

STATE OF MICHIGAN
WORK PLAN FOR
LOCAL ASSISTANCE WELLHEAD PROTECTION SET ASIDE
GRANT YEAR 2023
FISCAL YEAR 2024

Background

40 CFR Part 35, State and Local Assistance, Subpart L Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (DWSRF) were established to “. . . ensure that each State’s program is designed and operated in such a manner as to further the public health protection objectives of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). . .” (§35.3500). To achieve the objective of improved public health protection, §35.3535(e) allows a State to use up to 15 percent (15%) of its capitalization grant allotment to establish and implement Wellhead Protection Programs under Section 1428 of the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act, 1976 PA 399, as amended (Act 399).

Goal

Maintain and protect the quality of Michigan’s groundwater by implementing a comprehensive, multi-faceted Wellhead and Source Water Protection (SWP) Program.

Funds Requested

A table is attached that shows the **projected** balances remaining in the Local Assistance Wellhead Protection (LA-WP) Set Aside in the open grant years and the amount requested in the grant year (GY) 2023 application. Please note that these projected balances are estimates calculated from actual and projected expenditures. They do not reflect amounts that may or may not have been drawn on the grants yet by staff in the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Finance Division. Also, it is important to note that projected expenditures do not reflect any federal sequestrations or unknown state funding reductions that may occur.

From the 2023 Base DWSRF Grant, EGLE is requesting \$1,126,700 from the LA-WP Set Aside authorized under Section 1452(k)(1)(D) of the federal SDWA for Wellhead Protection work. This level is approximately ten percent (10%) of the 2023 grant amount of \$11,267,000. From the 2023 DWSRF General Supplemental Grant, EGLE is requesting \$1,489,302 for the LA-WP Set Aside. This level is 3.1 percent (3.1%) of the 2023 grant amount of \$48,042,000. Therefore, EGLE is requesting a total of \$2,616,002.

The amount requested will be used to support full-time equivalents (FTE) and related program work. Funds will be expended from the oldest open GY first.

FTEs

In fiscal year (FY) 2024, approximately 14.6 FTEs in the Drinking Water and Environmental Health Division (DWEHD) will be supported with funding provided by the Wellhead Protection Set Aside. This totals an approximate total cost of \$2,191,002. Specific activities that these FTEs perform are detailed below. This figure includes salary and wages, fringe benefits, and travel costs incurred to perform work tasks and professional development. The figure does not include other expenses such as supplies, materials, information technology, and telecommunications equipment and support.

Program Work

The FTEs funded by this Set Aside are responsible for:

- Coordinating with other departmental programs, state, and federal agencies in the development and integration of drinking water protection strategies. In particular, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region 5, Water Resources Division; Remediation and Redevelopment Division; and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) on lead, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and harmful algal blooms (HAB). This coordinated approach benefits both the Public Water Supplies (PWS) and the public.
- Managing and maintaining Wellogic, Michigan's online water well data system.
- Continuing to coordinate project verifying well log data for accuracy of location information and data entry. Paper records are also being converted to digital format to complete the transition to digital data record management. These tasks are being performed by the Michigan Geological Survey and overseen by DWEHD staff. Additionally, efforts to update the electronic record submittal application are in progress to improve locational data accuracy and promote electronic submissions.
- Providing training and oversight to the Michigan Geological Survey in their work (contracted using State funds) to enter well construction records into Wellogic and update existing records in Wellogic. Continue ongoing process for quality control and quality assurance of information entered into Wellogic.
- Continuing and expanding the implementation of source water select cyanotoxin screening and source water assessment (SWA) methodology for surface water sources. The Set Aside funds will be utilized to provide technical assistance to supplies, including prompt assistance if any cyanotoxins are detected in the raw or finished tap water during cyanotoxin (HAB) sampling efforts led by the DWEHD's Emerging Contaminants Unit. Data will be reviewed as it becomes available with public health protection as the primary objective.
- Following cyanotoxin (HAB) sampling efforts, staff will participate in after action reviews, identifying successes, improvements, and lessons learned in an effort to continue to leverage resources outside the Set Asides to support collection and laboratory analysis costs.
- Informing PWS about the SWP Matching Grant Program and its benefits and providing assistance to communities in the development and implementation of wellhead and surface water intake protection plans.

