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2022 WATER SYSTEM ASSET SECURITY GRANT

Applications must be postmarked by March 31, 2022.

Community and non-profit, non-community public water systems (PWS) may apply for grants for planning or implementing security measures to protect water system assets. Individual grants are typically \$10,000 or less. However, up to \$20,000 may be awarded when the need for the higher grant amount can be clearly demonstrated.

Eligible water systems may only apply for one grant per application year. Any water system that has previously been awarded a Water System Asset Security Grant must first complete that grant project before applying for a new grant. Systems out of compliance with Drinking Water Rules & Regulations cannot receive grant funds, unless the funds will be used for projects that will bring the system back into compliance.

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? Examples of eligible projects may include, but are not limited to:

- The plan and/or implementation of physical security measures
- The implementation of cybersecurity projects, assessments, and/or software installation/upgrades performed at least in part for the purposes of cybersecurity*
- Risk and Resilience Assessment for PWSs serving under 3,300 people
- Installation of security fencing
- Installation of signs
- Design and installation of security and/or surveillance cameras and systems
- Design and installation of alarm systems

***Cybersecurity assessments are required for these types of projects. The assessments must use an approved means of evaluating cybersecurity risks. Approved evaluation tools are: [EPA Cybersecurity Assessment](#), [Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency \(CISA\) Assessment](#), [Cyber Security Evaluation Tool \(CSET\)](#), [AWWA Cybersecurity Tool](#) (for members only), or [DWP Cybersecurity Self-Assessment](#). The PWS should have everything mitigated on their assessment and have mitigated any bad practices as listed on CISA's [bad practices page](#) before asking to fund anything else. In your application, please note what evaluation tool you used.**

Which water systems are eligible? All community and non-profit non-community public water systems are eligible for grant awards.

How much money will be awarded? The DWP has set aside \$400,000 for the 2022 grant program, which also includes Wellhead Protection and Source Water Protection Grants. Individual grants are typically \$10,000 or less. However, up to \$20,000 may be awarded when the need for the higher grant amount can be clearly demonstrated.

What types of projects are NOT eligible? Grants will not be awarded for recurring annual fees or on-going expenses (i.e. recurring membership fees or software fees).

What is the deadline for applications? Applications must be received or postmarked no later than **March 31, 2022**.

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, 2022. Please contact the grant administrator, Ashley Hodge, if you wish to explore this possibility.

When will the grant awards be announced? Grant award recipients will be announced by **May 1, 2022**.

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.** *PWSs must describe how a project will protect their water system asset(s) and why the project is needed.*
- 0 – 2 points* **Previously Exploited Vulnerability.** *PWSs will receive one or two points if the water system asset(s) proposed to be protected has/have experienced one or more security breaches in the past.*
- 0 – 2 points* **Identified risks or Risk and Resilience Assessment implementation.** *PWSs will receive one or two points if their project will address a specific risk or implement part of a Risk and Resilience Assessment.*
- 0 – 1 point* **Development or updating of a Risk and Resilience Assessment.** *One point is given to projects that involve developing a Risk and Resilience Assessment.*
- 0 – 1 point* **Cost sharing.** *PWSs which contribute money or in-kind services up front to fund a portion of the project costs will receive one point.*
- 0 – 1 point* **Previous grant awards.** *Systems that have never received a Water System Asset Security Grant will receive one point.*

Total possible points: 12

If I am awarded a grant, how do I get reimbursed? Complete your project and submit a *2022 Water System Asset Security Grant Reimbursement Request Form* (available on the Drinking Water Program website) to the DWP by **May 1, 2023**. You must provide:

1. Documentation that the project was completed. This could be pictures of the site with the installation of the security measure;
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, 2022. Please contact Ashley Hodge 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

2022 WATER SYSTEM ASSET SECURITY GRANT APPLICATION

Applications must be postmarked by March 31, 2022.

Please complete this form and return to the DWP no later than **March 31, 2022**. 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 water system asset(s)?*

3. **Known Vulnerability.** *Has this vulnerability been exploited in the past? What have you done to address the need?*

4. **Does your project address an identified risk or implement recommendations from an existing Risk and Resilience Assessment?** _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, describe how

5. **Does your project create a Risk and Resilience Assessment?**

_____ Yes _____ No

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

7. **Have you received a Water System Asset Security Grant from the Drinking Water Program before?**
Systems which have never received a Water System Asset Security 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, 2022.