

PFAS Source Identification and Reduction Grant Program

Questions and answers

- Q1. For the PFAS source identification and reduction grant it states that “eligible projects must be located in or benefit an underserved community or an area that has been identified as a location of environmental justice concern.” I understand to use the map to identify EJ areas of concern, but what are the criteria for a community to be considered “underserved”? Please advise, as this will help us determine whether the cities we are doing PFAS management plans with can apply for this grant or not.**
- A1. The term ‘underserved community’ was used to further explain ‘EJ areas of concern,’ so these are one in the same. To be eligible for this grant RFP the “project must be located in or benefit an area that has been identified as a location of environmental justice concern,” and the applicant must submit a map and/or description identifying the project’s EJ location from the [MPCA’s criteria and interactive mapping tool](#).
- Q2. East Central Solid Waste Commission plans to apply for the grant for PFAS reduction. Basically we will be doing an RFP to find an organization that can reduce the PFAS in our leachate. In order to provide a budget for this - I would probably need to send out the formal bid prior to applying for the grant. Please tell me if I am correct.**
- A2. A formal bid is not required but a realistic budget/estimate is expected to be submitted with the application.
- Q3. For the PFAS Source Reduction Grant program, how long will it take to get the grant agreement executed after an application is submitted? The WWTP PFAS PMP’s are due on July 1. Our clients would like to use grant funds to complete the PMP’s, but the grant agreement states that funds cannot be used to pay for previously completed work. Can we expect that the grant agreement will be executed quickly to still provide enough time to prepare the PMP’s before July 1?**
- A3. You are correct that funds cannot be used to pay for previously completed work. We are reviewing and processing applications as they are received. However, it still takes some time to evaluate applications and execute an agreement. A minimum timeline would be three weeks but it will most likely take additional time from the point of application receipt to grant agreement execution.
- Q4. For sampling and testing of PFAS within a sanitary collection system, does the MPCA accept results from method 8327 and 1633?**
- A4. The MPCA recommends that facilities use the Minnesota Department of Health website: [Search for Accredited Laboratories - Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program \(state.mn.us\)](#) to search for an accredited environmental laboratory to complete their PFAS analysis. If an accredited laboratory is selected an appropriate method will be used to analyze PFAS compounds. Currently EPA method 8327 and draft EPA method 1633 are utilized by accredited laboratories.
- Q5. Does the MPCA accept PFAS results for both grab samples and samples collected with a composite sampler?**
- A5. Currently the majority of PFAS samples are collected via single instantaneous grab sample to help alleviate potential contamination issues. If the applicant can ensure that a composite sampler can be used without contaminating the sample it would be acceptable.

Q6. I've recently learned about the MPCA PFAS Source Identification and Reduction Application grant opportunity. The following three landfills are located within Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota. I'd like to share this grant opportunity with eligible landfills. Can you confirm which landfills in Inver Grove Heights are eligible for this grant, particularly based on eligibility requirement #2: "Applicants must also have voluntarily participated in or have been sampled by an MPCA contractor as part of the MPCA PFAS Monitoring Plan. This includes; Municipal Wastewater PFAS Monitoring MOU participants, industrial facilities that participated in or were sampled as part of an MPCA PFAS Monitoring Plan, and solid waste management facilities that were part of or associated with an MPCA PFAS Monitoring Plan."

- SKB Rich Valley, 117th Street/Rich Valley Blvd, Inver Grove Heights
- Dawnway Demolition Landfill, 5965 Dawn Way, Inver Grove Heights
- Pine Bend Sanitary Landfill, 2495 117th St E, Inver Grove Heights

A6. Based on edibility question #2:

- SKB Rich Valley, 117th Street/Rich Valley Blvd, Inver Grove Heights **not eligible**
- Dawnway Demolition Landfill, 5965 Dawn Way, Inver Grove Heights **eligible**
- Pine Bend Sanitary Landfill, 2495 117th St E, Inver Grove Heights **not eligible**

Q7. We use a PFAS as a tool coating/processing aid to reduce friction in our extrusion processes. Our Hutchinson site participated in wastewater sampling for PFAS as requested by the POTW. The results came back as <LOD. Would we still be eligible for a grant even if we are not directly included in the PFAS monitoring plan?

