

West Virginia

Drinking Water Treatment Revolving Fund

Emerging Contaminants for Small and Disadvantaged Communities (ECSDC) Funding Expression of Interest Guidelines

Overview

This grant funding opportunity will be used to provide eligible remediation solutions in small and/or disadvantaged public water systems (PWS) found to have finished water above PFAS health advisory level/MCL's. The state will assist the PWS to plan for and implement treatment technologies or other remediation solutions necessary to reduce PFAS. These technologies may include activated carbon adsorption, ion exchange resins, and high-pressure membranes. Alternative remediation solutions such as new source development or water system consolidation may also be pursued.

Eligible Systems

1. Must be a public water system
2. Must be a small or disadvantaged community
 - a) Population of fewer than 10,000 individuals
 - b) Meets the definition of disadvantaged in the Drinking Water Treatment Revolving Fund (DWTRF) Intended Use Plan that is in effect at the time of funding commitment.
3. Must provide at least 2 quarterly test results from a certified lab using an EPA approved method verifying elevated PFAS results.

Available Funding

1. The program has currently been awarded \$28,371,000 to fund eligible projects
2. WV anticipates receiving another 2 allotments of \$9,457,000 each over the next two years
3. Funding will be awarded as subgrants
4. No state match will be required
5. Priority will be given to those with the highest levels of PFAS

Eligible Expenses

1. Project planning & design – May include preliminary engineering reports, action plans, design plans, new source exploration, water system consolidation assessments, and other pre-project activities necessary to determine which treatment technology or other solution is best suited to address the project needs.
2. Project construction.
3. Other pre-project expenses like administration, accounting, legal etc., will need to be funded from another source of funding.
4. All projects funded under the ECSDC will be subject to equivalency requirements such as BABAA, DBE, Single Audit, etc.

Public Communication

All subaward recipients will be required to engage with the public throughout the planning and remediation process. PWS's will be required to communicate information about the selected remediation measures to residents, provide an opportunity for additional public input and engagement, and lay out remediation steps moving forward. After remediation activities are completed, the PWS will inform residents of what was completed and plans for any ongoing sampling to monitor PFAS levels.

In order to ensure communication will reach all members of the community, WV will require PWS's to have multiple levels of delivery to ensure a good faith effort is made to reach all consumers of the PWS. The multiple methods of delivery will include a combination of emails, physical mailers, social media posts, and announcements at public events (fairs, school board meetings, etc.). The PWS must also have communications available in multiple languages in communities where greater than 10% of the population are non-English proficient. A PWS must make an effort to communicate to all billing and non-billing persons that may be impacted by PFAS in their drinking water.

Technical Assistance Resources

EPA's Tackling Emerging Contaminants (TEC) Water Technical Assistance (WaterTA) is available to support small or disadvantaged communities assess and address emerging contaminants and PFAS in drinking water. This initiative offers no-cost services to help water systems develop:

1. Sampling and analysis activities, including initial diagnostic monitoring, sampling plans, laboratory analyses, and water quality evaluation reports.
2. Technical plans, including alternatives analysis, preliminary engineering reports, and source water contaminant identification, mitigation evaluations and plans.
3. Implementation support/funding deliverables, including identifying funding options and preparation of funding application materials such as cost estimates or preliminary engineering reports.

4. Operational training support, including sampling training, operator training for new treatment systems, operation manuals, and standard operating procedures.
5. Community engagement plans, including developing outreach and engagement strategies in collaboration with the water system, identifying community-based partners and stakeholders, identifying and hosting public events and other opportunities to engage with and solicit feedback from community members, and sharing relevant and accessible information with the public. The TEC WaterTA Initiative offers services that help build capacity for a community to apply for funding; it does not provide direct funding.

The WaterTA request form for Water TA assistance such as TEC can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/water-infrastructure/forms/water-technical-assistance-request-form>.

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1. Public Water System Name and Location:

2. PWSID Number:

3. Contact Information:

4. Water Source:

5. PFAS test results:

(Attach test results with your submittal)

6. 3,400 gallon drinking water rate:

7. Population:

8. Project Scope:

9. Estimate Project Costs:

a. Estimated costs related to PFAS treatment:

10. Project Timeline: