

**PA Coalition for Oral Health (PCOH)  
Community Water Fluoridation Grants  
Request for Proposal (RFP) Fall 2023  
Guidelines and Application**

**BACKGROUND**

Fluoridation has been identified as the most feasible and cost-effective method of delivering fluoride to all members of a community, regardless of age, education, or income. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that for every \$1 invested in community water fluoridation, up to \$32 in annual dental care costs can be saved. The CDC has also identified water fluoridation as one of the “Ten Great Public Health Achievements of the 20th Century.”

Scientists in the United States and other countries have studied the safety and benefits of fluoridated water for more than 75 years and found no convincing evidence to link water fluoridation to any potential unwanted health effect. As of 2020, 56% of Pennsylvanians served by community water systems receive fluoridated water (which means that 49% of *all* Pennsylvanians receive fluoridated water). Increasing that percentage will improve the quality of life and reduce overall healthcare costs for more Pennsylvania citizens.

**PURPOSE**

This RFP seeks the following outcomes:

- To issue grant funds to those public water systems wishing to initiate, update, or expand the practice of community water fluoridation. Any system with a PWSID is eligible to apply.
- To increase dental preventive measures and improve overall health and well-being of Pennsylvanians served by community water systems.

**FUNDING**

This program is funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Health through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under Grant NU58DP006467: Using Surveillance Data and Evidence-based Interventions to Improve Oral Health Outcomes in Pennsylvania and administered by PCOH.

PCOH plans to award at least \$25,000 in community water fluoridation grants in 2023-2024, with no more than \$50,000 awarded.

**Maximum Request** The maximum request per water system wishing to initiate fluoridation and for systems currently fluoridating may not exceed \$50,000. Depending on the number of applications, there may be one larger award or numerous smaller awards. If funds remain after the first application deadline, a second funding round will be announced.

**Applicant Match** Applicant match is not required. However, grantees are responsible for any additional costs exceeding the **maximum award amount of \$50,000**.

**Eligible Expenses** Community water fluoridation (CWF) grant funds can be used for:

- Planning and engineering services associated with initiation of a fluoridation program
- Equipment to initiate a fluoridation program
- New equipment to replace or expand a current fluoridation program
- Engineering services needed to modify current fluoridation system
- Modifications to existing water system equipment
- Equipment for daily testing of fluoride level
- Personal safety equipment for fluoride handling
- Administrative costs related to initiating fluoridation (permits, licenses, etc.)

Funds **CANNOT** be used for:

- Office equipment
- Matching funds for other federal grants
- New building construction
- Personnel salaries

**Cost Reimbursement** Costs incurred for this project will be covered through reimbursement only. All costs are paid by the grantee and a reimbursement request is submitted to PCOH for payment upon receipt of required documentation. All grant-associated expenses must be incurred and billed to PCOH before **May 10, 2024 for the first deadline on funding**. Reimbursements will be dispersed by check approximately 6–8 weeks after all required documentation is submitted to PCOH.

## ELIGIBILITY

**This funding round gives first priority to community water systems that are initiating a fluoridation program.** Systems may be at any stage in the initiation process. For example, a water system that is in the early stages of exploring the wishes of the community it serves re: CWF is eligible, as is a water system that has received a permit to add fluoridation as a treatment. **Systems which currently are fluoridating may also apply** for equipment updates and replacements, though they will only be considered if funds remain after first priority applications are reviewed. **Systems which have previously received equipment grants from PCOH may apply** for equipment updates and replacements, though first-time applicants will receive priority consideration.

To qualify, systems must:

- Be a community water system with a PWSID
- Be able to enter into a grant agreement with PCOH
- Provide a letter of support from the local water authority or municipal authority
- Provide a copy of DEP permit to fluoridate, if applicable
- Agree to continue fluoridating for a minimum of 5 years after installation of new equipment
- Agree to have at least 50% of their water operators who handle fluoride additives complete the online Fluoridation Learning Online (FLO) course from CDC and submit certificates of completion to PCOH: <https://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/engineering/training.htm>

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis. To qualify for funding, water systems must submit a grant application based on established guidelines.

## Application Content and Evaluation

Please provide the following information in the order listed:

1. **Justification** Provide a description of the need for the new or additional equipment and supplies. (15 points)
2. **Plan for Installation, Implementation, and Sustainability** Describe your plan for updating or expanding your fluoridation program, including a project timeline and sustainability plan. (25 points)
3. **Training** Describe any training planned for water operator personnel for existing fluoridation systems and for equipment included in this proposal. Include SOP if you have one. (15 points)
4. **Population Served** How many people does your water system serve? How many people receive or will receive optimally fluoridated water? Priority will be given to the highest population served. (15 points)
5. **Budget** Include an itemized budget including equipment, supplies (including fluoride additives), installation, engineering, and other required cost estimates to update or expand fluoridation. (15 points)
6. **Ready to Go** Include letter of support from local water authority and DEP operating permit, if applicable, indicating readiness to move forward if grant is awarded. (15 points)

**Closing Date** Applications responding to all six elements must be received by PCOH by **December 31, 2023 at 5pm**. Applications received after this date will not be considered in the first funding round.

Applications can be submitted either electronically to Amy Tice ([info@paoralhealth.org](mailto:info@paoralhealth.org)) or by U.S. mail to the below address. If sending by mail, please send an email to Amy Tice ([info@paoralhealth.org](mailto:info@paoralhealth.org)) so that we know to expect the application.

PA Coalition for Oral Health  
Attn: Community Water Fluoridation Grants  
PO Box 242  
Delmont, PA 15626

### **Important Dates**

**December 31, 2023 at 5pm**

**Application deadline**

**January 15, 2024**

**Awardees notified**

**May 10, 2024**

**Expenses incurred and submitted to PCOH**

**June 14, 2024**

**Final reports due**