A7. Yes, you would still be eligible. Please see [Addendum #2](#) addressing this requirement.

Q8. Can this grant be used to fund PFAS sampling? If so, is there a limit to the number of samples?

A8. Yes, it can be used for sampling, limit to number of samples would be determined by the grant amount project details.

Q9. Has the agency determined if MSW landfills (and perhaps industrial landfills) that discharge leachate to a POTW that is regulated under an NDPES permit, can apply for this grant for PFAS reduction assistance?

A9. See the [Request for proposals - Addendum 3](#) for revised eligibility and funding levels/match requirements.

Q10. I am assisting a municipal client in potentially submitting a PFAS Source Identification and Reduction Grant. The client is wondering if they need to enter into an agreement or if they are committing to matching funds when the application is submitted, or does the agreement and commitment only come after the funds are awarded?

A10. No, applicants do not enter into an agreement or commit to matching funds at the point of application. If the applicant and project are deemed eligible the applicant will be contacted regarding the next steps in the process. Part of this process is entering into a grant agreement (a sample grant agreement can be found on the PFAS source identification and reduction grant program website). The agreement will outline the grant amount and match requirements.

Q11. Eligible Applicants: since the client appears on the MPCA "Facilities included in the PFAS Monitoring Plan" located here I assume they are eligible <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/p-gen1-22c.pdf> . Is this correct?

A11. See the [Request for proposals - Addendum 3](#) for revised eligibility and funding levels/match requirements.

Q12. Eligible Projects (location ,environmental justice): the landfill site is not located in a shaded area on the “MPCA’s criteria and interactive mapping tool “ located here <https://mpca.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=f5bf57c8dac24404b7f8ef1717f57d00> (snip below). Does this mean that they are not eligible?

A12. See the [Request for proposals - Addendum 3](#) for revised eligibility and funding levels/match requirements. It is not required for projects to be located in or benefit an area that has been identified as a location of environmental justice concern, but these projects will be eligible for higher funding limits.

Q13. Eligible Projects (scope): the intended scopes of the projects for which our client is seeking the grant include 1)evaluate and implement monitoring improvements to identify the extent and movement of PFAS in groundwater within and surrounding the landfill, 2)evaluate and implement operational improvements and/or treatment technologies to reduce PFAS in landfill leachate. These activities appear to be consistent with the MPCA PFAS monitoring plan summarized here “MPCA charts how to prevent and manage PFAS pollution after tracking its movement” <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/news-and-stories/pfas-monitoring-plan-report>. In MPCA opinion, are these appropriate scopes for the PFAS source identification and reduction grant?

A13. These appear to be eligible, but we would need to review the full project description and proposed budget before we can confirm eligibility.

Q14. Available Funding: How much of the est. \$2M in funding has already been allocated? Or conversely, how much of the est. \$2M in funding remains available?

A14. A substantial amount of the \$2M in funding remains available.

Q15. In order to prepare the budget appropriately, what is an estimated cost of a single PFAS sample?

A15. It is recommended to call and consult with labs to get an estimate. This cost can vary depending on the team conducting the analysis.

Q16. We have been identified as having PFAS in our wells within our community. I am wondering if I applied for this grant, to purchase new media for our water treatment plant to update what is currently there, if it is allowed under this grant. Please let me know. I did read through the eligible expenses but have a hard time deciphering what is eligible.

A16. This grant is intended for PFAS identification and not PFAS remediation. This project would be ineligible for this grant, but there are other grants specifically for drinking water remediation <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/grants-and-loans/drinking-water-planning-and-design-funds-for-pfas-treatment>.

