

## GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT

### **Underserved Drinking Water System Grant Program**

Addressing Regulated Contaminants In OTMs &  
Non-Profit NNs

Cycle B

**Issued:** January 30, 2026

**Application Opens:** February 1, 2026

**Application Closes:** September 30, 2026

**Grant Announcement  
Underserved Drinking Water System Grant  
Program**

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## **10 GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **11 Introduction**

The purpose of this document is to assist applicants with preparing and submitting a grant application for the Underserved Drinking Water System Grant Program, which is funded by the federal Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Small, Underserved and Disadvantaged Communities (SUDC) Grant Program. Cycle A is funded with Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 21 rollover / FFY22 / FFY23 / FFY24 carryover funds from the EPA SUDC Grant Program.

The State of Wisconsin, represented by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), intends to use the results of this grant announcement to award approximately \$1.3 million in grants to eligible OTM or non-profit NN public water systems to help the systems return to compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirements. These two types of public water systems regularly serve the same people for at least six months of the year but are not eligible to receive funding through the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program.

The federal cost-share requirements are waived for this funding cycle. Grantees will not be responsible for providing a match to the funding received.

### **12 Granting Agency**

This grant announcement is issued by the DNR, which is the contact for the State of Wisconsin during the application process. All communications to the DNR regarding these grants should be sent to the following email address: [DNRUnderservedGrants@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRUnderservedGrants@wisconsin.gov).

### **13 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 DNR of such error at [DNRUnderservedGrants@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRUnderservedGrants@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.

### **14 Reasonable Accommodations**

The DNR 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 manager via email at [DNRUnderservedGrants@wisconsin.gov](mailto: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

## 15 Definitions

The definitions below are intended for this grant announcement only.

Applicant	The eligible water system owner or authorized representative.
DNR	The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.
Eligible Water System	Eligible water system means existing and active OTMs and non-profit NNs in the Wisconsin Drinking Water System Database.
National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR)	Drinking water requirements established in the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) section 1412A ( <a href="#">40 CFR Part 141 -- National Primary Drinking Water Regulations</a> ).
Non-Profit	An organization that is a government entity, a school district or is described under section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4) or 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code and which does not lobby.
Non-Transient Non-Community Public Water System (NN)	A water system that regularly serves at least 25 of the same persons over six months per year but does not serve year-round residents. For example, schools and daycare centers may meet this definition. This definition is intended to be consistent with Wis. Admin. Code § NR 810.02(3).
Other-Than- Municipal Community Public Water System (OTM)	A water system that has 15 service connections used by year-round residents or regularly serves at least 25 year-round residents, and is not owned by a city, village, county, town, town sanitary district, utility district, public inland lake and rehabilitation district, municipal water district or a federal, state, county or municipal-owned institution for congregate care or correction, or a privately owned water utility serving the foregoing. This may include systems serving seven or more homes, 10 or more mobile homes, 10 or more apartment units, or 10 or more condominium units unless information is available to indicate that 25 year-round residents will not be served. For example, mobile home parks, apartment buildings and condominium associations may meet this definition. This definition is intended to be consistent with Wis. Admin. Code § NR 810.02(33).
Small	A public water system that serves a community of less than 10,000 individuals. This definition is intended to be consistent with the eligible entity definition for small communities under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) § 1459A (c)(2)(B).
State	The State of Wisconsin.
Underserved	A community served by a public water system that violates or exceeds, as applicable, a requirement of a national primary drinking water regulation (NPDWR), including a maximum contaminant level, a treatment technique or an action level. This definition is intended to be consistent with the eligible entity definition for underserved communities under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) § 1459A (a)(2).

## 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 the DNR. If the DNR finds it necessary to change any of these dates and/or times, it will do so by issuing amendment(s) to this grant announcement. There may or may not be formal notification issued for changes to estimated dates and times.

EVENT	DUE DATE
Grant Announcement Issue Date	January 30, 2026
Applications Due	September 30, 2026, or until funds are exhausted, whichever comes first
Issuance Of Awards	The time between submitting a completed application and receiving a grant award agreement typically ranges from three to six months.

## 2.0 PREPARING AND SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

### 2.1 General Instructions

Failure to satisfy each of the requirements in the grant announcement may result in rejection. Incomplete applications, including those 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 by email. Do not submit an application more than once. If you need reasonable accommodations, please refer to section 1.4 above for additional information.

Applications must be received no later than September 30, 2026. Applications must be submitted by email to [DNRUnderservedGrants@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRUnderservedGrants@wisconsin.gov).

## 3.0 APPLICATION SELECTION AND AWARD PROCESS

### 3.1 Application Review & Prioritization

Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis. The DNR will review complete applications in the order they are received using the eligibility requirements for the program.

