Local Source Water Protection Grant Program

Guidance for Grant Application

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Program Manager

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Local Source Water Protection Grant Program

- Grant program initiated in 1997
- Federally funded through the Drinking Water SRF
- Planning, Implementation, Public Outreach, and more
- Up to $25,000 ($30,000 if addressing climate change challenges)

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Public Water Supplies in NH

- Over 700 community water systems in NH and over 2,300 public water supply sources.
- Approximately 36 PWSs use ~ 55 surface water sources, including NH's major cities.
- Source protection is largely voluntary and implemented primarily at the local level.

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Reasons to Apply

- Help plan and prepare for difficult circumstances
- To get your project started and moving forward
- Help mitigate impacts to source waters
- Save $ in the long term

To protect valuable drinking water sources!

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Who Can Apply?

- Water Suppliers
- Regional Planning Commissions
- County Conservation Districts
- Watershed Associations
- Municipalities
- Nonprofit Organizations
- State Agencies
- Educational Institutions

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Eligibility Criteria

- Maximum $25,000 (or $30,000 for projects that address climate change)
- Must address an active or planned source of drinking water for a public water system
- Must address a component of source water protection
- New or updated SWP or other plans must address climate change impacts on sources

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Source Water Protection Program Elements

- Delineation
- Assessment
- Planning
- Implementation
- Security

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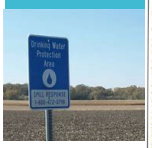
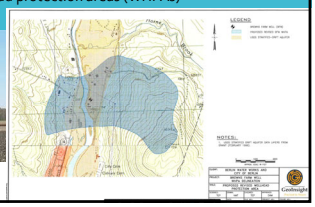
Delineation Projects

- Refine source water protection area (SWPA) delineations using site-specific technical information
- Delineate more sensitive portions of SWPAs (watersheds) such as:
  - Buffer areas
  - Time-of-travel zones
  - Sensitive sub-watersheds
- Refine wellhead protection areas (WHPAs)





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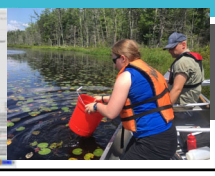
Assessment Projects

- Inventory:
  - Inventory of land uses
  - Evaluating potential contaminant sources
  - Establishing water quality monitoring program
  - Inventorying relevant local protection ordinances
- Evaluation:
  - Prioritizing potential threats to water quality
  - Evaluating existing protection measures



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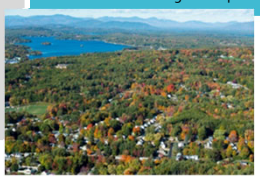
Planning Projects

Identify appropriate protection measures:

- Educational programs
- Local land use regulations
- Land acquisition planning
- Source water protection planning
- Watershed management planning



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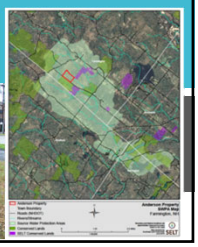
Implementation Projects

- Implement protection and security measures in SWPAs
- Land transaction costs associated with permanent protection of SWP lands
- Source sustainability and water conservation
- Education and Outreach
- MS4 required permit activities
- Stormwater BMPs



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Security Projects

Implementing security measures to protect the source:

- Fencing around wells or intakes
- Gates for well and intake access roads
- Access control for protected areas
- Security systems, signs, cameras, locks, and lights

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Successful Projects

- Clear and defined purpose and scope of work
- What specific threats does the project address?
- Explain how the project will support the implementation of source water protection measures and **should demonstrate a high likelihood of implementation**
- Identify and engage stakeholders – letters of support
- Details!
- Tangible deliverables

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Tips for a great application!

- Review scoring sheet attached to the application!
- Take note of what will add but also what will subtract points
- Be detailed in your application!

- Some important categories that are often overlooked
  - Local match is not required but considered in scoring
  - Give details about who will implement project and how
  - Describe maintenance plan if project involves equipment or BMPs

- Consult/include local public water systems in developing your project(s).

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Things to Avoid

- Project narrative too general in terms of how the project protects the source;
- Actions do not address current or future risks to DW resources;
- Project outcomes/outputs are not technically feasible;
- Graphics or maps included, such as sketch showing the location of added security features are unclear;
- Little or no support from key stakeholders (municipal, water system, planning board, etc.)

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LSWP Grant Ranking Criteria for Security Projects

A. CRITERIA FOR SECURITY PROJECTS	POINTS
How many currently **unprotected** (unsecured) active public water supply sources will be secured by the project? (Up to 9 points)	3 per source type
How many currently **protected** (secured) active public water supply sources will have enhanced security as a result of the project? (Up to 6 points)	2 per source type
Does the project address an area of concern listed in the system's vulnerability assessment?	5
How much non-federal cash or in-kind match is provided? (Match must be source water protection-related.) 50% or greater match, -25% to 49% match, -1% to 24% match, No match	15, 10, 5, 0
Does the project address **existing** threats?	10
Does the project address **future** threats?	5
What is the overall quality of the application? (Complete, clear, and well-reasoned)	18
Is the project cost effective?	9
Will the results be transferable?	5
If the applicant has received a grant(s) in the past, how was the quality and value of the applicant's previous work?	-10
Are there provisions for long-term maintenance?	-10
Are there any significant PWS deficiencies?	-10
Does the project involve protecting new sources (after 01/2002) that did not factor basic security into the cost of developing the new sources?	-10
Is the project repairing work that was previously funded by this grant program?	-5

