

DNR PFAS COMMUNITY GRANTS SAMPLING PROGRAM

GRANT GUIDANCE



Cycle A
10/19/2026

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SECTION 1: OVERVIEW

Program Purpose And Funding Source

The purpose of this document is to assist eligible applicants with preparing and submitting a grant application for the perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) Community Grants Sampling Program. On April 6, 2026, 2025 Wisconsin Acts 200 and 201 were enacted to create and provide funding for several new grant programs to help Wisconsin communities address PFAS contamination, especially in drinking water.

The State of Wisconsin, represented by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), intends to award grants for completed applications for sampling and other activities to address perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination, in accordance with grant program requirements under s. 292.74, Wis. Stats., and as further specified below. Eligible grant applicant entities include cities, villages, towns, counties, tribal governing bodies, utility districts, lake protection districts, sewerage districts and technical college districts.

The PFAS Community Grants Sampling Program will release funding in cycles, beginning with Cycle A. Sampling funds offered in Cycle A will include the following eligible activities:

- Sampling private water supplies – s. 292.74(2)(a), Wis. Stats.
- Sampling water supplies for public, private, or tribal elementary or secondary schools (“schools”); and child care centers licensed under 48.65, child care program established or contracted under s. 12013(14) or a child care provider certified under 48.651 (“child care facilities”) as specified in statute – s. 292.74(2)(d), Wis. Stats.
- Sampling wastewater, biosolids, liquid waste, sludge, influent, industrial waste or treatment plant effluent that is intended for landspreading or to implement source reduction strategies – s. 292.74(2)(f), Wis. Stats.
- Providing temporary bottled water or another response action to well owners and users with wells that exceed Wisconsin Drinking Water Health Advisory Levels for PFAS to disrupt PFAS exposures – s. 292.74(2)(j), Wis. Stats.

Additional PFAS Community Grants Sampling Programs will be developed at a later date, including but not limited to:

- Sampling high capacity irrigation wells and soil on agricultural property – s. 292.74(2)(e), Wis. Stats.
- Sampling solid waste landfill leachate, groundwater or private wells at a municipally owned or operated solid waste landfill – s. 292.74(2)(g), Wis. Stats.

Current and future financial assistance programs are available to support infrastructure and other response actions to address exceedances. Contact DNRPFASGrants@wisconsin.gov for more information.

Available Funding

The 2025 Wisconsin Acts 200 and 201 creates and funds PFAS Community Grants Sampling Programs, which are anticipated to be available through multiple Community Grants Sampling Program grant cycles.

Total available Cycle A grant funds:

- Sampling private wells and eligible schools and child care facilities: **\$1 million**
- Sampling eligible wastewater, biosolids, liquid waste, sludge, influents, including industrial wastes or septage received at the eligible facility or treatment plant: **\$500,000**
- Providing temporary alternative water supplies or other response actions to well owners and users with PFAS-impacted wells: **\$500,000**

Although sampling costs vary, DNR anticipates that Cycle A will support sampling of wells at more than 1,200 homes, child care facilities and schools.

Additional funding is expected to be available in future cycles of the PFAS Sampling Grant Program as DNR assesses utilization of Cycle A funds, expands project eligibility and makes further program refinements.

Grant Cycle And Timelines

The DNR intends to manage the PFAS Community Grants Sampling Program in a series of recurring cycles. Eligible entities may submit more than one application per cycle and may apply in multiple grant cycles.

The DNR will accept Community Grants Sampling Program applications continually throughout Cycle A until funding is fully obligated or Cycle A ends. DNR grant staff will review applications and determine whether an application is complete in accordance with requirements of applicable laws and these guidelines. DNR will execute grant agreements according to the order in which complete applications are received.

Cycle A opens on October 19, 2026, and closes on April 30, 2027.

Grant agreements will define the grant period, or timeframe, during which sampling efforts can occur. Grant funded sampling can occur after the Cycle A application period ends as long as it is within the grant period defined in the grant agreement.

DNR will open Cycle B as soon as possible upon closure of Cycle A. Cycle B will include additional funding and expand sampling project eligibility.

Cost-Share (s. 292.74(6)(a), Wis. Stats.)

Section 292.74(6), Wis. Stats. establishes matching funds requirements for PFAS sampling activities. This requires grant applicants to provide matching funds equal to at least 20 percent of the amount provided by the DNR. This means that a grant applicant will need to know either their total project cost or the total amount that they are requesting from the DNR in order to determine the required match amount that the grant applicant will need to provide in the form of matching funds, in-kind contributions, staff time and effort, volunteer time and effort or other means.

Applicants may approach their project budget in one of two ways depending on what information has already been gathered about project costs. The two methods (A + B) below calculate the same matching requirement but begin with different information.

Method A: Determining the required match amount when the total project cost is known. Use this method when the grant applicant knows how much the total project cost will be, including grant administration and matching activities.

$$\frac{\text{Total Project Cost}}{(100\% \text{ Project Cost} + 20\% \text{ Match or } 1.20)} = \frac{\text{Grant Applicant Matching Funds}}{\text{Required Amount}}$$

Total Project Cost	=	\$12,000
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Project Total		Required Match		
100% (1.00)	+	20% (0.20)	=	1.20

\$12,000 / 1.20	=	\$10,000
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Maximum Grant Award Amount		\$10,000
Matching Funds Requirement	*	<u>0.20</u>
Minimum Match Amount	=	\$2,000

Check:

Grant Award Amount		\$10,000
Matching Funds paid	+	<u>\$2,000</u>
Total Project Cost	=	\$12,000

Method B: Determining the required match amount when the requested grant award amount is known. Use this method when the grant applicant knows how much they want to be reimbursed for the project but need to determine how much match will be required to receive that amount.