Applications will be accepted continually until September 30, 2026, or until funds are exhausted, whichever comes first.

### **3.2 Right To Reject Applications And Negotiate Award Terms**

The DNR reserves the right to reject any and all applications and to negotiate award terms, including the award amount, with the selected applicant prior to executing a grant agreement.

### **3.3 Award Amounts**

The maximum grant award is \$240,000 per eligible water system. The total amount of each grant award may not exceed the actual cost to complete the project. The DNR reserves the right to amend awards in accordance with the objectives of the grant and the availability of funding.

### **3.4 Cost-Share Requirements**

The EPA waived the federal cost-share requirements. A grantee may receive a grant award on 100% of eligible costs up to \$240,000.

### **3.5 Method Of Award & Performance Period**

Successful applicants will receive an award letter and grant agreement with conditions. The typical performance period for a grant agreement is 18 months.

## **4.0 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

Applicants must meet the eligibility requirements in this section to receive a grant award. The DNR shall interpret eligibility criteria to align with the objectives of this grant program, the WIIN Act and applicable federal laws, regulations and guidance. The project must be otherwise eligible for funding under SDWA §1459A(a) through (j), except (g) cost-sharing is waived.

### **4.1 Eligible Water System Applicant**

- Small OTM that serves an underserved community.
- Small non-profit NN that serves an underserved community.

The application must be submitted by the owner or authorized representative of an eligible water system.

### **4.2 Eligible Project**

The project must indicate how the proposed activities are necessary for the eligible water system to comply with the SDWA by addressing an active violation or an active exceedance of a national primary drinking water regulation (NPDWR) issued under the SDWA and Wis. Admin. Code ch. NR 809, including:

- An active maximum contaminant level (MCL) violation, except PFAS MCLs,
- An active treatment technique (TT) violation, or
- An active action level exceedance (ALE)

The violation or exceedance must be included in the list of eligible violation codes in Appendix A.

### **4.3 Ineligible Contamination**

Grants will not be awarded for ineligible contamination. The following are ineligible contamination:

- PFAS
- One or more contaminants upon which an application is based that were introduced into the water source intentionally by an applicant or a person who would directly benefit by payment of the award.

### **4.4 Eligible Sampling**

All samples reimbursed under this grant program shall be submitted to a laboratory certified or registered under Wis. Admin. Code ch. NR 149.

### **4.5 Eligible Expenses**

Eligible Expenses for a project are included in Appendix B. A summary of the general categories is below:

- Technical, managerial and financial (TMF) assistance, including project planning, staff training and service line materials inventory.
- Non-routine and non-compliance testing.
- Source water, including the development of new sources and intakes or wells.
- Consolidation, including connecting to an existing public water system with safe water.
- Transmission and distribution, including infrastructure improvements and service line replacement.
- Storage, including new or replaced storage tanks.
- Treatment, including new or upgraded facilities.
- Other costs that the DNR deems reasonable and necessary for the completion of the Eligible Project and that are consistent with the EPA guidance for the program.

### **4.6 Ineligible Expenses**

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

- Costs incurred before the grant start date on the grant agreement.
- Purchase of land, easements, rights-of-way and relocations.
- Routine compliance monitoring and sampling required in NR 809 and the SDWA.
- Operations and maintenance costs.
- Partial lead service line replacement.
- Replacement of premise plumbing (private side lead service line replacement is eligible).
- Funding for bottled water.
- Remediation of contaminated groundwater or underlying aquifers.
- Construction or rehabilitation of dams.
- Purchase of water rights unless the water rights are owned by a system to be purchased for consolidation as part of a capacity development strategy.
- Construction or rehabilitation of reservoirs, except for finished water reservoirs and those reservoirs that are part of the treatment process and are on the property where the treatment facility is located.
- Activities needed primarily for fire protection.
- Activities needed primarily to serve future population growth.

- Activities that have received assistance from the tribal allotment for tribal nations.
- Costs that are unallowable (e.g., lobbying and alcoholic beverages) under 2 CFR 200 Subpart E – Cost Principles.
- Expenses that conflict with or contravene the purpose of the WIIN Act or federal guidance.
- Any costs that the DNR determines to be unreasonable, unnecessary or not approvable.

## **5.0 REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS**

- Application Form
- Environmental Review Form
- W-9 Form
- NNs only: IRS Tax-Exempt Affirmation Letter, unless owned by a government or a school district

## **6.0 AWARD PAYMENTS AND AMENDMENTS**

### **6.1 Reimbursement Requests**

Payments of the grant award will be made on a reimbursement basis, with quarterly reimbursement requests for actual and eligible expenses incurred. The DNR may allow alternate payment methods that are consistent with federal and state requirements on a case-by-case basis. The DNR may require inspection of the project before payment is made. The DNR will only reimburse for costs incurred during the performance period unless the DNR approves pre-award project costs. The DNR may withhold 20% of grant award funds for final payment.