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LSWP Grant Ranking Criteria for Source Protection Projects

B. CRITERIA FOR SOURCE PROTECTION PROJECTS	POINTS
How many currently **unprotected** active public water supply sources will be protected by the project? (Up to 9 points)	3 or 2 per source
How many currently **protected** active public water supply sources will have enhanced protection as a result of the project? (Up to 6 points)	2 or 1 per source
How many community water **systems** will have all sources satisfy NHDES criteria for "substantial implementation" of source water protection as a result of the project? (*Up to 15 points*)	5 per system
Does the project consist of or fulfill some component of a Source Water Protection Program?	5
Does the project help mitigate the impact of climate change to a public water supply source?	10
How much non-federal cash or in-kind match is provided? (Match must be source water protection-related.) 50% or greater match, -25% to 49% match, -1% to 24% match, No match	15, 10, 5, 0
Does the project address **existing** contamination sources?	4
Does the project address **future** contamination sources?	4
Does the project address contamination sources within 500 feet of the well(s) within the WHPA(s) or within 500 feet of the surface source and within 1 mile of the intake?	6
Does the project address a new threat or address threat categories with high or medium ratings in the Drinking Water Source Assessment(s) prepared by NHDES (if the information is still accurate)? (Alternatively, the application may earn points by demonstrating that the threat(s) addressed by the project should be of high priority.)	3
Is the project located in a Priority Watershed designated by NHDES?	3
Does the project consist of implementation or demonstrate a high likelihood of implementation?	20
What is the overall quality of the application? (Complete, clear, well-reasoned, demonstrating an understanding of source water protection concepts and methods.)	18
Does assigned staff have relevant training, skills, and/or experience to complete the project?	9
Is the project cost effective?	9
Will the results be transferable?	5
If the applicant has received a grant(s) in the past, what was the quality and value of the applicant's previous work?	-10
If the project involves equipment or BMPs, are there provisions for long-term maintenance?	-10
Are there any significant water system deficiencies?	-10

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- Application Deadline November 1, 2023
- Selected applicants notified January 2024
- Completed signed original documents to NHDES by April 1, 2024
- Grant agreement approval by Governor & Council in April/May 2024 – no later than June 2024

Important Dates

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Applications available online:

https://www.des.nh.gov/business-and-community/loans-and-grants/drinking-water

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Past Successful Grant Projects

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Example Assessment Project

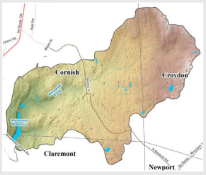
Granite State Rural Water Association (2019)
Land use and ownership assessment of the Whitewater Watershed

Goal:

Determine current land uses and zoning districts within watershed and opportunities to protect undeveloped parcels

Outcome:

Action Plan for the Whitewater Watershed



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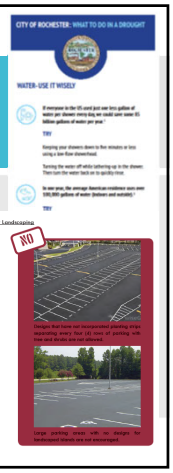
Example Planning Project

Strafford Regional Planning Commission (2017)
Rochester and Dover Water Conservation Regulations



Goal:

Develop a regional drought management plan guidance document

Outcome:

- Rochester Water Use Restrictions Regulations
- Rack Card for Water Use Regulations
- Dover Landscaping Regulations
- Landscaping Guidebook

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Example Planning Project

Strafford Regional Planning Commission (2021)
Stormwater Management Updates for MS4 Permits

Goal:

Work with the Towns of Milton and Rollinsford to audit and update their stormwater management regulations to conform to current MS4 permit requirements

Outcome:

- Regulations adopted by planning boards in both towns
- Public education and outreach materials created regarding fertilizers, septic systems, etc.

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Example Implementation Project

Lakes Region Planning Commission (2013)
BMP Installation

Goal:

Improve water quality in Paugus Bay by reducing stormwater velocity, precipitating suspended solids and infiltrating runoff

Outcome:

- Functioning vegetated bioretention basin that reduces polluted runoff from reaching Paugus Bay
- Highly visible site provides perpetual educational model

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Example Implementation Project

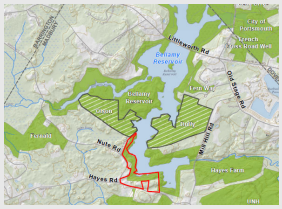
City of Portsmouth (2023)
Bellamy Reservoir Conservation Easement Transaction Costs

Goal:

Defray land conservation transaction costs associated with land conservation that will serve to protect the Bellamy Reservoir, a drinking water supply source for the city of Portsmouth

Outcome:

Transaction costs for the protection of 45 acres



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Questions?

Let us know how we can help you!

NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Services

For more information please contact:

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