$$\text{Grant Award Amount Requested} * 0.20 \text{ (or 20 percent)} = \text{Grant Applicant Matching Funds Requirement}$$

Grant Award Amount Requested		\$64,500
Required Match (20 percent)	*	<u>0.20</u>
Required Matching Funds Amount	=	\$12,900

Grant Award Amount		\$64,500
Matching Funds Requirement	+	<u>\$12,900</u>
Total Project Cost	=	\$77,400

Check:

Grant Award Amount Requested		\$64,500
Matching Funds Required	+	<u>\$12,900</u>
Total Project Cost	=	\$77,400

Grants offered under this Program support eligible project costs. Applicants must provide matching funds for a minimum of 20% of the awarded amount with:

- Applicant resources
 - Cash
 - In-kind contributions
 - Municipal staff labor (i.e., force account)
- Non-applicant donations
 - Cash
 - Volunteer labor
 - Equipment use

Other sources of match may be eligible to meet the match requirement. Contact DNRPFASGrants@wisconsin.gov with questions about match eligibility, rates, documentation, etc.

Note For Private Well Owners And Users And Other Non-Municipal Entities

Municipalities and tribal governing bodies are the entities eligible to receive funding under the Community Grants Sampling Program described in this guidance document. Private well owners and users and other non-municipal entities interested in sampling their wells for PFAS are encouraged to contact their local municipality to determine if they could be included in a municipal grant application. Future cycles of the Community Grants Sampling Program may also include the opportunity to receive grant assistance in the form of services.

In situations where a community-based sampling program is not available, private well owners and users may be eligible to receive a free PFAS home sampling kit through the Wisconsin PFAS Private Well Testing Program (WisPPWT). More information about this program is available on the DNR's [Wisconsin PFAS Private Well Testing Program \(WisPPWT\)](#) webpage.

SECTION 2: ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Applicants (s. 292.74(1)(c), Wis. Stats.)

Eligible applicants for the PFAS Community Grants Sampling Program are “Municipalities”, defined as a city, village, town, county, tribal governing body, utility district, lake protection district, sewerage district or technical college district. Although sampling may occur at private residences, child care facilities, schools and other facilities, municipal governments, tribal governing bodies, and the other entities described above are the only entities eligible to apply for and receive PFAS Community Grants Sampling Program grant funds.

Eligible Activities – Private Drinking Water Wells

Eligible activities for private drinking water wells are described in sections below and include two phases: *Well Sampling* and *Post-Sampling Response Actions to Disrupt PFAS Exposure*. Applicants applying for funding to sample wells must also be prepared to provide PFAS-impacted well owners and users with assistance to disrupt PFAS exposures. Response actions for PFAS exposure disruption may include a variety of activities identified in the Post-Sampling Response Action Plan, such as providing a temporary source of alternative water, providing drinking water treatment and/or filtration, or other short-term options that can be implemented upon receipt of sample results. Contact DNRPFASGrants@wisconsin.gov prior to applying if you have questions about eligible activities.

Phase 1 – Well Sampling (ss. 292.74(1)(d) & 292.74(2), Wis. Stats.)

Municipalities may receive PFAS Community Grants Sampling Program grant funds for the following activities:

- Sampling private water supplies (typically private residences).
- Sampling public water supplies at certain public, private, or tribal elementary or secondary schools and licensed or certified child care facilities that are not already required to sample for PFAS as specified in s. 292.74(2)(d), Wis. Stats.
- Administrative costs to design sampling programs and implement grant-funded sampling.

Well sampling projects must meet the following requirements:

- Well samples shall be analyzed by a [laboratory certified for PFAS by the Wisconsin DNR](#).
- All sample testing must be conducted in accordance with the PFAS Sampling Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) requirements detailed in [Appendix A](#), including lab method requirements and data reporting to DNR. Grant applicants are required to share the QAPP with the laboratory and inform the laboratory to follow the QAPP requirements.
- DNR recommends applicants include a minimum of 25 private residences **or** a minimum of one school or child care facility in each application. Applicants are encouraged to confirm with schools and child care facilities if those sites are already required to test for PFAS under s. 281.17(8)(a), Wis. Stats. (Safe Drinking Water Act) prior to including those schools or child care facilities in their application. If a school or child care facility is already required to sample for PFAS as part of Safe Drinking Water Act requirements, then that facility is not eligible and may not be included in the grant application.

Phase 2 – Post-Sampling Response Actions to Disrupt PFAS Exposure (s. 292.74(2)(j), Wis. Stats.)

Applicants interested in conducting sampling must be prepared to provide PFAS-impacted well owners and users with tools to disrupt PFAS exposures, e.g., bottled water service. DNR recommends that applicants include options for disruption tools in sample results letters so PFAS exposure may be disrupted without delay.

To receive funding for post-sampling response actions, applicants shall submit a Post-Sampling Action Plan outlining how they will address wells with PFAS exceedances, such as providing bottled water or another temporary alternative water source, drinking water filtration and treatment options, or another PFAS disruption tool. Applicants should be prepared to implement their post-sampling response action plan for PFAS exposure disruption for a minimum period of six months. Applicants are encouraged to work with well owners/users to identify a long-term solution. Grant funding for post-sampling response actions may be extended beyond six months at the discretion of the DNR, subject to applicant's eligibility and availability of funds. Note that well owners and users are not required to accept response actions offered by the municipality.

Temporary bottled water or another alternative water supply must meet the following requirements:

- Water from a treatment system certified by ANSI/NSF Standards 53 or 58 to reduce PFAS. Applicants should be prepared to submit test results or another certification demonstrating alternative water supply meets this requirement. The fact sheet Reducing PFAS in Your Drinking Water, P-3012 (<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/collection/p-03012>) has information on which devices work best.
- Bottled water that has been purified or filtered. Applicants should be prepared to submit test results or another certification demonstrating alternative water supplies meet this requirement.
- Other sources of water that have been tested for PFAS and do not have levels above DHS recommended health advisories.

