

Underserved Drinking Water System Grant Program

Addressing regulated contaminants in OTMs & nonprofit NNs

- **Learn** more by visiting the webpage [Underserved Drinking Water System Grant](#)

GRANT PROGRAM FAQs

How Does This Grant Program Help Public Water Systems?

This grant program helps public water systems provide safe drinking water by addressing active violations or exceedances of the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations.

Where Do I Start?

Please review the [Next Steps for Applicants](#) and the [grant announcement](#) to learn program information and requirements. You may also contact your DNR field representative for your public water system for guidance.

How Do I Know If I Am Eligible?

Please refer to the [grant announcement](#) for detailed information on eligibility criteria.

1. Your public water system must be an Other-Than-Municipal Community (OTM) public water system or Non-Transient Non-Community (NN) public water system. Examples include condominiums, mobile home parks, apartments, and public schools.
2. Your public water system must serve less than 10,000 individuals.
3. If you are a Non-Transient Non-Community public water system, you must also be classified as a nonprofit, which includes government entities.
4. You must have an active maximum contaminant level (MCL) violation, an active treatment technique (TT) violation or an active action level exceedance (ALE).

Please direct eligibility questions to DNRUnderservedGrants@wisconsin.gov.

How Do I Know If I Have An Eligible Violation Or Exceedance?

Review Appendix A in the [grant announcement](#) for a list of eligible violations and exceedances. The MCL violation, TT violation or ALE must be active and not resolved. Reach out to your DNR field representative or email DNRUnderservedGrants@wisconsin.gov with questions.

What Is A Complete Application Package?

Applicants must submit all the required application materials together to apply for a grant.

A complete application includes the following:

- Application Form with required attachments
- Environmental Review Form
- W-9 Form
- NNs only: [IRS Tax-Exempt Affirmation Letter](#), unless government-owned.



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Legal notice: This document is intended solely as guidance and does not contain any mandatory requirements except where requirements found in federal regulations or state statutes, or administrative rules are referenced. Any regulatory decisions made by the Department of Natural Resources in any matter addressed by this guidance will be made by applying the governing federal regulations and state statutes and administrative rules to the relevant facts. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. This publication is offered in other formats upon request, email DNRUnderservedGrants@wisconsin.gov or mail to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, WI DNR - DG/5, Underserved Drinking Water System Grant Program, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921.

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GRANT PROGRAM FAQs CONTINUED

What Is An Authorized Representative?

An “authorized representative” is the public water system owner or other person who is authorized to sign contracts and execute financial obligations on behalf of the public water system. This is the person who is applying for the grant award. **The contact listed as the authorized representative on the Application Form should be the same person who signs all the application materials.**

What Do I Need To Know About Federal Funds?

This program is supported with federal funds from the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act of 2016. These grant awards must meet all applicable federal requirements. While federal laws are complicated, the DNR has worked to simplify the requirements as much as possible for grantees. Please review the resources in the [Next Steps for Applicants](#).

Which Costs Are Reimbursable?

Reimbursable costs must help the public water system address its violation or action level exceedance. Eligible costs may include project planning, service line materials inventory, non-routine testing, drilling and abandoning wells, connecting to city water, installing treatment and service line replacement. Refer to Appendix B in the [grant announcement](#) for detailed information on eligible expenses.

Note: Costs incurred before the grant start date on the grant agreement are **not eligible for reimbursement.**

How Long Does It Take To Receive An Award?

The DNR will start processing an application once we receive all the completed application materials for your application. Reviewing and approving eligible projects can take three to six months. Please remember that if your project needs to undergo plan review, that is separate from the grant application process and can take up to three months or more in certain circumstances. Applications can only be approved for grant awards once the plans are approved. For more information, please refer to the [DNR's Drinking Water webpage](#).

What If My Project Costs Are Greater Than My Original Award?

Grantees should not expect to receive additional grant funds above what was issued in the original grant award. Grantees may request an award amendment if additional funds are needed and if their current award is below the grant maximum of \$240,000. Amendment requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and are subject to the availability of funds.



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