Q17. I received information about the PFAS Source Identification and reduction grant opportunity and have a question about cost eligibility. Would costs related to decontaminating an airport firetruck and purchase of an F3 foam (fluorine free foam) qualify under this program? I wanted to inquire again about cost eligibility under the PFAS Source Identification and Reduction Grant opportunity. In partnership with MnDOT Aeronautics I have learned that decontamination of our current firetruck will cost approximately \$100,000 using the "triple rinse" recommended by MPCA. The purchase of PFAS-free firefighting foam is estimated to cost another \$20,000. Wondering if cleaning the tanks, lines, etc., of an airport fire truck that had the legacy Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) in it would be eligible? Also, whether the disposal of AFFF and the purchase of new Fluorine Free Foam (F3) would be eligible?

A17. Yes, an airport **could** be eligible under these criteria:

- Industrial facility contributing PFAS to a municipal wastewater treatment system or the environment; and/or
- Industrial Stormwater facility contributing PFAS to a municipal wastewater treatment system or the environment.

This type of project is eligible under “Identification of PFAS containing products and the implementation/use of products which are PFAS-free.” Meaning that the replacement foam and the rinsing of the fire truck in preparation for the implementation of said foam are both eligible.

Q18. Would a publicly owned airport be eligible for this grant, if they are looking to dispose of PFAS containing firefighting foam or buy new firefighting foam without PFAS?

A18. Yes, an airport **could** be eligible under these criteria:

- Industrial facility contributing PFAS to a municipal wastewater treatment system or the environment; and/or
- Industrial Stormwater facility contributing PFAS to a municipal wastewater treatment system or the environment.

This type of project is eligible under “Identification of PFAS containing products and the implementation/use of products which are PFAS-free.” Meaning that the disposal of PFAS containing firefighting foam and purchase of new firefighting foam without PFAS are both eligible.

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- Industrial Stormwater facility contributing PFAS to a municipal wastewater treatment system or the environment.

This type of project is eligible under “Identification of PFAS containing products and the implementation/use of products which are PFAS-free.” Meaning that the disposal of PFAS containing firefighting foam and purchase of new firefighting foam without PFAS are both eligible.

Q19: In Richmond we have 3 municipal wells that we use daily. Our second best producing well (#4) has over 4ppt of PFAS. Does the MPCA Source ID and reduction grant program cover either test drilling for a new well site or even drilling a new well? If we could drill a new well and eliminate the PFAS contaminated well that would greatly reduce the PFAS level in our effluent at the WWTP.

A19: With the information provided this project does not appear to be eligible. However, we cannot fully determine the eligibility of this project without further information.

Q20: Is there funding still available in this program – deadline April 2025? Will there be another round of funding next year? If so, can we apply for a planning grant now, and an implementation grant next year?

A20: Yes, funding is still available for the PFAS source identification and reduction grant program. It cannot be determined at this time if additional or other funding will become available for this grant opportunity. An applicant is allowed to be granted funding up the thresholds described in the RFP based on those eligibility requirements described. Funds can be applied for by stages, or multiple applications, but an applicant cannot be awarded more than the maximum award even if multiple applications are submitted.

Q21: With this being a rolling grant application, is there a time-frame after submission that we will learn if we have met all requirements and are being considered for this grant. My project was not eligible last time around and I am still not quite sure why.

A21: All applicants will be notified of their award status by MPCA staff within approximately 30 days of application submission. Applicants selected for funding will be contacted concerning the next steps in the award process, including execution of the grant agreement.

Q22: We are working with a client to submit an application for the PFAS Source Identification and Reduction Grant program. Just curious, what is the current review/turnaround time on the grant application? If we submit the application late next week, about how long before we hear back from the MPCA if the application is approved? How long to receive a fully executed grant agreement, so the work can begin?

A22: We anticipate notifying applicants within approximately 60 days. From that point, the execution of the grant agreement varies but typically takes anywhere from 2 to 4 weeks.

Q23: I was wondering if MnDOT could apply to the PFAS source identification and reduction grant program in order to identify PFAS-containing compounds currently in use in our facilities state-wide? Could we qualify, perhaps, as either

- **industrial facilities contributing PFAS to a municipal wastewater treatment systems or the environment**
- **industrial stormwater facilities contributing PFAS to a municipal wastewater treatment systems or the environment**

A23: No, a State Agency would not qualify as an industrial facility and are not eligible applicants for this grant.