Supplemental materials outlining information for response actions to disrupt PFAS exposures are available in a separate document.

Eligible Activities – Wastewater/Biosolids Sampling (s. 292.74(2)(f), Wis. Stats.)

Eligible applicants may receive PFAS Community Grants Sampling Program grant funds for PFAS sampling anywhere in the wastewater treatment process, including but not limited to the collection system, influent wastewater, in-plant sampling, effluent, liquid sludge, cake sludge and filtrate samples from municipal wastewater systems that distribute, land apply or generate municipal biosolids/sewage sludge. Eligible sampling also includes systematic sampling of the collection system such as at interceptors of various sub-sewersheds throughout the service area to aid in source identification. Additional information for source identification and investigation can be found on the [DNR Water Quality PFAS Initiatives page](#). Sampling activities associated with sampling and analysis that are required by a Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit are eligible for grant funding.

Wastewater/biosolids sampling projects must meet the following requirements:

- Wastewater/biosolids samples shall be analyzed by [laboratory certified for PFAS by the Wisconsin DNR](#).
- Grant applicants shall ensure all sampling complies with procedures recommended by the certified laboratory.
- The certified laboratory must use EPA Method 1633A to analyze wastewater/biosolids samples.
- Wastewater/biosolids samples will be uploaded by the permitted wastewater facility in DNR Switchboard. If sampling data is not included in the facility's permit or not able to be uploaded into DNR Switchboard, please contact DNRPFASGrants@wisconsin.gov for accommodations in supplying sample data results from the certified laboratory to DNR.

Ineligible Activities

The following activities are **ineligible** for Community Grants Sampling Program funding:

- Sampling municipal public water supplies.
- Sampling a well on a private property or other entity that is served by a municipal water system.
- Sampling a water supply for parameters other than the 17 recoverable perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) analyzed in accordance with the QAPP in [Appendix A](#) [s. 292.74(1)(d), Wis. Stats.].

Contact DNRPFASGrants@wisconsin.gov prior to applying if you have questions about eligible activities.

Allowable Costs

All costs shall be reasonable and based on:

1. Current lab rates (there is no maximum per-sample cost)
2. Applicant details (e.g., administrative costs)
3. Activities necessary to sample water supplies or wastewater/biosolids for PFAS
4. Activities to source and provide PFAS-impacted well owners/users with a method to disrupt PFAS exposure disruption.

Applicants may choose to include administrative costs in their application. Eligible administrative costs include project planning, private well owner/user outreach, and sourcing and distribution of PFAS exposure disruption tools, communications and other similar activities. These costs may be applied to the required match or may be reimbursed as allowable grant expenses.

Contact DNRPFASGrants@wisconsin.gov prior to applying if you have questions about allowable costs or eligible administrative costs that may be applied to the required match.

Sampling Data

Well water sampling data results will be uploaded by a certified laboratory to the Laboratory Data Entry System (LDES). LDES data may be shared with the [Groundwater Retrieval Network \(GRN\)](#), [Drinking Water System \(DWS\) Portal](#), the [PFAS Interactive Data Viewer](#) and other DNR databases as necessary. Wastewater/biosolids sampling data results will be uploaded to DNR Switchboard and may be shared with other DNR databases.

Section 292.74(3), Wis. Stats. requires the DNR to collect sampling site addresses, parcel/tax identification numbers and property owner names. By applying for a PFAS Sampling Grant, the applicant agrees to provide this data for all sampling sites. If applicants have questions about reporting sampling data, please email DNRPFASGrants@wisconsin.gov.

SECTION 3: HOW TO APPLY

The following four steps are involved in applying for Community Grants Sampling Program grant funds.

Step 1: Determine If You Are An Eligible Applicant (s. 292.74(1)(c), Wis. Stats.)

Municipalities are eligible to apply for Community Grants Sampling Program funding. The governing statute for this program defines eligible municipalities as any of the following:

- City, village or town
- County
- Tribal governing body
- Utility district
- Lake protection district
- Sewerage district
- Technical college district

Step 2: Determine If Your Planned Sampling Is Eligible (s. 292.74(2), Wis. Stats.)

See the “Eligible Activities – Well Sampling” or “Eligible Activities – Wastewater/Biosolids Sampling” sections above to determine if the planned sampling is eligible for grant reimbursement.

Step 3: Provide Required Resolution/Ordinance And Notification

Grant Project Resolution Form 8700-388

To meet the requirement in s. 292.74(3)(b), Wis. Stats. to provide a copy of an ordinance or resolution authorizing the applicant to enter into a financial assistance agreement with the DNR, the DNR strongly recommends submittal of the [Grant Project Resolution Form 8700-388](#) in order to demonstrate the governing body is authorized to enter into a financial agreement with the DNR. Alternatively, the municipality may provide a copy of an ordinance authorizing the municipality to enter into a financial agreement with the DNR. More information is available in [Appendix C](#).

Municipal Notification For Well Sampling Activities

To ensure coordination among municipalities with overlapping jurisdiction, the following additional eligibility requirements apply for municipalities that are conducting well sampling activities. The following notifications do not apply to wastewater/biosolids sampling activities. A sample municipal notification letter is available in [Appendix B](#).

Applicant = City/Village/Town

- Grant application must include an authorizing ordinance or resolution adopted by the municipality's governing body allowing the applicant to enter into a financial assistance agreement with DNR, per s. 292.74(3)(b), Wis. Stats.

