

Source Water Protection Grants

FOR PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) provides source water protection grants to public water systems (PWS). PWS use the grants for activities that protect the drinking water source from harmful pollution. The Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment has supported source water protection grants for PWS in Minnesota since 2010.

Grant Categories and Eligibility

Criteria	Plan Implementation	Competitive	Transient
Type of PWS eligible	Community; Noncommunity nontransient	Community; Noncommunity nontransient	Noncommunity transient
Months applications accepted (note: materials online one month before)	March & September	April & October	March & September
Minimum/maximum grant amount	\$1,000/\$15,000	\$500/\$15,000 ¹	\$250/\$15,000
Must have a current MDH- approved/endorsed wellhead protection plan, action plan, or surface water intake protection plan	Yes	No	No
Must provide cost share	No	Yes	Yes

Types of Public Water Suppliers

- **Community (municipal and nonmunicipal):** serve at least 25 people or 15 service connections year-round, which includes municipalities (cities), manufactured mobile home parks, etc.
- **Noncommunity nontransient:** serve at least 25 of the same people over six months per year
- **Noncommunity transient:** serve at least 25 people at least 60 days of the year, but do not serve the same 25 people over six months of the year

¹Maximum grant amount may increase up to \$45,000 when three or more PWS apply under the same application.

Examples of Eligible Activities

- Activities that protect the drinking water source
- Locating and sealing unused wells
- Managing contamination
- Installing a monitoring well
- Inspecting a well (video log, gamma log)
- Education and outreach
- Updating the potential contaminant source inventory
- Connecting private users to a public water supply (only when documented by MDH for compliance purposes)
- Planning for spill or emergency response
- Purchasing generators (MDH plan review and approval is required)
- Constructing a new PWS well
 - Purchasing an appropriately sized pressure tank for the new well pump
 - Water lines may be reimbursed only from the well to the pressure tank or to the building or connection to the distribution system, whichever is first
- Pressure tanks installed as part of a new well construction and pump system project or existing well reconstruction and pump system project, such as when removing a well from a pit, or relining a well casing. The pressure tank must be appropriately sized for the pump being proposed for the new well and not sized for additional water storage



MDH recognized these organizations for their source water protection efforts in 2019-2020 (from top to bottom): City of Annandale, City of Balaton, and Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Examples of Ineligible Activities

- Purchasing a pressure tank designed to serve the purpose of water storage
- Replacement or maintenance of pressure tanks
- Developing or amending source water protection plans
- Conducting infrastructure projects not related to the source of drinking water (e.g., replacing pump house buildings)
- Maintaining the public water supply system
- Well drop pipe replacement

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