Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

Source Water Protection Grant Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to apply through AmpliFund?

Yes, AmpliFund is required to submit an application, and also for submitting any invoice requests for reimbursement. AmpliFund is the grant management software used to simplify the subawarding/granting process from beginning to end. AmpliFund account registration becomes available when following the Application Link on the *Source Water Protection Grants* web page.

Can the SWP grant provide any grant money for either system planning or construction?

Source Water Protection (SWP) grants are specifically for protecting the drinking water source area and cannot be used for system operation, maintenance, or distribution system construction costs. Drinking Water State Revolving (SRF) Planning Grants and Loans are available for these types of projects. Learn more at *Grants and Loans.*

Can an applicant submit multiple SWP grant applications for different projects?

Yes. An applicant can submit multiple applications; however, each applicant or organization can only be funded a total of the maximum grant amount identified for that grant cycle. The total maximum award is $24,000.

Is a Unique Entity Identifier required?

Yes, the unique entity identifier (UEI) used in *SAM.gov* is required. On April 4, 2022, the UEI used across the federal government changed from the DUNS number to the UEI. The UEI is a 12-character alphanumeric ID assigned to an entity by SAM.gov.

Obtaining an UEI can be a long process. We suggest initiating this step early in the grant cycle.

Can the SWP grant be used to install a telemetry system at the well house to provide instant notification of unauthorized entry?

The SWP grant can be used to protect drinking water sources by securing the wellhead through fencing, locks, and an alarm system. The telemetry system for unauthorized entry would be eligible for the SWP grant.

Can the SWP grant be used to fence the water treatment facility?

The purpose of the SWP grant program is to protect the drinking water source (prior to reaching the drinking water system), so the grant can be used to fence around a water source (including a wellhead, surface water intake, or spring box) to protect it from security threats and potential contamination. This grant cannot be used for fencing only the treatment plant. If a treatment plant is on the same lot/area as the source and it is unreasonable to fence it separately from the source, it could be eligible for SWP grant funding.

What requirements come with a successful grant application?

The SWP grants originate from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). If other or additional federal funds are received by your entity, the Build America, Buy America (BABA) provisions may be required, especially for construction projects (potentially including fencing). One aspect of the BABA funding is that "none of the funds made available for a Federal financial assistance program for infrastructure, including each deficient program, may be obligated for a project unless all of the iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States." (Build America, Buy America [BABA] Act, P.L. 117-58, Secs 70911 - 70917).

Be aware that the requirements, restrictions, rules, and reporting associated with the BIL and BABA provisions may apply, and it is your responsibility to report if funding with a federal origination in addition to the grant are accepted by your organization. Evaluate your current funding sources and inform us if your entity qualifies for the less than $250,000 federal funding waiver or other applicable waiver.

Additional requirements may apply, including signage, well abandonment, camera/surveillance equipment, and fencing.

Are there restrictions on what camera/surveillance equipment can be installed?

Yes, there are federal restrictions and limitations on which equipment may be purchased using federally originating funds. Purchase and installation comply with regulations at 2 CFR 200.216, prohibition on certain telecommunication and video surveillance services or equipment, implementing section 889 of Public Law 115-232. Grant funds cannot be used to purchase telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities). For the purpose of public safety, security of government facilities, physical security surveillance of critical infrastructure, and other national security purposes, video surveillance and telecommunications equipment produced by Hytera Communications Corporation, Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company, or Dahua Technology Company (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities).

We are in the process of updating our protection plan. Do we need to complete this prior to submitting our SWP grant application to have priority?

No, but points are awarded to applicants who do have a SWP plan.

Can the SWP grant fund any activities associated with acquiring land to protect our source?

The SWP grant cannot be used to purchase land; however, it can be used to fund a land survey to identify the property boundaries of the land to be acquired for protection. The SWP grant cannot be used for Environmental Assessment costs associated with purchasing the land. Environmental Assessments and potential cleanup costs may be eligible for assistance through DEQ's Brownfields Assessment Program. Visit *Brownfields in Idaho* or contact Eric Traynor at (208) 373-0565.

Can the SWP grant be used to purchase a new flow meter and level indicator at the reservoir?

No, system upgrades such as flow meters, or level indicators are not eligible for funding from the SWP grant. The purpose of this grant is to protect source water prior to reaching the drinking water system. Operation and maintenance costs are not eligible for funding from the source water protection grant.

Can the SWP grant be used to properly abandon a well that was previously improperly abandoned?

Yes, fixing a well so that it is properly decommissioned is eligible for funding. The SWP grant can be used to properly abandon or decommission publicly owned wells, including injection wells that pose a risk to drinking water sources. The grant cannot be used to fund the proper abandonment of privately owned wells because it provides a benefit to one specific individual (well owner). The SWP grant also cannot be used to fund the proper abandonment of motor vehicle disposal wells, which are required by law to be decommissioned.

The well must be abandoned in a manner compliant with the “Well Construction Standards Rules” (IDAPA 37.03.09) . Abandonment must be performed by a well driller licensed in the State of Idaho per Idaho Code § 42-238 unless a waiver has been granted.

Can the SWP grant be used for a household hazardous waste collection event?