- Administering the SWP Matching Grant. The SWP Grant application process has been transitioned to the Michigan Environmental Health and Drinking Water Information System (MiEHDWIS) with the applications submitted through the online portal. The system allows for coordination of the submissions along with a messaging system that allows for communication and collaboration with administering the grants upon award.
- Updating SWA Programs for Community Water Supplies (CWS) and Noncommunity Water Supplies (NCWS). Providing education and outreach on wellhead protection, including providing delineations of wellhead protection areas to CWS and Nontransient, Noncommunity Water Supplies (NTNCWS).
- Reviewing and processing local health department (LHD) SWAs submitted by the LHDs. DWEHD technical staff will track the updating of the assessments and determine if the NTNCWS qualify for substantial implementation of SWP activities.
- Technical staff continuing to develop an outreach strategy and materials for water systems identified as high risk in the SWA process. The strategy will include informing the system of why their system is rated as high risk, i.e., geologic setting, chemical results, lack of information, etc., and what steps they can take to protect their source water.
- Reviewing and approving traditional wellhead delineations submitted by CWS.
- Providing geologic and hydrogeologic technical assistance to communities developing new water supplies in areas where the Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool indicates a limited supply of water available within the watershed.
- Attending ongoing training, tools, and trends in areas of groundwater protection and source evaluations, including new geographic information systems technologies and in the field data collection applications.
- Collaborating on issues, training, and projects identified by members of the Director's Water Well Advisory Committee.
- Administering the Onsite Wastewater Management (OWM) Program, including evaluating each LHDs OWM Program for consistency and assurance that minimum program requirements are met. The evaluations include the review of LHD documentation for permitting of onsite wastewater systems which includes identifying any required isolation distances for drinking water supplies and depth to groundwater for the protection of public health.
- Overseeing activities for higher density land developments including subdivisions, condominium projects, and certain land divisions for suitability and protection of drinking water supplies. These activities include quality, quantity, and protection of the onsite water supply systems and assuring site suitability for proper wastewater treatment and dispersal of sanitary sewage for the protection of public health.
- Providing technical assistance, information, and regulatory perspectives to external stakeholders interested in establishing a uniform approach to sanitary wastewater statewide regulations inclusive of single- and two-family residential systems. This includes assisting the EGLE Executive Office and external stakeholders with technical information and perspectives as EGLE moves to implementation of a State-funded \$35 million Failing Septic System Loan Program.
- Education and application of risk-based criteria for performance and treatment based decentralized system siting and design.
- Evaluating and approving the use of new technologies for treatment of onsite wastewater.

- Working with the USEPA on SepticSmart Week activities to provide outreach and encourage homeowners and communities to care for and maintain their septic systems to help protect drinking water sources.
- Collaborating with other EGLE divisions (Water Resources; Part 22 Groundwater Permits, Part 41 Wastewater Construction Permits, and Surface Water Assessment) to align agency efforts for public health protection related to wastewater, drinking water systems, and groundwater protection.
- Administering the Septage Waste Program, including the licensing of septage waste haulers and permitting of land application sites.
- Providing technical training and assistance to PWS, LHDs, well drillers, pump installers, onsite wastewater treatment industry professionals, and septage waste haulers.
- Providing clerical, managerial, and administrative support to the scientific and engineering staff performing the activities listed above.

Additional Program Activities

Wellogig Software Maintenance and Support (\$15,000)

This Set Aside will be spent to maintain Wellogig, the database that contains water well construction data in Michigan. Maintenance will include quarterly releases by the vendor to address any bugs reported during the calendar year. Wellogig's data is used by many State applications and regulatory activities. EGLE uses the Wellogig data for water withdrawal legislation, groundwater conflict resolution, statistical data, contamination investigations, well construction specifications, public water supply protection efforts, SWP activities, and well code compliance assessment. The data is also used by other state and federal agencies, LHDs, consultants, universities, well drilling supply houses, and other groups such as the Michigan Rural Water Association and the Michigan Ground Water Association. The DHHS's Environmental Health Surveillance Section uses Wellogig data to educate the public about drinking water. This is part of their implementation of an Environmental Public Health Tracking Network under the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Tracking Network System.