Applicant = County Sampling Wells In City Or Village Limits

- Grant application must include an authorizing ordinance or resolution from both the County and the affected City/Village.

Applicant = County Sampling Wells In A Town (i.e., outside City/Village limits)

- Grant application must include an authorizing ordinance or resolution from the County.
- Grant application must include a Town Notification Letter. The Notification Letter must identify a County contact, the proposed locations for PFAS sampling and the 30-calendar day timeframe in which the Town can respond to notify the County of any concerns. If concerns are submitted, the County and Town will work together to address the concerns. The application is not considered "complete" until the 30-calendar day notification period has ended or all concerns have been resolved.

Applicant = Utility District/Lake Protection District/Sewerage District/Technical College District

- Districts must provide documentation in the application that the entity and the individual authorized representative have authority to enter into a financial assistance agreement with the DNR. The format of this documentation may differ from a standard ordinance or authorizing resolution. Contact DNRPFASGrants@wisconsin.gov for guidance prior to applying for grant funds.
- Grant application must include a County and Town/Village/City Notification Letter. The Notification Letter must identify the proposed locations of PFAS sampling, the timeframe in which they can respond and a District contact. The county and Town/Village/City have 30 calendar days to submit concerns to the District. If concerns are submitted, the District will work together with the county and Town/Village/City to address the concerns. The application is not considered "complete" until the 30-calendar day notification period has ended or all concerns have been resolved.

Applicant = Tribal Governing Body

- Tribal governing bodies in Wisconsin are eligible to apply for Community Grants Sampling Program grants.
- Proposed activities must occur on land(s) where the tribal governing body has governing jurisdiction with regard to the proposed activities.
- Tribal governing bodies are encouraged to reach out to DNRPFASInquiries@wisconsin.gov early in the planning process to discuss documentation needed to confirm eligibility.

Step 4: Submit Application With Required Documentation (s. 292.74(3), Wis. Stats)

Sampling Expenses

Applicants must submit their complete application form and all additional materials by email to DNRPFASGrants@wisconsin.gov. **Applications must be received no later than the close date for sampling grant Cycle A, April 30, 2027.** Applicants must submit all the following for an application to be considered complete:

- Well sampling will use application form 8700-400DG and a supplemental workbook provided by the DNR to detail the proposed sampling activities as required by the authorizing statute and as directed by DNR: parcel/tax ID, property owner name, address, county, Wisconsin unique well ID number (WUWN) (if known), type of property and the population (count) of people served by the water supply. All required fields must be filled in, and the application form must be signed by an authorized representative of the municipal applicant.
- Wastewater/biosolids sampling will use application form 8700-400WY and a supplemental workbook provided by the DNR to detail the proposed sampling activities as required by the authorizing statute and as directed by DNR: site location or facility name, permit number, sample type, number of samples, outfall number (if applicable) and sample description. All required fields must be filled in, and the application form must be signed by an authorized representative of the municipality/applicant organization.
- A copy of an authorizing ordinance or resolution that the applicant may enter into a financial assistance agreement with DNR.
- A completed [W-9 Form](#) must accompany all applications.
- A copy of a required municipal notification described in “Step 3: Complete Required Municipal Notifications” above, if necessary.

Post-Sampling Action Plan – Wells Only

Applicants must develop and initiate implementation of a Post-Sampling Action Plan (Plan) detailing how they plan to respond to well owners and users with PFAS impacted wells. The Plan must be provided to the DNR prior to receiving reimbursement for well sampling expenses. Applicants are strongly encouraged to: 1) develop a Plan before initiating sampling activities; and 2) be prepared to implement their Plan immediately upon receipt of sampling results from the laboratory.

The Plan must identify the response actions the applicant will offer to well owners and users to disrupt PFAS exposure. At a minimum, the Plan should include the number of wells, type of response actions planned, and an estimated budget. The Plan shall only include response actions associated with wells sampled under a Community Grants Sampling Program grant agreement. Concurrently with submittal of the Plan, the applicant may request amendment of their existing financial assistance agreement to receive additional funding to support post-sampling response actions. Post-sampling response actions supported with grant funds must be authorized in a financial assistance agreement per § 292.74(5), Wis. Stats. and are subject to match requirements in § 292.74(6), Wis. Stats.

In circumstances where well owners or users opt not to participate in post-sampling response actions offered by the applicant, the applicant must provide DNR with documentation that demonstrates they facilitated well owner and user participation to the maximum practical extent.

For response actions that require continued implementation to disrupt exposure, applicants may request funding to support well owners and users for additional six-month periods. Any renewals will be at the sole discretion of the DNR and based on eligibility and the availability of funding.

The applicant may, at their discretion, implement a Post-Sampling Action Plan without requesting additional funding from the DNR. However, the applicant shall be subject to the same terms and conditions of this agreement that pertain to post-sampling response actions supported with grant funds.

SECTION 4: APPLICATION REVIEW AND GRANT AWARDS (s. 292.74(4), Wis. Stats.)

Community Grants Sampling Program grants will be awarded according to the order in which applications are deemed complete by DNR (i.e., “first in, first out”). If Cycle A funds are fully obligated prior to the cycle close date, DNR will continue to accept and review applications but will place complete applications on a waitlist. DNR will evaluate these applications in the following cycle, based on the date when the application was deemed complete.

Any municipality that submits an application during Cycle A that remains incomplete as of the cycle close date must reapply in the following cycle if the municipality wishes to receive grant funding. Incomplete applications will not be automatically considered in the next cycle.

