement?** _____ **Yes** _____ **No**
- b. **Have you participated in community involvement in the protection of your drinking water program in the past?** _____ **Yes** _____ **No**

If you answered yes to 4a or 4b, please describe how your project involves community partners or how you have involved community partners in the past.

5. Does your project address an identified risk or implement recommendations from an existing Wellhead Protection Plan? _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, describe how

6. Does your project create a Wellhead Protection Plan, wellhead protection ordinance, or other legal agreement in the source water protection area?

_____ Yes _____ No

7. **Describe any Cost Sharing.** *Systems which contribute money up front to fund a portion of the project costs will receive one point.*

8. **Have you received a Wellhead Protection Grant from the Drinking Water Program before?** *Systems which have never received a Wellhead Protection Grant will receive one point.*

_____ Yes _____ No

Additional information supporting your application is welcome but not required.

Signature: _____ **Title:** _____

Print Name: _____ **Date:** _____

RETURN TO THE DRINKING WATER PROGRAM BY MARCH 31, 2021.