

Source Water Protection Grants Protect Drinking Water: 2010-2020

NONCOMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS

Minnesota residents and visitors depend on safe and reliable drinking water. As Minnesota's lead public health agency, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) receives funding from the state's [Clean Water Fund](#) (CWF) to provide for and enhance drinking water protection efforts. These efforts help ensure safe drinking water now and into the future. One of the MDH initiatives supported by the CWF is the Source Water Protection (SWP) Grants program.

Background

[Source Water Protection Grants](#), are made possible through the CWF and supported by the Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment. The grants have helped many Minnesota public water systems protect their water sources and provide safe drinking water. The grants fund actions that reduce or eliminate potential threats to drinking water, so that the systems can fulfill their managerial and financial responsibilities without interruption in the water supply. The grants provide funds up to \$10,000 and make a big impact. There are three types of grants – Transient, Competitive, and Plan Implementation. The Transient and Competitive grants require a 50% cost share match. The Plan Implementation grants do not require a match.

Noncommunity water systems (NWSs) are eligible to receive Competitive and Transient SWP grants. Many NWSs are small businesses or organizations where the water supply is just one of many functions they provide. Therefore, NWSs may be limited in their technical and financial capacities to take on water supply projects. SWP grants allow them to take actions that otherwise may not easily or quickly happen, providing improved protection for consumers.

Examples of eligible activities that noncommunity systems have implemented are:

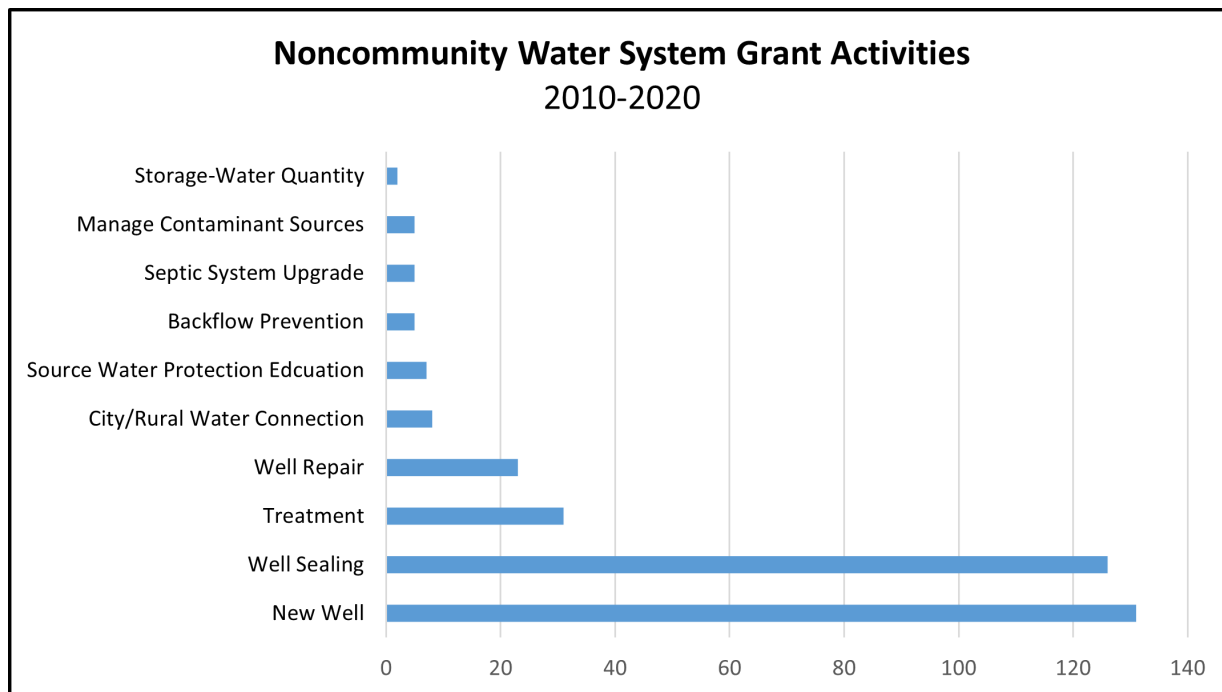
- Sealing unused wells;
- Construction of new wells;
- Inspecting wells to evaluate conditions and repair as needed; and
- Connecting to a community water system or rural water public water supply.

Facts, Figures, and Outcomes

Since the inception of the Source Water Protection Grant program in 2010:

- Over \$1,000,000 has been granted to NWS, with the majority awarded through Transient grants. NWS have provided over \$2,000,000 in cost share expenditures for these grants.
- Grants have addressed numerous critical water issues including bacteriological, nitrate, and arsenic contamination. This has included resolving over 50 instances where the drinking water standards for bacteria, nitrate, or arsenic were not being met, and numerous other situations where contamination was proactively addressed by work under a grant.
- Grants have helped protect groundwater by the sealing of old wells and assisting with issues such as well construction problems and intrusion of surface water into wells.
- A total of 235 NWSs received grants for source water protection activities related to management or elimination of one or more potential sources of contamination. The majority of grants aided construction of new wells and sealing of existing wells. The following graph shows the actions taken

using SWP grants at NWSs. Note that there are more actions total than grants, as one grant may have supported multiple activities (e.g., both old well sealing and new well construction).



Application and Contact Information

Grant application information is located on the [Source Water Protection Grants](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/grants.html) webpage and by contacting the Grants Coordinator in the Drinking Water Protection Section at 651-201-4700. NWSs are also encouraged to contact [Noncommunity Public Water Supply](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/noncom/index.html) or their Noncommunity Public Water Unit Sanitarian to discuss grant eligible activities. For staff contacts, refer to the staff map found at [Noncommunity Public Water Supply Unit Contacts \(PDF\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/docs/ncstaffmap2020.pdf).

References

- [Clean Water Fund](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/cwf/index.html)
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/cwf/index.html>)
- [Source Water Protection Grants](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/grants.html)
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/grants.html>)
- [Noncommunity Public Water Supply](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/noncom/index.html)
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/noncom/index.html>)
- [Noncommunity Public Water Supply Unit Contacts \(PDF\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/docs/ncstaffmap2020.pdf)
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/docs/ncstaffmap2020.pdf>)

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651-201-4700