SECTION 5: REIMBURSEMENT AND CLOSE-OUT

Reimbursement Process And Documentation

Payments of the grant award will be made on a reimbursement basis. Requests for reimbursement must be submitted to DNR using the [Grant Payment Request & Worksheet \(Form 8700-001\)](#) within 60 days of the receipt of test results from completed, eligible sampling activities. The DNR requires all well water sample analysis results to be entered into the Laboratory Data Entry System (LDES) by the certified laboratory that processed the sample(s) and all wastewater/biosolids sample analysis results to be entered into the DNR Switchboard by the wastewater facility before requesting payment.

Reimbursement Requirements

- **Proof of sampling – Well Water** – Eligible well water sample data must be analyzed following the method listed in the QAPP in [Appendix A](#), entered into LDES by the certified laboratory following the reporting instructions detailed in the following the method listed in the QAPP in [Appendix A](#), and must be verified by DNR grant staff. The certified laboratory will notify the grant applicant when the sample testing is concluded and is reported to LDES. Grant applicants will inform DNR that the testing is concluded by entering the laboratory Sample ID Number and the date the certified laboratory reported the data in the reporting section of the application supplement form provided by DNR.

- Note: Results for all sampling sites approved in the application process must be submitted in LDES before the grant applicant may request payment.
- **Notification of Results – Well Water** – Within 10 calendar days of receiving sample analysis results from the certified laboratory, the grant applicant must notify each well owner or user of the PFAS sampling analysis results provided by the laboratory. The notification must include the complete laboratory report and information. Well owners or users with exceedances should be provided a health advisory and information about what tools and resources are available to disrupt PFAS exposures. More information including template language and attachments can be found in [Appendix B2: Notification Letter Templates: Sharing Well Sampling Results With Private Well Owners And Users](#).
- **Notification of Health Advisory** – Well owners and users with PFAS levels that exceed DHS health advisory levels should be provided with a letter detailing a health advisory, information about what response actions can be taken to disrupt PFAS exposures, and available community resources. The letter may also include information about long-term options for PFAS exposure disruption such as DNR’s well compensation program and other possible options. More information including template language and attachments can be found in [Appendix B2: Notification Letter Templates: Sharing Well Sampling Results With Private Well Owners And Users](#).
- **Proof of sampling – Wastewater/Biosolids** – Eligible wastewater/biosolids sample data must be submitted online using [DNR Switchboard](#) by the grant applicant according to the sampled facility’s wastewater permit, and data must be verified by DNR grant staff. The grant applicant must notify DNR when the wastewater/biosolid sample testing is concluded and results are submitted in DNR Switchboard.
 - Note: Results for all sampling sites approved in the application process must be received and available in DNR Switchboard before the grant applicant may request payment.
- **Proof of payment** – Attach the following proof of payment documents when requesting grant payment:
 - Copy of laboratory invoice.
 - Copy of invoices for PFAS exposure disruption tools and resources such as bottled water, water service, water treatment, water filtration or other options offered to PFAS impacted well owners/users.
 - Proof of payment as described in the grant payment request form instructions.

- **Matching funds requirement** – DNR requires grant applicants to provide matching funds of at least 20 percent of the amount awarded [s. 292.74(6)(a), Wis. Stats.]. See [Cost-Share heading](#) in Section 1 above for a detailed explanation and budgeting methodology.
 - Cash match reporting can be completed in the Grant Payment Request & Worksheet (Form 8700-001).
 - If the grant applicant is using non-cash match, the grant applicant must use the following forms specified by DNR to document the non-cash match grant activities when requesting grant payment reimbursement:
 - [Local Government Force Account Report \[PDF\]](#) Form 8700-352
 - [Donated Volunteer Labor Used as Grant Match Form \[PDF\]](#) Form 8700-349
 - To include other match not described above in the grant application, contact DNRPFASGrants@wisconsin.gov for approval of any other proposed matching funds.

SECTION 6: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Grant applicants will follow the steps below to implement a successful PFAS sampling grant project following the notification that the application was awarded.

- Prepare to enter into a financial assistance agreement with the DNR by approving an authorizing resolution using the [Grant Project Resolution Form 8700-388](#) or promulgating an ordinance.
- Coordinate with any overlapping municipalities with jurisdiction of sampling sites by ensuring all participating municipalities pass appropriate authorizing resolutions and municipalities are notified.
- Determine how you will approach sampling in your community by developing a project plan or hiring a qualified consultant to assist with project planning. Applicants should develop an informed sampling plan in consideration of possible PFAS sources in their community.
- Determine how your community will assist in disrupting PFAS exposures for impacted well owners/users with PFAS levels exceeding DHS health advisory levels.
 - The DNR requires that applicants develop a Post Sampling Action Plan for PFAS exposure disruption in advance of conducting sampling.
 - Disruption tools and resource options for impacted well owners/users should be offered at the time that their sample results and health advisory letters are issued.
 - Supplemental guidance and application materials for PFAS Exposure Disruption options are available in a separate document.
- Engage community members through outreach activities to select appropriate sampling sites.
- Enter into access permission agreements with property owners to collect samples.
- Submit complete application materials and attachments to DNRPFASGrants@wisconsin.gov.
- Enter into a financial assistance agreement with the DNR by signing a PFAS Community Grants Sampling Program Grant Agreement with the DNR.
- Share the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) with the [Wisconsin DNR PFAS certified laboratory](#) selected.

- Sample the water supply according to the instructions of the certified laboratory and the QAPP in [Appendix A](#). Sample wastewater/biosolids in a manner that complies with procedures recommended by the laboratory.
- Samples are tested by a certified laboratory. Water sample results may take 3-4 weeks; biosolid sample results may take 4-6 weeks, depending on the laboratory.
- Receive confirmation from the certified laboratory that the well sampling results are uploaded to LDES (well water sampling) or from the wastewater facility that the sampling results are uploaded to DNR Switchboard (wastewater/biosolids).
- Notify well owners/users of sample analysis results, and, if necessary, issue well owners/users with PFAS impacted wells a health advisory letter that includes information on temporary and long-term solutions to disrupt PFAS exposures.
- Pay laboratory invoice(s) if not already paid at the time sampling materials were requested.
- Document the sampling and analysis was completed in the supplemental application worksheet provided by the DNR.
- Document the PFAS exposure disruption response actions taken in the supplemental application worksheet provided by the DNR.
- Submit payment reimbursement form request along with proof of sampling and analysis results, proof of payment and matching funds documentation no later than 60 days following the receipt of results from eligible PFAS sampling activities.