Q24: I'm writing on behalf of Lake Superior College's Emergency Response Training Center, which is currently enrolled in the MPCA's Cooperative Responsible Party program for PFAS associated with historical use of PFAS-containing foam. LSC has interest in the PFAS source identification and reduction grant, and would like to verify their eligibility prior to preparing an application. Specifically, LSC was not part of the MPCA MN Monitoring plan, but does have periodic discharges to WLSSD, which has a MOU with MPCA (one of the criteria). LSC also has surface water discharges that contain PFAS that enter the environment (another criteria).

As a part of this project, the College, in cooperation with an environmental consultant and MPCA, have been performing investigative activities to determine scope and magnitude of the historical PFAS contamination on the property from past use of AFFF. The college has undertaken interim remedial actions to treat surface water runoff as the investigation progresses, which includes soil, ground and surface water sampling and analysis. The College has been seeking funding sources and grants to assist with offsetting some of the cost to perform the investigative work, current activities and anticipated future remediation. These actions would have benefits to reduce PFAS load entering surface waters near the training center such as Sargent Creek, the St. Louis River, and ultimately Lake Superior.

If you could please let us know if we'd be considered an eligible applicant under this grant program and if a project related to the investigative and remedial work currently being performed and planned at the training center would be considered as an eligible project.

A24: We do not believe that LSC falls in the list of eligible applicants as listed in the RFP:

Applicants must be one of the following:

- Municipality;
- Private or public solid waste management facility;
- Industrial facility contributing PFAS to a municipal wastewater treatment systems or the environment; and/or
- Industrial Stormwater facility contributing PFAS to a municipal wastewater treatment systems or the environment.

The project as described may fit into the second bullet of eligible projects as listed in the RFP, but we would need more project information to confirm eligibility.

Project must meet one of the following:

- Preparation and execution of PFAS Pollutant Management Plans;
- **Source identification work, including waste stream sampling, to identify sources of PFAS entering wastewater treatment systems or solid waste management facilities;**
- Identification of PFAS containing products and the implementation/use of products which are PFAS-free;
- Identification of process equipment that may need to be replaced in the future due to historic PFAS use and/or PFAS contamination; and/or
- Industrial Stormwater related projects that include source identification and reduction of PFAS at auto shredders, metal finishers, and/or airports.

Q25: Is there funding still available in this program?

A25: Yes, as of February 2025, approximately \$1,000,000 remains available for this grant opportunity.

Q26: Is PFAS grant funding/reimbursement available for privately-owned industrial sites that are required to perform quarterly PFAS sampling and PFAS Monitoring Plan implementation as part of the 2025 Industrial Stormwater Permit?

A26: This could be an eligible project, but we would need further project details to confirm eligibility.

Q27. Before we go through the work to submit the PFAS source identification and reduction grant program, how much of the \$2million is left?

A27. Yes, as of February 2025, approximately \$1,000,000 remains available for this grant opportunity.

Q28. The city of Becker and a private business are working on a grant application for this program, and we have a couple of questions.

- 1. Can a joint application be submitted? And, if so how should the eligibility questions be completed on page four?**
- 2. Or should the application be submitted from one entity or the other as the “lead” but the budget and project would be treated as one?**
- 3. Or do they need to be submitted separately but noted we are planning on jointly doing activities.**
- 4. Finally, if the project can be jointly submitted, does it help or hurt the application if the city is the application? Or would the application be stronger if a private industry submitted the application and the city was included as the smaller component of the project.**

A28. Applications must be from a single applicant/entity. Projects may include work with other entities, but eligibility will be determined on the applicant and project. Additionally, any resulting grant agreement will only include the applicant. Work from any subcontractor or partner to the project would be the responsibility of the applicant/grantee. Alternatively, two applications could be submitted but would need to be from separate applicants/entities and cannot be the same project.