Yes, however, the SWP grant is one-time funding, and it is recommended that the applicant demonstrate how the household hazardous waste program will be continued in the future.

I see where the only attachment mentioned in the SWP grant application was for the project area map. We were going to prepare several key participant support letters; can they be attached and to whom should they be addressed?

Yes, you can attach other documents as well as maps. Address any support letters to the Source Water Protection Grant Selection Committee.

Can the SWP grant be used to repair a spring box or reservoir?

No. The SWP grant cannot be used for water system maintenance or system construction. The Drinking Water SRF Program can provide loans for system construction. For more information, visit DEQ's *Grants and Loans* web page.

Can SWP grant funding be used to investigate if a facility (in a SWP area) is leaking and potentially contributing contaminants to a public water system drinking water source (aquifer or surface water)?

The SWP grant funding cannot be used to investigate if a problem exists with a specific facility. SWP funding can be used for contaminant source identification (research). SWP grant funding could be provided to identify the source or potential sources of contamination where an existing contamination issue may pose a risk to a public drinking water source.

Are federal agencies eligible for SWP grant funding?

Federal agencies are not eligible for SWP grant funding. State agencies and local government agencies in Idaho, including city and county governments, are eligible for funding.

Is there a percentage guide for indirect rate per DEQ?

Yes, unless the applicant has a federally approved indirect cost rate, the percentage guide shall be the federal 10% de minimis of the modified total direct costs (for these projects, this will be 10% of all budget categories with the exception of equipment, which is not eligible for indirect under this guidance). Indirect (overhead) costs are those costs incurred for common or joint purposes within the applicant's organization that benefit more than one program cost objective or project. These costs are not readily allocable or assignable to a specific project as a direct cost. Common indirect costs include, but are not limited to, salaries of administrative staff, building maintenance and utilities, basic office supplies, rent, and cell phones.

Applicants that do have a federally approved indirect cost rate must apply that rate to their budget and must include a copy of their approved indirect cost rate agreement with their application. Applicants may choose to identify indirect costs as match, if these are costs that the organization will cover outside of the grant request.

Is an engineering review required for fencing a drinking water source?

No, an engineering review is not required. Drinking Water Rules require plan and specification review and approval for "material modifications," which are defined as modifications intended to increase the capacity or alter the methods or process employed. Fencing is not considered a material modification. As part of the grant requirements, grant recipients need to ensure the required setbacks are met.

Setbacks are outlined in Table 1 of the "Idaho Rules for Public Drinking Water Systems" (IDAPA 58.01.08) must be maintained.

The grant guidelines state that project costs and applied match must comply with federal guidelines for applicable cost principles. Where would we state this intent to comply?

This is a requirement of the grant and, if selected, will be included in the final contract agreement, which will be signed by both DEQ and your organization.

Are there setback requirements when fencing a source water area (well, spring or surface water intake)?

The Drinking Water Rules require a 100-foot radius for spring sources and 50-foot radius for wells to be fenced to prevent the trespass of livestock. There is no setback requirement for fences to prevent the trespass of wildlife or people.

A water system asked if they could apply for funding to pay for an individual farmer's secondary containment for a fuel storage tank and a concrete pad under the tank near their well to protect groundwater.

Grants funds cannot be used to fund a project that provides a benefit to one specific individual.

Can SWP funding be used to correct problems found at a facility, so it does not potentially contaminate source water?

The SWP funding cannot be used for capital improvements or operation and maintenance costs. Any improvements to a facility to correct a problem would likely be considered a capital improvement or maintenance issue.

Can the grant be used to fund training for cross connection control?

No. This grant is intended to protect source water, which is drinking water before it reaches the drinking water system. Cross connection control is a threat to drinking water after the water reaches the drinking water system. The SWP grant can be used for training related to source water, potential contaminants sources, protection strategies, and best management practices to protect source water, but not training on issues not related to protecting drinking water sources.

Can the grant be used to properly abandon injection wells?

The SWP grant can be used to properly abandon or decommission publicly owned wells, including injection wells that pose a risk to drinking water sources. The grant cannot be used to fund the proper abandonment of privately owned wells because it provides a benefit to one specific individual (well owner). The SWP grant also cannot be used to fund the proper abandonment of motor vehicle disposal wells, which are required by law to be decommissioned.

The well must be abandoned in a manner compliant with the "Well Construction Standards Rules" (IDAPA 37.03.09). Abandonment must be performed by a well driller licensed in the State of Idaho per Idaho Code § 42-238 unless a waiver has been granted.

Can SWP Grants be used to install a new fire hydrant?

The SWP funding cannot be used for operation and maintenance costs. This includes installation of hydrants at the end of a service line for the purpose of flushing the line. However, if a case can be made that the fire protection is specifically for protection of the watershed serving the drinking water source, the project will be considered. This would need to be for a surface water source where wildfire is a potential threat and damage from fire within their source water protection area would directly result in contamination of the drinking water source.

Can the SWP grant be used to fund the purchase of water rights?

No, the SWP grant cannot be used to fund the purchase of water rights.

Additional Questions?

For additional questions on Source Water Protection grants, contact your regional DEQ office or Curtis Cooper at (208) 373-0249, or email *IdahoSourceWater@deq.idaho.gov.*