### **6.2 Award Amendment Requests**

If the initial grant award is below \$240,000 and the grantee identifies additional eligible expenses after the issuance of the grant agreement, the grantee may request an amendment to the award amount up to a total of \$240,000. Amendment requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

## **7.0 PROJECT COMPLETION**

### **7.1 Additional Sampling**

During the performance period, the DNR may determine that additional sampling for the grant program is required, in which case the samples shall be submitted to a laboratory certified or registered under Wis. Admin. Code ch. NR 149.

### **7.2 Inspection**

Upon project completion, the DNR may require an inspection to ensure work is completed.

## **8.0 FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS**

Funding for the Underserved Drinking Water System Grant Program comes from federal funds from the WIIN Act. All projects are required to comply with applicable federal laws including, but not limited to, Appendix B.

## Appendix A: Eligible Codes

	<b>Exceedance/Violation Type</b>	<b>DNR Violation Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Revised Total Coliform Rule</b>	MCL_RTCT	1A	E. Coli MCL – RTCT
	MCL_RTCT	1AS	Assume E. Coli MCL for C/R Missing Samples or E. Coli – RTCT
	TT_RTCT	2A	L1 Assessment Completion – RTCT
	TT_RTCT	2B	L2 Assessment Completion – RTCT
	TT_RTCT	2C	Fail to complete Corrective Action for L1/L2/ASV – RTCT
<b>Chemicals</b>	MCL_CHEM	11	Chemical MCL – Single Sample
	MCL_CHEM	12	Chemical MCL – Average
	MCL_CHEM	91	MRDL
<b>Ground Water Rule</b>	TT_GWR	41G	Failure to maintain microbial treatment
	TT_GWR	45	Failure to address a significant deficiency
<b>Lead/Copper Rule</b>	Action Level Exceedance (Corrosion Opt)	N/A	PbCu Exceedance
	TT_PBCU	57	OCCT Study Recommendation
	TT_PBCU	58	OCCT Installation/Demonstration
	TT_PBCU	59	Optimal WQP Noncompliance at EP
	TT_PBCU	60	Optimal WQP Noncompliance at DS
	TT_PBCU	61	SOWT Recommendation
	TT_PBCU	62	SOWT Installation
	TT_PBCU	63	MPL Noncompliance
	TT_PBCU	64	PBCU Lead Service Line Replacement
	TT_PBCU	65	PBCU Public Education
<b>Disinfection Byproducts Rule</b>	TT_DBP	37	Failure to have approved significant treatment modifications
	TT_DBP	46	Failure to meet DBP precursor removal (TOC)

## Appendix B: List of Eligible Expenses

- **Technical, Managerial and Financial Assistance**
  - Project planning and design
    - Planning activities for taking corrective action to resolve contamination.
    - Planning and design of infrastructure improvements.
    - Developing cost estimates for project planning.
  - Training for system staff related to technical, managerial and financial capacity.
  - On-site visits to systems experiencing compliance challenges.
  - Water/energy audits.
  - Completion of an engineering feasibility study to highlight operational areas of improvement.
  - Operator certification training to qualifying systems.
  - Completion of environmental reviews.
  - Preparation of Consumer Confidence Reports.
  - Rate evaluations and project development.
  - Drafting source water protection activities.
  - Asset management.
  - Identification and inventory of service lines, including lead service lines.
  - Contracts, including contracts with nonprofit organizations that have water system technical expertise, to provide technical assistance.
  - Risk communication/public notification activities.
  
- **Testing**
  - Non-routine, non-compliance testing
    - Pilot testing for treatment alternatives
    - Post-corrective action testing to verify whether contaminant(s) are still present after removal actions have been completed.
  - Note: Funding from the grant program cannot be used for routine compliance monitoring and sampling. All samples that are reimbursed with grant funds must have been submitted to a laboratory certified or registered under Wis. Admin. Code ch. NR 149.
  
- **Source Water**
  - Development of new sources to replace a contaminated drinking water source or to increase drought resilience.
  - Raw water intakes, wells or other constructed infrastructure that allows for movement of raw water into the treatment plant or into the distribution system.
  - Source water protection activities (e.g., developing source water protection plans and plan updates, contaminant source mitigation, well abandonment, etc.).
  - Alternative supply in case of emergency or drought, such as:
    - Interconnections
    - Surface water intakes
    - Ground water wells
  - Riverbank filtration wells
    - Plugging abandoned wells when new replacement wells are drilled.
  - Investigation of a suspected water contamination incident to determine the extent of contamination.
  
