

# GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT

## ARPA Well Compensation Grant Program

Issued: October 3, 2022  
Amended: February 16, 2023

Applications Accepted:  
**October 3, 2022**

### Summary of amendments:

- **Section 3.3. Award Amount:** Changes clarify when applicants are eligible for special funding above \$16,000 and outlines calculation of amount of special funding.
- **Section 4.4. Eligible Contamination:** Changes allow an applicant to submit fewer test sample results when there is a recent Department of Natural Resources or Department of Health Services advisory for the well.
- **Section 4.4.2. PFAS contamination:** Changes clarify requirements for PFAS sampling to make consistent with other contaminants.
- **Section 4.4.3. Contaminants without an NR 809 maximum contaminant level, NR 140 enforcement standard, or DHS groundwater recommendation standard:** Changes clarify sampling requirements.

## Grant Announcement ARPA Well Compensation Grant Program

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<b>ATTACHMENTS</b>	
	ARPA Well Compensation Grant Application (on-line) <a href="https://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/forms/8700/8700-392.pdf">https://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/forms/8700/8700-392.pdf</a>
	ARPA Well Abandonment Grant Application (on-line) <a href="https://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/forms/8700/8700-393.pdf">https://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/forms/8700/8700-393.pdf</a>

**10 GENERAL INFORMATION**

**11 Introduction**

The purpose of this document is to assist eligible applicants with preparing and submitting a grant application. The State of Wisconsin represented by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) intends to use results of this Grant Announcement to award up to \$9.385 million in well grants. Funding for this assistance is provided to Wisconsin by the Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

The purpose of the ARPA Well Compensation Grant Program is to provide necessary investment in infrastructure to assure that private well owners and non-community public water system owners are able to supply safe drinking water while protecting the state’s groundwater resources. The program criteria are intended to ensure cost-effective actions that are likely to produce long-term supply of safe drinking water.

There are two types of grants administered under this program: Well Compensation grants for addressing contaminated wells, and Well Abandonment grants for filling and sealing wells. Please note that there are separate eligibility and application requirements for each type of grant.

**12 Granting Agency**

This Grant Announcement is issued by DNR and is the contact for the State of Wisconsin during the application process. All communications to DNR regarding ARPA Well grants should be sent to the following email address:

[DNRARPAWellGrants@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRARPAWellGrants@Wisconsin.gov)

**13 Definitions**

Applicant	Private well owner, renter or water supplier for a non-community public water system
DNR	Department of Natural Resources
State	State of Wisconsin
Grant Administrator	DNR staff who provides assistance with financial administration, forms, application, required documentation
Hydrogeologist	DNR staff who provides technical review of application and documentation.
Non-community public water system	A water system served by one or more wells that regularly serves water to at least 25 of the same people for over 6 months per year or serves a transient population of at least 25 people for 60 days of the year. This may include day care centers, factories, churches, seasonal campgrounds, gas stations, restaurants, motels, public restrooms and taverns.

**14 Clarifications and/or Revisions to the Grant Announcement**

If an applicant discovers any significant ambiguity, error, conflict, discrepancy, omission, or other deficiency in this Grant Announcement, the applicant should notify the department of such error at [DNRARPAWellGrants@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRARPAWellGrants@Wisconsin.gov) and request modification or clarification of the Grant Announcement. If it becomes necessary to provide additional clarifying data or information, or to revise any part of this Grant Announcement, revisions/amendments and/or supplements will be posted to the Program website and announced via email from GovDelivery.

Sign-up for GovDelivery for free at this site: [GovDeliver Sign-up](#)

Each application shall stipulate that it is predicated upon the requirements, terms and conditions of this Grant Announcement and any supplements or revisions thereof.

**15 Reasonable Accommodations**

The Department will provide reasonable accommodations, including the provision of informational material in an alternate format, for qualified individuals with disabilities upon request. Any applicant in need of reasonable accommodations should contact the Grant Administrator via email at [DNRARPAWellGrants@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRARPAWellGrants@Wisconsin.gov)

**16 Calendar of Events**

Listed below are specific and estimated dates/times of actions related to this Grant Announcement. The actions with specific dates must be completed as indicated unless otherwise changed by DNR. If DNR finds it necessary to change any of these dates and/or times, it will do so by issuing an amendment(s) to this Grant Announcement. There may or may not be formal notification issued for changes to estimated dates and times.

