

# WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## Notification of Environmental Justice Assessment on the Source Water Protection Local Assistance Grant Program

May 5, 2025

### WHAT

The Department of Health (DOH) is conducting an Environmental Justice Assessment on the Source Water Protection Local Assistance Grant Program. This grant provides financial assistance to help public water systems protect drinking water through activities such as reducing contamination or supporting water supply.

The purpose of an environmental justice assessment is to identify:

- Who might be most impacted by this grant program
- The environmental benefits, harms, and health impacts of the grant
- Ways to minimize or eliminate negative environmental impacts
- How to equitably distribute positive environmental impacts.

Visit our [Environmental Justice webpage](#) to learn more about Environmental Justice Assessments.

### WHY

Water systems must provide safe and reliable sources of drinking water. Source water protection means proactively keeping water clean, safe, and reliable, rather than waiting until the water becomes polluted or a well runs dry. The Source Water Protection Local Assistance Grant gives funding for these projects.

We would like more water systems to use our grant to protect source water. We are reviewing and updating our grant guidelines and are seeking feedback on our program priorities to ensure funding is directed to communities most impacted by water quality and quantity concerns.

### WHO

We are trying to reach people served by public water systems that may have problems with their drinking water supply. We are specifically interested in hearing from communities that experience existing or systematic inequities, including but not limited to tribes; communities of color, low-income or rural communities; migrant workers, those who have chronic health conditions or sensitivities, or anyone else who may have concerns about their drinking water.

We are also interested in hearing from public water systems, local governments, nonprofit organizations, conservation groups, and tribal entities that operate or work with water systems experiencing contamination concerns, declining aquifers, climate change impacts, drought, or growth demands,

***If you identify as a member of one or more of these groups and*** would like to share your thoughts or connect with one of our staff, please contact us at [sourcewaterprotection@doh.wa.gov](mailto:sourcewaterprotection@doh.wa.gov) or see ways to get involved below.

## WHEN

See below for our proposed timeline and how the environmental justice assessment fits into that process. We highlighted in grey when the public can engage in the assessment and rulemaking process. These timelines and milestones may change. To stay current, please visit the program website or use the contact information provided below.

Date	Milestone/Action	Purpose
May 2025	EJA Notification	Feedback opportunities announced via GovDelivery List and website.
May – July 2025	Community Engagement	Gather feedback about source water protection priorities, funding opportunities, and grant guidelines through online surveys and listening sessions.
June 2025	Tribal Engagement	Gather input from tribal leaders about source water protection priorities and grant guidelines through tribal listening sessions.
August 2025	Draft Guidelines	Draft source water protection grant guidelines published.
August – Sept 2025	Public Comment	Public comment opportunities on draft grant guidelines.
Fall 2025	Final Guidelines	Environmental Justice Assessment and final grant guidelines are published to website.

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

We publish a survey and hold virtual listening sessions from May – July 2025. Please [sign up for email updates](#) to learn more opportunities to get involved!

To schedule a private meeting outside of the virtual listening sessions, or to provide written feedback outside of the survey please email [sourcewaterprotection@doh.wa.gov](mailto:sourcewaterprotection@doh.wa.gov).

The draft guidelines will be published to our website in August 2025. There will be a public comment period from August to September. Visit <https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/drinking-water/source-water/local-assistance-grant-program> for information about the Source Water Protection Local Assistance Grant Program, and to stay up to date with grant activities, including public comment opportunities.

For questions about the Source Water Protection Local Assistance Grant or the environmental justice assessment, please contact Chelsea Cannard at [chelsea.cannard@doh.wa.gov](mailto:chelsea.cannard@doh.wa.gov).



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