SECTION 7: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OPPORTUNITIES TO ADDRESS EXCEEDANCES

Should the sample analysis find an exceedance of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) drinking water health advisory level in one or more of the 17 tested PFAS (see QAPP in [Appendix A](#) for sampling analysis details), there may be financial assistance available to assist with obtaining safe drinking water. Please note the list below is not exhaustive, nor does it contain all eligibility provisions of each grant program.

- Cycle A funding is available for applicants to provide tools and resources to disrupt PFAS exposure for residences with PFAS-impacted wells. See **Section 2, Phase 2 – Post-Sampling Response Actions to Disrupt PFAS Exposure**, above.
- Non-profit entities (501(c)(3)), schools or child care facilities *may* be eligible for [Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities \(EC-SDC\) Grant Program](#), a [Well Compensation Grant](#) or funding in a future Cycle of the PFAS Community Grants Program.
- Other entities serving less than 10,000 people that are not non-profit entities *may* be eligible for the [EC-SDC Grant Program](#) or funding in a future Cycle of the PFAS Community Grants Program.
- Private well owners/users may be eligible for a [Well Compensation Grant](#) dependent on median household income.

SECTION 8: COMMUNITY GRANTS SAMPLING PROGRAM CONTACTS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

Please contact DNRPFASGrants@wisconsin.gov with questions regarding the grant application, eligibility, project status and reimbursement.

Please see the DNR's [PFAS Community Grants Sampling Program webpage](#) for more information including application technical assistance resources.

APPENDIX A: QUALITY ASSURANCE PROJECT PLAN (QAPP) FOR 17 RECOVERABLE PFAS WITH WISCONSIN HEALTH LIMITS FOR PRIVATE WELL TESTING, 2025 WISCONSIN ACT 201



Quality Assurance Project Plan:

17 Recoverable Per- And Polyfluoroalkyl Substances With Wisconsin Health Advisory Limits For Private Well Testing 2025 Wisconsin Act 201

Version 1.0

September 3, 2026

Prepared by:

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater

101 S. Webster St., Box 7921

Madison, WI 53707-7921

A0. Purpose

The following Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) provides the requirements for laboratories performing PFAS analysis for private wells sampled as part of programs funded and developed under Wisconsin's PFAS Laws, 2025 Wisconsin Acts 200 and 201 (Acts 200 and 201). Applicants for funding shall work with their chosen certified laboratory to ensure that analyses conducted under Acts 200 and 201 are performed in accordance with this QAPP. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) expects applicants to work closely with the laboratory of their choice to inform them of the requirements outlined in this QAPP. Grant applicants who are unable to confirm compliance with this QAPP may experience delays in their reimbursement, reduced reimbursement amounts or denial of reimbursement.

A1. Project Staff Supporting The Quality Assurance Project Plan

Marty Nessman, Private Water Supply Section Manager, Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater, DNR

Jesse Jensen, Public Water Supply Section Manager, Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater, DNR

Ally Scott, Emerging Contaminants Initiatives Coordinator, Office of Emerging Contaminants, DNR

Tom Trainor, Program Chemist Lead, Bureau of Environmental Analysis & Sustainability, DNR

Rebecca Fahney, Laboratory Coordinator, Bureau of Environmental Analysis & Sustainability, DNR

A2. Project Background

Acts 200 and 201 fund and support a number of different private well sampling programs, including financial assistance for municipalities through the PFAS Community Grants Sampling Program and Wisconsin's PFAS Private Well Testing Program (WisPPWT) for private well owners and users. These programs were created to help Wisconsin's communities address PFAS contamination, especially in drinking water.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) has established health advisory limits for the 17 PFAS in drinking water as indicated in Table 1.

Public water systems regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act may be required to notify their customers if PFAS levels exceed DHS health advisory levels or engage in additional sampling. This QAPP applies to all samples collected as part of the PFAS Community Grants Sampling Program and WisPPWT programs under Acts 200 and 201.

A3. Project Required Limits and Analyte List

Laboratories shall report sample results to the limit of quantitation (LOQ), not the limit of detection (LOD) (method detection limit). The LOQ shall be at or below the health advisory limits listed in Table 1. The LOQ shall be determined by EPA 1633A. The LOD must be less than the LOQ.

Example: LOD = 1.2 ng/L, LOQ = 4 ng/L, sample result = 3. Lab reports, result = < 4 ng/L, LOQ = 4 ng/L

For sampling conducted with PFAS Community Grants Sampling Program funding, laboratories shall report only acquire data for the 17 PFAS listed in Table 1 regardless of any private well owner or user, public water system owner, municipality or contractor request for additional or fewer PFAS analyses.

Since only 17 PFAS are authorized for this initiative, the other 23 PFAS provided in EPA method 1633A must not be acquired for these project samples. A new instrument method must be created so that data for the other 23 PFAS provided in EPA method 1633A is not collected. Primary and secondary ions for these other 23 PFAS must be removed from the instrument method, so the data is not acquired. The DNR is prioritizing the 17 recoverable PFAS compounds that have DHS health advisory limits associated with them for this effort. As part of this grant cycle, a Municipality may apply for funding to provide bottled water to affected residences where a well contains exceedances of DHS health advisory levels for one of more of these 17 PFAS. Private well owners and users may be eligible for a Well Compensation Grant dependent on median household income.