<b>EVENT</b>	<b>DUE DATE</b>
Grant Announcement Issue Date	October 3, 2022
Questions & Answers	Posted on website and updated as necessary
Applications Due	Continually through December 6, 2024, or until funds are exhausted, whichever comes first
Issuance of Awards	Upon verification of an eligible application and project plan approval, but not later than December 31, 2026

**2.0 PREPARING AND SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION**

**2.1 General Instructions**

Failure to satisfy each of the requirements in the Grant Announcement may be the basis for rejecting an application. Incomplete applications, including applications that are missing required attachments or documentation, will not be reviewed.

**2.2 Incurring Costs**

The State of Wisconsin is not liable for any cost incurred by applicants in replying to this Grant Announcement.

**2.3 Submitting the Application**

Applicants must submit their application form and all additional materials either by email or by mail. Do not submit an application more than once.

Applications must be received no later than **December 6, 2024**.

On-line applications are located on the Department’s website at [ARPA Well Compensation Grant Program](#) or [ARPA Well Abandonment Grant Program](#).

Online applications must be submitted to: [DNRARPAWellGrants@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRARPAWellGrants@wisconsin.gov)

Paper applications must be mailed to:

**Well Grant Intake  
WI DNR - DG/5  
PO Box 7921  
Madison WI 53707**

### **30 APPLICATION SELECTION AND AWARD PROCESS**

#### **31 Application Review**

Applications will be accepted and reviewed on an ongoing basis. Applications will first be prioritized by the date a complete application is received. The department may prioritize applications on a rolling basis based on the risk to public health.

Applications will be reviewed by Grant Administrator and Hydrogeologist against the eligibility requirements for the program.

Grants will be awarded to eligible applicants continually through December 31, 2024, or until funds are exhausted, whichever comes first.

#### **32 Right to Reject Applications and Negotiate Award Terms**

DNR reserves the right to reject any and all applications. DNR reserves the right to negotiate award terms, including the award amount, with the selected applicant prior to making payment.

#### **33 Award Amounts**

Maximum grant awards will be \$16,000 per eligible well project, unless special funding applies. The total amount of each grant award may not exceed actual cost to complete the project. DNR reserves the right to amend awards in accordance with objectives of the grant and available funding.

DNR may provide special funding to individuals with private wells for eligible well projects above \$16,000. Special funding is not available to applicants that are businesses. Special funding will be calculated using the Median Family Income set by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Special funding will be based on the following:

- If the annual family income of the applicant is 50% or less of the county median family income for the county in which the well project is located, DNR may pay 100% of the eligible expenses.
- If the annual family income of the applicant is more than 50% but not more than 80% of the county median family income in which the well project is located, DNR may pay 50% of the eligible expenses above \$16,000.
- If the applicant's share of eligible expenses above \$16,000 for the project exceeds 25% of the annual family income of the applicant, DNR may pay the remaining eligible expenses.

#### **34 Method of Award**

Successful applicants will receive a Notice of Award in writing.

### **4.0 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

Applicants must meet the criteria set forth below to receive a grant award. DNR shall interpret eligibility criteria to align with the objectives of this grant program and American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 requirements. Eligibility determinations by DNR are final.

Sections are labeled for Well Compensation grant and Well Abandonment grant applicability.

#### **4.1 Income Eligibility (Well Compensation and Well Abandonment)**

- For a **contaminated private water supply** serving a residence, family income may not exceed \$100,000 for the prior calendar year.
  - **Annual Family Income** is determined by the line on the previous year's WI State Income tax that reads, "**This is your Wisconsin Income**" on a jointly filed return. If you file as an individual, your single income will be used to determine income eligibility.
- For a **contaminated non-community public water system well**, business income may not exceed \$100,000 for the prior calendar year.
  - **Annual Business Income** is determined by the line on the previous year's business/partnership WI State Income tax that reads, "**This is Wisconsin Net Income**" or "**Income**".

