



MAINE CDC DRINKING WATER PROGRAM

Department of Health & Human Services

286 Water Street, Augusta ME 04333
www.medwp.com • (207) 287-2070 • TTY: 711



2026 VERY SMALL SYSTEM CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT

Deadline: Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until funds are fully disbursed. The last date to submit an application for consideration is **June 30, 2027**.

Purpose: This grant is for creating a plan/document for very small water systems that will improve the water systems' technical, financial or managerial capacity.

Eligible Water Systems: All community and non-profit, non-community public water systems **with a population of 100 or less** are eligible for grant awards. For-profit Non-Community water systems and Federally owned systems are not eligible.

- **Compliance Requirement:** Water systems that are currently out of compliance with Drinking Water Rules & Regulations are not eligible, unless the proposed project will directly help the system return to compliance.

Eligible Projects: Each eligible public water system must demonstrate a need for the document for which it is requesting funding assistance. No water system may receive a grant award for a document it has produced within the previous five years if it is the same or similar to any one listed below. Examples of eligible professionally prepared documents may include, but are not limited to:

- Comprehensive System Facilities Plans
- Capital Improvement Plans
- System Hydraulic Modeling Studies
- Comprehensive Operations and Maintenance Manuals
- Risk and Resilience Assessments
- Emergency Response Plans
- Management Review Studies
- System Consolidation Studies
- Asset Management Plans¹
- GIS Infrastructure Mapping²
- Water or Energy Audit Reports
- Preliminary Engineering Reports
- Water Storage Tank Upgrade/Replacement Evaluations
- Hydrogeologic Investigation Reports for locating new groundwater well locations
- Comprehensive Community Planning Studies which include a public water infrastructure component. Consideration will be given for funding the "drinking water" portion of such studies.
- Corrosion Control Treatment Plans
- Other professionally prepared documents that can be used to enhance system capacity, as determined by the DWP.

Award Amount: DWP will cover 90% of project costs up to a maximum reimbursement amount of \$9,000. Grants are awarded on a reimbursement basis.

¹The purchase of computer software is not an eligible expense.

²The purchase of computers, computer software, or GPS devices are not eligible expenses.

Contracting and Bids: After receiving an Award Letter, you must Request quotes from at least 3 companies for your project. You are required to use the lowest bid for work or services.

- If a company does not respond within 2 weeks to your request, this is considered an attempt
- Your quotes (or attempts to get quotes) must be verified before project work can start. Submit the attached Quote Summary Sheet to eli.pellegrino@maine.gov for review

However, some exemptions may be allowed from this requirement. If seeking to sole source, you must request an exemption by submitting a written justification explaining why the preferred vendor is the best candidate for this work to eli.pellegrino@maine.gov.

Ineligible Expenses: Work performed by the water system's personnel in support of a grant activity is not a reimbursable expense under the grant program. Work performed prior to receiving grant approval does not qualify towards grant reimbursement. Funding cannot be used to cover any fees charged for helping water systems apply for the grant.

Application and Award Timeline:

- Rolling applications accepted until funds are gone (final deadline: June 30, 2027)
- Award letters issued as soon as possible after review
- Projects must be completed within 2 years of approval (no extensions)

Reimbursement Process: Complete your project and submit the following

1. A Very Small System Capacity Development Grant Reimbursement Form (on Maine DWP website)
2. The ACH authorization form (page 2 of reimbursement form)
3. A copy of meeting minutes where the water system officials have discussed the need for the document and a grant award.
4. A copy of the letter of agreement or contract between the water system and the selected engineering or consulting firm
5. The completed document for Drinking Water Program review and approval. Copies of all reports and studies shall be provided to the DWP in an electronic (.pdf) format;
6. Copies of all paid invoices for reimbursable costs

*Note: Only one electronic transfer per system per project – submit for reimbursement when your project is completed, or all grant funding is expended.

Application Submission:

Email your application to:
Eli.Pellegrino@maine.gov

Or Mail to:

Maine CDC Drinking Water Program
ATTN: Eli Pellegrino
151 Jetport Boulevard
Portland, ME 04102-1946

How often can I apply? Eligible water systems may only apply for one grant per application year. Any water system that has previously been awarded a Very Small System Capacity Development Grant must first complete that grant project before applying for a new grant.

Who to contact with questions: Contact Eli Pellegrino (207) 441-7122 or e-mail eli.pellegrino@maine.gov with questions about the application or granting process.

VERY SMALL SYSTEM CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT APPLICATION

Please complete this form and return to the DWP. Contact Eli Pellegrino at (207) 441-7122 or e-mail eli.pellegrino@maine.gov with questions.

PWS NAME: _____ PWSID#: _____

CONTACT: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____ TOWN/CITY: _____

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

Provide a description of the project; please include the estimated cost for the document.

Additional information supporting your application is welcome but not required.

Signature: _____ **Title:** _____

Print Name: _____ **Date:** _____

*****RETURN TO THE DRINKING WATER PROGRAM*****

MAIL APPLICATION TO: DRINKING WATER PROGRAM
ATTN: Eli Pellegrino
151 Jetport Boulevard
Portland, ME 04102-1946

E-MAIL: Eli.Pellegrino@maine.gov

Set Asides Grant Quote Summary Sheet

Public Water System Name: _____

PWSID Number: _____

Quote 1:

Company:			
Method used to solicit (check all which apply)	Phone	Email	Other (Describe):
Name of person at company contacted:			
Date Quote Solicited:			
Date Quote Received:		<i>Write "N/A" if 14 days have passed and no quote has been received</i>	
Total Quote Amount (labor + materials)		<i>Write "N/A" if no quote has been received</i>	

Quote 2:

Company:			
Method used to solicit (check all which apply)	Phone	Email	Other (Describe):
Name of person at company contacted:			
Date Quote Solicited:			
Date Quote Received:		<i>Write "N/A" if 14 days have passed and no quote has been received</i>	
Total Quote Amount (labor + materials)		<i>Write "N/A" if no quote has been received</i>	

Quote 3:

Company:			
Method used to olicit (check all which apply)	Phone	Email	Other (Describe):
Name of person at company contacted:			
Date Quote Solicited:			
Date Quote Received:		<i>Write "N/A" if 14 days have passed and no quote has been received</i>	
Total Quote Amount (labor + materials)		<i>Write "N/A" if no quote has been received</i>	