



EMERGING CONTAMINANTS IN SMALL OR DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

Presenters



DWSRF

Interim Grant Administrator

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@WADeptHealth

EC-SDC Background

- Available to public water systems (PWS) serving small or disadvantaged communities
- Focus on polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) (a.k.a., forever chemicals), but includes manganese, and cyanotoxins (a.k.a., harmful algal blooms [HABs])
- Provides free technical assistance and funding for water sampling, short-term solutions, water system infrastructure improvements
- Federal grant

EC-SDC Eligibility Overview



Contaminants

- PFAS
- Manganese
- Cyanotoxins



Water Systems

- Group A
 - Community
 - Non-transient non-community (NTNC)
 - Transient non-community (TNC)*



Communities

- Disadvantaged
- Small

** TNCs must be located in an area of concern*

Eligible Contaminants

- PFAS exceeding EPA maximum contamination level (MCL)
 - Found in *everything*
 - Can cause all manners of illness
- Manganese contamination exceeding the secondary MCL or health advisory level (HAL)
 - Naturally occurring mineral found in the ground and food
 - Small exposure = good; Elevated exposure = not so good
- Documented HAB
 - Excessive algal growth due to ag runoff or wastewater discharge
 - Freshwater = cyanotoxin

Eligible Water Systems

- Group A water systems ([WAC 246-290-020 \(5\)](#)):
 - Community water systems as defined by [WAC 246-290-020 \(5a\)](#).
 - Non-transient non-community water systems (NTNC) as defined by [WAC 246-290-020 \(5bi\)](#) not owned by state, federal or for-profit entities.
 - Transient non-community water systems (TNC) as defined by [WAC 246-290-020 \(5bii\)](#) not owned by state, federal, or for-profit entities, if in an area of known contamination (see [EC-SDC Guidance](#)).

Eligible Communities

- **Small Communities.** PWS serving 10,000 people or less (maximum total population) that do not have the capacity to incur debt sufficiently to finance a project or activity under the grant program:
 - Less than 500 max total population
 - Do not have an [approved planning document](#), such as Water System Plan or Small Water System Management Program
- **Disadvantaged Communities (DAC).** [WAC 246-296-020](#), PWS meets DAC criteria outlined in the [DWSRF Construction Loan Guidelines, Appendix B 331-196 \(PDF\)](#).*

**[Disadvantaged Community Map](#) may be used by interested parties as a guide for potential DAC qualification, but PWSs owned and operated by federally recognized tribes are not mapped, as this data is not available.*

Prioritization

- Priority Emerging Contaminants
 - PFAS compound Stat Actionable Level (SAL) exceedances
 - PFAS compound Maximum Contamination Level (MCL) exceedances
 - Cyanotoxin or manganese HAL (Health Advisory Levels) exceedances
 - Cyanotoxin or manganese MCL exceedances
- Priority Groups
 - Disadvantaged communities over small-not-disadvantaged communities
 - Community water systems over NTNC; and NTNC over TNC
 - Not-for-profit community systems over for-profit community systems

Tribal Opportunities

- [July 2024 Rule Change](#): DWSRF adopted an amendment to the “disadvantaged community” definition to include federally recognized tribes serving residential connections within a public water system
- The state-funded EC-SDC grant is a supplemental opportunity to the EPA-offered [the EC-SDC Tribal Grant Program](#)
 - DAC is not a guarantee of award

Prioritization Continued

- Priority Projects
 - Consolidation
 - New Source Development
 - Treatment

Sampling

- January 2023 – December 2025: All Group A Community and NTNC water systems are required to monitor for PFAS (state)
- Initial PFAS monitoring due by April 2027 (federal)
- Free PFAS testing is provided by [WA DOH](#)
- Results count toward state and federal requirements
- TNC may be eligible for water sampling funding if the water system falls within an area of concern (see next slide)

Areas of Concern

- Within one mile of a fire station or fire training facility.
- Within one mile of a landfill.
- Within one mile of a wastewater treatment plant outfall or large on-site sewage system drain field.
- Within one mile of a public water system (PWS) source with a known PFAS detection.
- Within two miles of a United States Department of Defense site.
- Within two miles of an airport.

Short-term Mitigation

- Pitcher filters and annual replacements for affected households of eligible water systems
- Water system must be working toward a long-term solution
- Short-term mitigation has additional prioritization (see next slide)
- EC-SDC program administrator will work with each water system to determine best solution for purchasing and distributing pitchers and filters.

Short-term Mitigation Prioritization

- Greater than 70 ppt PFOA or PFOS (HAL) to households served by public water systems meeting the eligibility requirements of the EC-SDC grant.
- Less than HAL but >SAL; in prioritization order:
 - Communities meeting Disadvantaged Communities definition.
 - Communities meeting small definition in EC-SDC workplan.
 - Highest PFAS levels first.
- Greater than MCLs.

Additionally, we will prioritize water systems providing short-term mitigation that give precedence to:

- Pregnant women and formula fed infants.
- Households with children under five years old.

Technical Assistance

- EC-SDC can provide free [technical assistance](#) (TA) to eligible water systems working toward long-term remediation
- Engineering contracts to provide:
 - Alternatives analysis
 - Treatment design
 - New source development
 - Planning documents
 - Funding eligibility

Planning and Engineering Grants

- Additional funds to subsidize planning and engineering (P&E) needs
 - Available on a first-come basis
 - Assists with planning documents and engineering design
- DWSRF program provides funding for:
 - P&E
 - Consolidation, Restructuring, and Regionalization feasibility
 - New Source Development
 - Water Source Treatment

Washington Loan Tracking (WALT)

- EC-SDC and DWSRF use WALT for project submission, review, and determinations
- See [How to Apply for DWSRF Funding](#)
- We will connect water systems with other DWSRF funding opportunities as needed.

How to Get Started

Submit a [technical assistance request](#)!

Be responsive!

Be receptive!

What does this system need help with?*

Select all that apply

- Funding for a project
- Budget and rates
- Lead service line inventory
- Plan for a project
- Consolidating or restructuring multiple systems
- Managing a water system
- PFAS or other contaminants
- Other

Coming Up...

- Alternative Drinking Water Program (ADWP)
 - Filtration needs for Group Bs and Private Wells
 - Under the counter filters and bottled water
 - EC-SDC funding for Group As
 - Pitcher filters
- EC-SDC Application Cycles
 - More competitive
 - Same cycle as other SRF funding

Relevant Contact Information

- General DWSRF questions: dwsrf@doh.wa.gov
- TA inquiries: watersystemhelp@doh.wa.gov
- DWSRF Program Manager: Chris.Pettit@doh.wa.gov
- EC-SDC Grant Administrator: Samantha.Delmer@doh.wa.gov

Relevant Links and Resources

- [Emerging Contaminants in Small and Disadvantaged Communities \(EC-SDC\) Guidance document | WA DOH](#)
- [EC-SDC Eligibility and Background 2-pager | WA DOH](#)
- [Technical Assistance Request Form | WA DOH](#)
- [Drinking Water State Revolving Fund webpage | WA DOH](#)
- [EC-SDC Tribal Grant Program | US EPA](#)

QUESTIONS



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