#### **4.2 Eligible Applicant (Well Compensation and Well Abandonment)**

- Landowner
- Spouse of landowner
- Dependent of landowner
- Heir of landowner
- Assignee or legal representative of landowner
- Renter of land
- Shared well owner of a private residential water supply
- WI business owner of a non-community public water system with a well as a water source

#### **4.3 Ineligible Applicants (Well Compensation and Well Abandonment)**

The following entities are not eligible to apply:

- The state
- An office, department, independent agency, institution of higher education, association, society or other body in state government
- An authority created under subch. II of ch. 114 or ch. 231, 233, 234, 237, or 238, Wis. Stats.
- A city, village, town, county or special purpose district.
- A federal agency, department or instrumentality.
- An interstate agency.

#### **4.4 Eligible Contamination (Well Compensation only)**

Applicants must demonstrate that the well is contaminated. Contamination occurs when a well produces water containing one or more substances of public health concern greater than or

equal to a primary maximum contaminant level established in ch. NR 809, Wis. Admin. Code or an enforcement standard established in ch. NR 140, Wis. Admin. Code.

All samples used to demonstrate contamination must be analyzed by the state laboratory of hygiene or by a laboratory certified under § 299.11, Wis. Stats.

Contamination must be demonstrated by one of the following:

- Test analyses of at least 2 samples of water from the well, taken at least 2 weeks apart (does not apply to bacteria). All samples must be taken within 2 years of the date the application is received by the department.
- Test analysis of at least one sample of water from the well and an advisory issued for the well by the DNR or the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) recommending that the well or water supply not be used for drinking water because of potential human health risks. The advisory must have been issued within 2 years of the date of the application or contamination must be confirmed by an additional sample collected within 2 years of the date of the application.

The following eligibility criteria also apply to specific contaminants:

#### **4.4.1 Bacterial contamination**

- Applicant must supply two laboratory reports showing presence of *E. coli*, and provide information describing attempts to address the contamination through chlorination or other means and that the presence of bacteria persists.
- Samples may be collected closer together than 2 weeks apart, as required for other forms of contamination.
- DNR may also rely on confirmation by DNR field staff of fecal contamination or advisory issued or reviewed by DNR or DHS indicating that the well should not be used for drinking water due to the presence of bacteria or another microbial pathogen.

#### **4.4.2 PFAS contamination**

PFAS contamination occurs when a well produces water containing one or more PFAS compounds at a level that is greater than or equal to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) groundwater recommendation standards for PFAS. The applicant must demonstrate PFAS contamination by one of the two methods described above in Section 4.4(intro).

#### **4.4.3 Contaminants without an NR 809 maximum contaminant level, NR 140 enforcement standard, or DHS groundwater recommendation standard**

Contamination must be demonstrated by an advisory issued by DHS indicating that the well should not be used for drinking water due to the potential human health risks. The advisory must have been issued within 2 years of the date of the application or continuing contamination must be confirmed by an additional sample collected within 2 years of the date of the application.

#### 4.5 Ineligible Contamination (Well Compensation only)

Grants will not be awarded for ineligible contamination. Ineligible contamination includes the following:

- One or more contaminants upon which a claim is based was introduced into the well intentionally by a claimant or a person who would directly benefit by payment of the claim.
- Coliform bacteria positive wells that are not also positive for *E. coli* or another microbial pathogen or another contaminant that exceeds an Wis. Admin. Code ch. NR 809 maximum contaminant level or Wis. Admin. Code ch. NR 140 enforcement standard.

#### 4.6 Remediation Project Sites (Well Compensation and Well Abandonment)

DNR may determine that a well located within an open remediation project site under Wis. Stat. ch. 292 is not eligible for a grant under this program. The department will consider the phase of the site restoration, the remedial actions of the responsible party, and the information available about the contamination.