Some laboratories may offer a discounted price since only 17 PFAS are required for this project. **If a laboratory reports more or less than the 17 PFAS in Table 1, the applicant may experience delays in their reimbursement, reduced reimbursement amounts or denial of reimbursement.**

Table 1. Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) Drinking Water Health Advisories for 17 Recoverable PFAS.

Substance (Recoverable PFAS)	DHS – Drinking Water Health Advisory Level (ng/L)
PFOA	4
PFOS	4
FOSA	4
NEtFOSA	4
NEtFOSAA	4
NEtFOSE	4
PFNA	10
PFHxS	10
GenX (HFPO-DA)	10
PFDA	300
PFDoA	500
PFBS	2,000
DONA	3,000
PFUnA	3,000
PFBA	10,000
PFTeA	10,000
PFHxA	150,000

Note: Wisconsin DHS also includes a health advisory level of 400,000 ng/L for PFODA, but this compound is not recoverable in any EPA approved method, so it cannot be analyzed.

A4. Mandatory EPA Method Citation

Laboratories shall utilize and follow the EPA Method 1633A requirements that pertain to the 17 recoverable PFAS listed in Table 1. If any other method is used, the grant applicant will not be reimbursed for laboratory analysis costs.

Sample and extract holding times, along with sample handling requirements, shall be met. Since NEtFOSE and NEtFOSAA are analytes of concern, samples stored at 0 – 6 °C must be extracted within seven days of collection. If samples are stored at or below -20 °C they must be extracted within 90 days of collection. If the laboratory plans on using the -20 °C sample storage option, the DNR strongly recommends that the laboratory instruct the sample collector to not fill the sample bottle completely so there is room for expansion upon freezing.

Samples for this initiative are not Clean Water Act compliance samples.

A5. Additional Project Requirements

The laboratory shall follow the requirements set forth in this QAPP.

Laboratory Analysis

Laboratory analysis for PFAS shall be conducted at a [laboratory certified by the Wisconsin DNR](#) for PFAS in the aqueous matrix.

Field reagent blank samples are not required, and therefore the DNR will not reimburse grant applicants for field reagent blank analysis.

The laboratory's calibration curve used to quantitate results must include a calibration standard at or below the levels listed in Table 1 of this QAPP. If the levels listed in Table 1 of this QAPP requires the laboratory to create a different calibration curve than the one that is routinely used, the laboratory must adjust the concentration of their instrument sensitivity check (ISC) standard and the low-level ongoing precision and recovery (LLOPR) spike concentration to meet 1633A requirements.

Laboratory Data Reporting Requirements

For samples submitted under this QAPP, laboratories are required to report the data electronically to the DNR into the Laboratory Data Entry System (LDES).

Additional information shall be reported with samples to ensure the data will be automatically populated in the Groundwater Retrieval Network (GRN) database. In addition to the required standard information, the following fields shall be reported with the laboratory data:

- the DNR grant number;
- the well address or Wisconsin Unique Well Number;
- the county;
- a private water source code (such as P, PK, PO, PW, PD, PT and others);
- the analytical method; and
- a QC flag of 1 (indicating a routine sample).

Data qualifiers shall be completed and included as normal and as required by the method.

Data shall be reported to the DNR within 14 days of the laboratory completing sample analysis.

For guidance on data uploading and questions regarding laboratory data entry, contact the DNR Laboratory Coordinator (DNRLabPortal@Wisconsin.gov).

APPENDIX B: NOTIFICATION LETTER TEMPLATES

B1. Notification Letter Template: Municipalities With Overlapping Jurisdictions

To ensure coordination among municipalities with overlapping jurisdiction, DNR requires that applicant municipalities notify any other municipalities that may be included in the grant sampling plan.

PLACE ON MUNICIPAL LETTERHEAD

<DATE>

<CHAIR>

<MUNICIPALITY>

<STREET ADDRESS>

<CITY, STATE, ZIP>

Dear <CHAIR NAME>:

<MUNICIPALITY> would like to inform you that the <MUNICIPALITY> is pursuing a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) Community Grants Sampling Program to learn more about the presence or absence of PFAS in private wells through drinking water sampling. Attached is a list of the properties proposed for sampling. <MUNICIPALITY> identified these properties <INSERT BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE MUNICIPALITY SELECTED THESE PARTICULAR PROPERTIES>. <MUNICIPALITY> is providing this list to inform your jurisdiction of the proposed project locations. Note that <MUNICIPALITY> is also reaching out to these well owners and users directly.

PFAS Community Grants Sampling Program guidance from DNR requires <MUNICIPALITY> to inform your Board of potential PFAS Sampling in your jurisdiction. Your Board is not obligated to take any action on this notification. However, if your Board has any questions or concerns, please reach out to:

Katherine Burk, PFAS Project Manager
Wisconsin DNR Bureau of Community Financial Assistance
608-228-9403
DNRPFASGrants@wisconsin.gov

If <APPLICANT MUNICIPALITY> does not hear from <ADDRESSEE MUNICIPALITY> within 30 calendar days, we will assume that the <CITY/VILLAGE/TOWN/ETC.> has no concerns about this proposed project effort, and the <APPLICANT MUNICIPALITY> will move forward with the DNR grant application.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

<APPLICANT CONTACT>

B2. Notification Letter Templates: Sharing Well Sampling Results With Private Well Owners And Users

Within 10 calendar days of receiving sample analysis results from the certified laboratory, the grant applicant is required to inform well owners and users of the sample analysis results using the results table below, regardless of whether those results exceed DHS PFAS drinking water health advisory levels, and the additional information regarding next steps based on those results.