- **Consolidation**
  - Purchase of a water system.
  - Interconnection of systems:
    - to resolve the SDWA noncompliance
    - to achieve the technical, managerial and financial capacity needed to prevent noncompliance
    - to reduce the overall per household cost of service
    - for resiliency

- Notes:
  - Funding from the grant program cannot be used to purchase land, easements, rights-of-way, or relocations (prohibited by SDWA § 1459A(g) [42 U.S.C. 300j-19a(g)]).
  - Consolidation activities cannot be for growth purposes. Exceptions will be considered for eligible water systems in small and disadvantaged communities to consolidate with an existing system that has adequate technical, managerial and financial capacity.
- **Transmission and Distribution**
  - Installation, replacement or rehabilitation of infrastructure to improve water pressure to safe levels or to prevent contamination caused by non-potable liquids entering the system through leaks or pipe breaks.
    - Transmission mains
    - Distribution mains
    - Meters (e.g., flow meters, customer meters, master meters)
    - Appurtenances (e.g., valves, hydrants, pipe restraints)
    - Pump stations
  - Service line replacements, regardless of pipe material and ownership of the property on which the service line is located (service line can be replaced up to premise plumbing)
  - New water main extensions to serve existing residents not served by a safe supply of potable water (this includes installation of the service line up to premise plumbing).
  - Note: Partial replacement of lead service lines are not permitted under this grant program.
- **Storage**
  - New storage or replacement/rehabilitation of existing structures to continue to maintain compliance and protect public health by:
    - Preventing microbiological contaminants from entering a public water system
    - Equalizing water demands
    - Reducing pressure fluctuations in the distribution system
    - Providing reserves when power outages and other emergencies occur
    - Providing drought resiliency
  - Note: Pressure tanks are not considered storage tanks.
- **Treatment**
  - Construction of new treatment facilities or portions of facilities including:
    - Mixers/Flocculation/Sedimentation
    - Filtration
    - Chemical addition systems and equipment
    - Disinfection
    - Filter backwash recycling
    - Residuals handling
    - On-site generation of disinfectants
    - Corrosion control infrastructure
  - Upgrades, rehabilitation or replacement of facilities or portions of facilities.
  - Raw water storage that is part of the treatment process and located on the property where the treatment facility is located.
  - Point of access or point of use treatment devices (i.e. filters) will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and require prior department approval. If approved, this is only eligible if the device is the compliance treatment technology and the devices are owned and maintained by the eligible water system.
- **Other costs that the DNR deems reasonable and necessary for the completion of the Eligible Project and that are consistent with the EPA guidance for the program.**

## Appendix C: List of Federal Requirements

### **Environmental Authorities**

- Archeological and Historic Preservation Act, Pub. L. 93-291, as amended
- Clean Air Act, Pub. L. 95-95, as amended
- Clean Water Act, Titles III, IV and V, Pub. L. 92-500, as amended
- Coastal Barrier Resources Act, Pub. L. 97-348
- Coastal Zone Management Act, Pub. L. 92-583, as amended
- Endangered Species Act, Pub. L. 93-205, as amended
- Flood Plain Management, Executive Order 11988 as amended by Executive Order 12148 and 13690
- Intergovernmental Review, Executive Order 12372
- Protection of Wetlands, Executive Order 11990 as amended by Executive Order 12608
- Farmland Protection Policy Act, Pub. L. 97-98
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Pub. L. 85-624, as amended
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Pub. L. 94-265
- National Historic Preservation Act, Pub. L. 89-655, as amended
- Safe Drinking Water Act, Pub L. 93-523, as amended
- Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Pub. L. 90-54, as amended

### **Economic And Miscellaneous Authorities**

- Build America, Buy America Act (BABA), P.L. 117-58, §§ 70901-52
- Debarment and Suspension, Executive Order 12549
- Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act, Pub. L. 89 -754, as amended
- Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs, Executive Order 12372
- Drug-Free Workplace Act, Pub. L. 100-690
- New Restrictions on Lobbying, Section 319 of Pub. L. 101-121
- Prohibition on Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment (2 CFR 200.216)
- Prohibitions relating to violations of the Clean Water Act or Clean Air Act with respect to Federal contracts, grants, or loans under Section 306 of the Clean Air Act and Section 508 of the Clean Water Act, and Executive Order 11738
- Uniform Relocation and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act, Pub. L. 91-646, as amended

### **Civil Rights, Nondiscrimination, Equal Employment Opportunity Authorities**

- Age Discrimination Act, Pub. L. 94-135
- Section 13 of the Clean Water Act, Pub. L. 92-500
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Pub. L 93-112 supplemented by Executive Orders 11914 and 11250
- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, Pub. L 88-352

### **Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Authorities**

- Participation by Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in Procurement Under U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Financial Assistance Agreements