#### 4.7 Eligible Expenses

The following are eligible expenses for a Well Compensation grant:

- Replacing a water supply, including new or reconstructed wells, or providing a connection to an existing public or private water supply.
- Filling and sealing a contaminated well or a well that is required to be filled and sealed under s. NR 812.26(4).
- Equipment used for treating the contaminated private water supply only if it is determined by the department that a replacement water supply is not likely to remedy the contamination.
- Obtaining an alternate water supply for a maximum period of one year after the date of issuance of an award or emergency authorization to proceed, or until the replacement water supply or equipment used for treating the contaminated private water supply has been installed and completed, whichever is earlier.
- Other costs as deemed reasonable and necessary by the department.

The following are eligible expenses for a Well Abandonment grant:

- Filling and sealing a contaminated well or a well that is required to be filled and sealed under s. NR 812.26(4).
- Other costs as deemed reasonable and necessary by the department.

#### 4.8 Ineligible Expenses (Well Compensation and Well Abandonment)

Payment will not be made for ineligible expenses. Ineligible expenses include the following items:

- Costs incurred before the date of issuance of an award, except for costs for water sampling and analysis to establish contamination. DNR may provide written emergency authorization to allow a future applicant to incur costs before the issuance of an award if DNR determines that an emergency situation exists. Written emergency authorization does not guarantee that DNR will award a grant or determine that the project or costs are otherwise eligible.



- A replacement well greater than 7 inches in outside diameter.
- A replacement well screen greater than 10 feet in length.
- Any state, county or local permit fees or taxes.
- Relocation, replacement or abandonment of sewer piping, buried fuel tanks, or other similar items.
- Any costs incurred in the installation of a replacement water supply or equipment used for treating the contaminated water supply that are not approved by DNR.
- Any costs incurred for the installation of equipment used for treating a replacement water supply unless the grantee has submitted a new claim and DNR has approved additional costs for treatment.
- Mileage, phone, postage, and other miscellaneous costs incurred by the claimant
- Any land acquisitions, municipal administrative costs, laboratory facilities, fire protection, and municipal water treatment facilities other than for continuous chlorination, or treatment of surface water supplies.
- The grantee's share of any assessment for distribution mains that are not necessary to provide a municipal water supply.
- Any costs that DNR determines to be unreasonable or unnecessary.

Additional ineligible expenses include, but are not limited to, a purpose that conflicts with or contravenes the purpose of the American Rescue Plan Act statute, and any other ineligible use under the American Rescue Plan Act statute or guidance.

## **5.0 REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS**

### **5.1 Well Compensation Application Attachments**

- The completed ARPA Well Compensation Grant Application Claim.
- Signed letter from property owner authorizing the proposed actions (only needed if the applicant is different than the well owner and the owner signature is not included on application).
- Lab results demonstrating contamination or DNR/DHS advisory, or both.
- Copy of well construction report for the existing contaminated well.
- Detailed description of all feasible alternatives and an itemized costs estimate for selected alternative (see Section V. on the ARPA Well Compensation Grant Application Claim).
- Complete W-9 (form with original signature for grant payment).
- Copy of your most recently filed State of Wisconsin Income Tax Return (not federal).
  - Note: If you are not required to file a state tax return or your income will be less than what is listed on your most recently files return, submit the appropriate affidavit as explained in Section IV of the application instructions.
- Complete W-9 (form with original signature for grant payment).

### **5.2 Well Abandonment Application Attachments**

- The completed ARPA Well Abandonment Grant Application Claim.
- Signed letter from property owner authorizing the proposed actions (only needed if the applicant is different than the well owner and the owner signature is not included on application).

- Copy of your most recently filed State of Wisconsin Income Tax Return (not federal).
  - Note: If you are not required to file a state tax return or your income will be less than what is listed on your most recently files return, submit the appropriate affidavit as explained in Section I. of the application instructions.
- Complete W-9 (form with original signature for grant payment).
- Itemized estimate from a licensed well driller or licenses pump installer. Cost must be listed separately.

## **6.0 NEW APPLICATIONS**

A grantee who received an award for the purpose of construction or reconstructing a water supply or connection to a water supply may submit a new application under the following conditions:

- If the contamination is from a new source and, if the previous award was for a new or reconstructed water supply, the well was constructed properly, or
- If the contamination is not eliminated and, if the award was for a new or reconstructed water supply, the well was constructed properly.