The following template language **must be included** in sample analysis results notification letters sent to private well owners and users as a part of the PFAS Community Grants Sampling Program. This language must be included in sample analysis results notification letters unless alternate language is approved by the DNR.

For schools or child care facilities that are public water systems which are not required to sample for PFAS under the Safe Drinking Water Act, results that exceed DHS health advisory levels should be referred to the DNR as soon as possible and no later than three business days after the grant applicant receives the sample analysis results from the certified laboratory. Please email DNRPFASGrants@wisconsin.gov and DNR will coordinate directly with those systems on next steps.

NOTIFICATION: NO PFAS COMPOUNDS DETECTED

The results show that no perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) were detected in the water sample collected from your residence.

Even though no PFAS were detected in your water sample, the Department of Health Services (DHS) recommends you limit your PFAS exposure from any possible source. Learn more about these actions at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/chemical/pfas.htm.

For more information regarding PFAS, please visit the DNR's PFAS topics page at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/PFAS>.

NOTIFICATION: PFAS COMPOUND DETECTED AT LEVELS BELOW WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES ADVISORY LEVELS

The results show that perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) were detected below Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) drinking water health advisory levels in the water sample collected from your residence.

Even though low amounts of PFAS were detected in your water sample, the DHS recommends you limit your PFAS exposure from any possible source. Learn more about these actions at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/chemical/pfas.htm.

For more information regarding PFAS, please visit the DNR's PFAS topics page at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/PFAS>.

NOTIFICATION: PFAS COMPOUNDS DETECTED AT LEVELS ABOVE WI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES ADVISORY LEVELS

The results show that the levels of one or more perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in your well exceed Department of Health Services (DHS) drinking water health advisory levels. **Based on this, the DHS and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recommend that the water not be used for drinking or preparing foods that take up a lot of water.**

The DNR and DHS recommend that, at this time, you use an alternative source of water for drinking, for preparing foods that take up a lot of water (e.g., rice or oatmeal) or have water as a main ingredient (e.g., soups, coffee or tea) and for preparing infant formula. Alternative sources of drinking water include:

- Water from a treatment system certified by ANSI/NSF Standards 53 or 58 to reduce PFAS. The fact sheet Reducing PFAS in Your Drinking Water, P-3012 (<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/collection/p-03012>) has information on which devices work best.
- Bottled water that has been purified or filtered.
- Other sources of water that have been tested for PFAS and do not have levels above DHS recommended health advisories.

DHS staff are available for health-related questions. You can contact DHS at 608-266-1120 or dhsenvhealth@wi.gov.

You can learn more about other actions to reduce PFAS exposure at <https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/chemical/pfas.htm>

Next Steps

Based on your sample results, you should take response actions to disrupt PFAS exposures. [Applicant includes information about what tools and resources are available to impacted well owners/users to disrupt PFAS exposures (e.g., “To receive water under the Municipality’s bottled water program, you must complete the following..”). The applicant may consider detailing information about long term options for PFAS exposure disruption that well owners and users may consider.

RESULTS TABLE TO BE INCLUDED WITH ALL SAMPLE ANALYSIS RESULTS NOTIFICATIONS:

Substance (Recoverable PFAS)	DHS – Drinking Water Health Advisory Level (ng/L)	Your results in parts per trillion(ppt)	Above the DHS drinking water advisory levels?
PFOA	4	Insert result	Yes/No
PFOS	4	Insert result	Yes/No
FOSA	4	Insert result	Yes/No
NEtFOSA	4	Insert result	Yes/No
NEtFOSAA	4	Insert result	Yes/No
NEtFOSE	4	Insert result	Yes/No
PFNA	10	Insert result	Yes/No
PFHxS	10	Insert result	Yes/No
GenX (HFPO-DA)	10	Insert result	Yes/No
PFDA	300	Insert result	Yes/No
PFDoA	500	Insert result	Yes/No
PFBS	2,000	Insert result	Yes/No
DONA	3,000	Insert result	Yes/No
PFUnA	3,000	Insert result	Yes/No
PFBA	10,000	Insert result	Yes/No
PFTeA	10,000	Insert result	Yes/No
PFHxA	150,000	Insert result	Yes/No

APPENDIX C: ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTION TEMPLATE

Grant Project Resolution Form 8700-388

DNR strongly recommends submittal of the [Grant Project Resolution Form 8700-388](#). However, applicants may use their own resolution format provided the resolution:

- Includes all the applicant and project information and certifications on Form 8700-388.
- Identifies the specific grant activity for which the funding is requested (e.g., “PFAS sampling of private wells” or “providing temporary water” or “PFAS sampling of wastewater and/or biosolids”). The resolution should not be limited to a specific sampling location or project area.
- Contains the following text “IMPORTANT NOTE: The DNR expects the representatives authorized by this resolution to become familiar with the applicable grant program's procedures for the purpose of taking the necessary actions to undertake, direct and complete the approved project. This includes acting as the primary contact for the project, submitting required materials for a complete grant application, carrying out the acquisition or development project (e.g., obtaining required permits, noticing, bidding, following acquisition guidelines, etc.) and closing the grant project (e.g., submitting grant reimbursement forms and documentation and organization of project files for future monitoring and auditing of compliance with grant program).”

APPENDIX D: WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE DISTRICTS (REGIONS)

Wisconsin Technical College Districts (Regions) Map

The map below is a screenshot of an [ArcGIS Web Map of the Wisconsin Technical College Regions](#) overlaid with Wisconsin county boundaries. Wisconsin Technical College Districts are included in the definition of municipality under s. 292.74(1)(c), Wis. Stats., and therefore are eligible to apply for grant funding.

ArcGIS Web Map

