



# EMERGING CONTAMINANTS IN SMALL OR DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

# Presenters

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**DWSRF**

*Interim Grant Administrator*

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@WADeptHealth

# EC-SDC Background

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- 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

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## 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- **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

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- 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

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- [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

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- Priority Projects
  - Consolidation
  - New Source Development
  - Treatment

# Sampling

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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)

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- 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...

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- 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

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