Wellogig Enhancements

Using previous years' balance, enhance the Wellogig software to add new features that improve usability, functionality, and stability. Planned enhancements include data entry notifications when contractors attempt to enter well records during a time when their registration is not current, updates to fields that should no longer be required, changes to business rules for some data entry fields, and update end user messages to be more generic for when user identification and password are entered incorrectly.

Grants to Support Local Implementation (\$400,000)

Under Act 399, EGLE has the authority to implement a SWP Matching Grant Program to enhance the voluntary State program. The grant program requires a 50/50 match of State and local funds which supports the development and implementation of groundwater and SWP Programs.

The following is a five-year history of grant commitments for program expenditures using funds provided by the Set Aside:

- FY 2019 – 43 communities awarded \$472,513
- FY 2020 – 39 communities awarded \$406,964
- FY 2021 – No funding awarded
- FY 2022 – 30 communities awarded \$367,000
- FY 2023 – 28 communities awarded \$430,319

Training for LHD Staff for SWP Activities (\$10,000)

It is anticipated that the LHDs will continue to grow their staff in FY 2024, adding staff with little to no experience in SWP activities. EGLE will continue to provide targeted, in-depth technical training for LHD staff. For OWM, subjects include conducting an initial site evaluation, determining hydraulic loading capacity, design flow, characterizing the wastewater effluent to be treated, and identification of soil types. For the Water Well Program, the education and outreach for sanitarians will focus on topics such as permitting in areas of potential contamination, drilling methods, disinfection, well record review, flowing well construction, and final inspections.

These trainings are critical to the understanding and applications of rules and how the implementation is critical to public health protection and the protection of Michigan's groundwater resource.

Agency Responsibilities

The DWEHD administers wellhead protection activities, which includes ensuring that drinking water wells are constructed according to code, reviewing traditional wellhead delineations and providing provisional delineations to PWS, and providing grants to local governments to increase SWP efforts. Also included in this program is ensuring that onsite wastewater systems are designed and maintained properly to protect groundwater from contamination.

DWEHD program staff will administer the SWP Grant Program. Staff will review all grant applications and award grants based on a scoring system that awards points when the application meets certain criteria. Staff will review all grantee progress in meeting their grant commitments, review their work products, and approve all invoices received for payment.

FTE work quality and time spent on wellhead protection activities is overseen by DWEHD managerial staff. They approve staff time charges and all applicable charges to the Wellhead Protection Set Aside. DWEHD Administration Section staff process expenditures and track grant and Set Aside balances. The financial data included in this work plan and in the activity reports are obtained from DWEHD Administration Section financial reports. Finally, EGLE Finance Division staff is responsible for requesting draws from the capitalization grants for the expenditures processed by the DWEHD Administration Section.

Schedule

This work plan covers the period from October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2024.

Evaluation Process

DWEHD staff will assess the work progress and work products with grant recipients and other contractors no less than every six (6) months during the contract period. Final payment is dependent upon full completion of contract commitments.

At the beginning of each calendar year, DWEHD employees, under the direction of their supervisor, must create performance objectives. These objectives may correlate to tasks and special projects included in the Set Aside work plans. Employees are expected to demonstrate progress in accomplishing the desired outcomes throughout the year. All DWEHD managers meet with their staff periodically to discuss available metrics, current workload, and what shifts, or task prioritization may be needed. State will inform the USEPA of changes to the work described in the work plans.

Progress Reports

At the end of each FY, the DWEHD will submit an activity report to the USEPA listing activities and expenditures from the Wellhead Protection Set Aside.

Wellhead Protection Set Aside Projected Expenditures and Balances Remaining Grant Years 2019-2023						
Grant Year	Grant Number	GRANT NAME	Date Awarded	Amount Awarded	Projected Amount to be Expended by September 30, 2024	Projected Balance Remaining on September 30, 2024
2019	975487-19	BASE	10/01/2019	\$1,350,550	\$1,350,550	\$0
2020	975487-20	BASE	10/01/2020	\$2,702,900	\$2,702,900	\$0
2021	975487-21	BASE	10/01/2021	\$2,160,320	\$2,160,320	\$0
2022	975487-22	BASE	09/30/2022	\$860,100	\$860,100	\$0
2023	PENDING	BASE	PENDING	\$1,126,700	\$1,126,700	\$0
2023	PENDING	SUPPLEMENTAL	PENDING	\$1,489,302	\$1,489,302	\$0