

Drinking Water Protection

GRANT AVAILABLE
IN 2026



OVERVIEW

DRINKING
WATER FOCUS

UP TO \$3.35
MILLION TOTAL
AVAILABLE

APPLY
BETWEEN
Feb. 11 - Mar. 25

ABOUT THE GRANT

The Minnesota State Legislature has approved a sub-grant program within the Projects and Practices program to support drinking water protection. This grant is focused on land treatment projects that will protect and improve the quality of drinking water sources. The grant is part of the Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant program, made possible by Clean Water Fund.

WHAT AREAS WILL BE TARGETED?

This is an opportunity to target critical drinking water areas, including but not limited to:

- Drinking Water Supply Management Areas (DWSMAs)
- Surface water drinking water sources
- Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Township Testing Areas

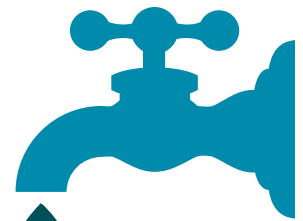
Drinking water resources identified in local water plans are also eligible if they can be protected by land conservation treatment practices.

WHAT ARE FUNDING PRIORITIES?

In the grant review process, priority will be given to activities that are:

1. near the public water supply well or surface water intake; and
2. appropriate for the geologic vulnerability and surrounding land use.

Eligible projects:



Improve
water
quality

Focus
on drinking
water sources

Implement
land
treatment
projects



Developed by Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) in collaboration with BWSR.

To learn more about the grant and eligible/ineligible activities, visit: <https://bwsr.state.mn.us/apply>

EXAMPLE PRACTICES

Practices in a **high-vulnerability DWSMA** or **Township Testing Area** could include:

- Perennial crops
- Nutrient and irrigation management
- Forestry conservation
- Stormwater treatment*
- Private well testing and cost of lab analysis



Practices in a **surface water intake area** could include:

- Sediment management
- Stormwater treatment*



Practices in a **low-vulnerability DWSMA** could include:

- Sealing unused, unsealed public or private wells and well sealing cost-share programs



WHO CAN APPLY

- Public water systems and rural water systems
- Counties and Watershed Districts
- Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs)
- Watershed Management Organizations

HOW TO APPLY

MDH and BWSR encourage you to collaborate with your Source Water Protection Planner from MDH or Minnesota Rural Water Association (MRWA), BWSR Board Conservationist, local SWCD, and/or other partners to identify and prioritize projects that protect and improve local drinking water resources.

Local public water systems and State-approved plans such as Wellhead Protection Plans, Source Water Protection Plans, and Comprehensive Watershed Management Plans can be consulted for additional information on DWSMA vulnerability and targeted practices. Visit the BWSR website for more information and to complete an application (<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/apply>).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- See MRWA and MDH Planners at <https://www.mrwa.com/technical-assistance/source-water-resources/> and <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/docs/swpstafmap.pdf>
- Review the MDA Township Testing Areas at <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/township-testing-program>
- GIS maps of DWSMAs and Source Water Assessment Areas can be viewed and downloaded at <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/mapviewer.html>
- *Review MDH guidance for stormwater infiltration in DWSMAs at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency website: https://stormwater.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/Stormwater_and_wellhead_protection

For more information, contact: health.drinkingwater@state.mn.us or 651-201-4700