



## Protective Strategies Grant for Community PWS

Ohio EPA is offering grant funds to support the implementation of specific and measurable protective strategies for Ohio's community public water systems. Public water systems with smaller populations (<50,000), systems that are highly susceptible to contamination, and systems with high-risk potential contaminant sources within their inner management zones/corridor management zones or source water protection areas will be prioritized for funding.

**The grant application cycle will be open from November 3, 2025 to December 19, 2025.** Awards are limited to a maximum of \$20,000 in reimbursable funds for proposed strategy implementation. Only costs incurred during the project period are eligible for reimbursement. The public water system must provide documentation of the protective strategy's implementation within 60 days of the end of the project period to receive reimbursement.



### Eligible Project and Funding Examples

1. Creation or improvement of the PWS's website to provide information about source water protection.
2. Development of source water protection brochures, posters, lesson plans, and related materials for school use and/or distribution to residents, businesses, or farmers.
3. Purchase of sand tank model or watershed model.
4. Purchase and installation of source water protection signs at the delineated source water protection area boundaries.
5. Spill protection materials for portable spill kits to provide to businesses in the community within the source water protection area.
6. Purchase of spill containment booms to protect public water system surface water intakes in case of upstream releases.
7. Installation of early warning ground water monitoring wells between the PWS wellfield and a high-risk potential contaminant source (costs to include the driller, materials, and supplies).
8. Installation of semi-permanent surface water quality monitoring instrumentation to monitor water quality upstream of a PWS intake.
9. Implementation of BMPs in the corridor management zone such as:
  - tile/water control structures in fields that reduce nutrient, pathogen, and pesticide loading from drainage systems into receiving waters
  - riparian planting as buffers
  - water retention features (wetlands, retention basins, WASCObS, grassed waterways)

*\*Protective strategies other than those listed may be approved depending on the grant applications received and funding*

*Note: BMPs in the source water protection area may be approved, depending on the justification provided in the application.*

### Award Letters

All approved applicants will receive a grant award letter specifying the award amount and instructions for obtaining reimbursement and completing the closeout report. The approved protective strategy must be implemented (or items purchased), and reimbursement must be requested within six months of the date on Ohio EPA's grant award letter, unless Ohio EPA grants an extension in writing.

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## FAQs

### Who can apply?

All community public water systems (surface and ground water) are eligible.

### Can I apply for multiple strategies?

Yes, a single public water system can apply more than once for multiple strategies. Funding requests should not exceed \$20,000 per strategy.

### Can I request reimbursement for a project that is already complete?

No. Only projects that have not been started are eligible for reimbursement.

### Where can I find the application?

Go to <https://ohioepa.custhelp.com/app/apply>.

### Can I start my grant application and resume later?

Yes. If you have issues with the application platform, contact our funding team at [DDAGW.Grants@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:DDAGW.Grants@epa.ohio.gov).

### Will I receive funding with my award letter?

No. Reimbursement will be provided when:

- 1) the fully executed agreement form is signed by the PWS and Ohio EPA
- 2) the reimbursement form has been completed, including receipts for approved purchases specified in the award letter.

### When should we begin the project?

After returning the agreement form and receiving the fully executed agreement from Ohio EPA.

### What must be provided in the application?

PWSs applying for the grant must provide an up-to-date quote for the proposed project and be prepared to answer questions such as how it will assist the system and its relevance to source water protection (see below). When beginning the application, set aside time to gather the necessary attachments and answer the questions.

*Use the sections and questions below to prepare for the online application process.*

## Applicant Information

- Organization Name
- Organization Address
- Applicant's Contact Information
- Authorizing Official's Contact Information
- Fiscal Officer's Contact Information
- Project Lead's Contact Information
- Counties Served
- Amount of Funding Requested

## Grant Questions

1. How will the projects(s) benefit the public water system?
2. How will this strategy implementation help reduce the risk to the PWS's source water?
3. What is the estimated cost of the strategy implementation (please include an itemized breakdown)?
4. How does the PWS plan to incorporate the strategy into the PWS protection plan?
5. Please describe the project.
6. Does your system have an endorsed protection plan?

## Attachments

- Vendor quotes (required) and/or
- Website screenshots that show proof of cost of item(s) (required)
- Any additional attachments that justify the funding request
- Any additional attachments that explain the project

## Contacts

For questions about eligible projects, please email [internet.whp@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:internet.whp@epa.ohio.gov) or call **614.728.1703**.

For questions about the online application or the grant process, please email [DDAGW.Grants@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:DDAGW.Grants@epa.ohio.gov).

# DDAGW PWS Mini-Grants Application Timelines

