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Subject MassDEP Announces New Cybersecurity Grant Program
Attachments Cybersecurity_Improvements_Grant-Appendices_and_Guidance.pdf;
Cybersecurity_Improvements_Grant-Application_and_Scope_of_Work_Forms.pdf

MassDEP Announces New Cybersecurity Grant Program

Find details on this grant program. Learn what types of projects are eligible, and figure out if your organization is eligible to apply.

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Dear Public Water Supplier,

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) Drinking Water Program (DWP) is announcing a new grant program for public water systems to improve their cybersecurity. MassDEP/DWP has been actively working to improve the cybersecurity and resilience of public water systems (PWS) for several years. MassDEP/DWP prioritizes PWS and public health protection by requiring PWS to address cybersecurity in their Emergency Response Plans (ERPs) per 310 CMR 22.04(13), inspecting/reviewing PWS cybersecurity assessments, programs, and plans during sanitary surveys, and providing helpful resources through training opportunities and the biweekly electronic newsletter called "In the Main".

To continue protecting PWS and public health, MassDEP/DWP is increasing its efforts to address cybersecurity issues. The MassDEP /DWP has created the new [Cybersecurity Improvements Grant Program](#) in collaboration with the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust. This program offers PWS the opportunity to be granted as much as \$50,000 per system, to improve their cybersecurity defense, mitigate the risks of cyber-attacks, and enhance overall resiliency and compliance.

Eligible Applicants: The Cybersecurity Improvements Grant Program is available for all PWS that are **small** (serving a population under 10,000) or systems serving more than 10,000 people that meet the **disadvantaged** community criteria, defined by the Clean Water Trust (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/the-disadvantaged-community-program>).

Pre-Requisite: (PWS must fulfill both of the following requirements)

- * **OT Conditions:** PWS have operational technology (OT) equipment with a cybersecurity risk. OT equipment is defined as hardware and software that detects or causes a change to water treatment and/or distribution processes through the direct monitoring or control of physical devices, processes, and events in the enterprise. *(See the Cybersecurity Improvements Grant application for more information)*
- * **Cybersecurity Assessment:** PWS must have completed a cybersecurity assessment performed by the PWS or a qualified entity within the past two years.

For additional details on the requirements and resources see the "RESOURCES TO GET READY FOR THIS GRANT" section at the end of this letter.

ACTION REQUESTED:

1) If your PWS will benefit from receiving a grant to improve your cybersecurity defense, complete the attached application by **June 1st, 2024**. MassDEP

recommends that you submit your application as early as possible; this is a first come, first served grant opportunity.

The Application, and other materials, can be downloaded from our website at:

Application and Scope of Work Forms: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/cybersecurity-improvements-grant-application-and-scope-of-work-forms/>

Required Appendices: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/cybersecurity-improvements-grant-application-appendices-and-guidance/>

2) Please upload your completed application to MassDEP/DWP PWS Cybersecurity Improvement [Grant Application Submission \(smartsheet.com\)](https://smartsheet.com). Note: To upload your application, select your PWS using the drop-down list labeled "Select your PWS" and upload your grant application by dragging and dropping your file(s) into the File Upload box labeled "Attach your grant application file".

Upon review of your submitted application, MassDEP Drinking Water Program may contact you for further information. If you have any questions on this information or need help filling out the application, contact MassDEP Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov, Subject: Cybersecurity Improvements Grant, PWS ID#, or 617-292-5770.

RESOURCES TO GET READY FOR THIS GRANT:

If your PWS is a small system or serves a disadvantaged community, and all of the OT requirements listed above are met, get a cybersecurity assessment performed if you have not already. This is a necessary step before applying for

the grant. The findings of the cybersecurity report or mitigation plan will serve as the foundation for your grant application. To get an assessment, PWS have three options:

1. 1. Apply for a free EPA assessment using the link below:
<https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience/forms/epas-water-sector-cybersecurity-evaluation-program>.
2. 2. Request a CISA free in-person cybersecurity assessment. PWS may contact the MassDEP/DWP about the CISA program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov.
3. 3. Conduct a free self-assessment using USEPA's Water Cybersecurity Assessment Tool:
https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-03/EPA%20Water%20Cybersecurity%20Assessment%20Tool%201.0_0.xlsx.

Unique Entity Identifier (UEI): A UEI is required to apply for this grant. If you do not have one, apply for a UEI at their earliest convenience. The UEI application and FAQ's can be found on the SAM.gov website, linked here:
<https://sam.gov/content/duns-uei>

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