



# Frequently Asked Questions about Source Water Protection Grants

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Idaho Department  
of Environmental  
Quality  
Water Quality  
Division  
1410 N. Hilton  
Boise, ID 83706  
(208) 373-0502

## *Can the SWP grant be used to fund the purchase of water rights?*

No, the SWP grant cannot be used to fund the purchase of water rights.

## *Can the SWP grant provide any grant money for either system planning or construction?*

SWP grants are specifically for protecting the drinking water source area and cannot be used for system operation, maintenance, or construction costs. Drinking Water SRF Planning Grants and Loans are available for these types of projects. [Learn more here](#) or contact Tim Wendland at (208) 373-0439.

## *Can the SWP grant fund any activities associated with acquiring land to protect our source?*

The SWP grant cannot be used to purchase land; however, it can be used to fund a land survey to identify the property boundaries of the land to be acquired for protection. The SWP grant cannot be used for Environmental Assessment costs associated with purchasing the land. Environmental Assessments and potential cleanup costs may be eligible for assistance through DEQ's Brownfields Assessment Program. [Learn more here](#) or contact Aaron Scheff at (208) 373-0502.

## *Can an applicant submit multiple SWP grant applications for different projects?*

Yes. An applicant can submit multiple applications; however, each applicant or organization can only be funded a total of the maximum grant amount identified for that grant cycle. For 2012, the maximum award (for regional projects) is \$20,000. So, an applicant can only be funded a total of \$20,000 for all the projects selected. They could potentially have two projects for \$10,000 each funded for a total of \$20,000; however, if they submit two applications for \$20,000 each, only one will be funded.

## *Can the SWP grant be used to fence the water treatment facility?*

The purpose of the SWP grant program is to protect the drinking water source (prior to reaching the drinking water system), so the grant can be used to fence around a water source (including a well head, surface water intake, or spring box) to protect it from security threats and potential contamination. This grant cannot be used for fencing only the treatment plant. If a treatment plant is on the same lot/area as the source and it is unreasonable to fence it separately from the source, it could be eligible for source water protection grant funding.

## *Can the SWP grant be used to install a telemetry system at the well house to provide instant notification of unauthorized entry?*

The SWP grant can be used to protect drinking water sources by securing the wellhead through fencing, locks, and an alarm system. The telemetry system for unauthorized entry would be eligible for the source water protection grant.

***Can the SWP grant be used to purchase a new flow meter and level indicator at the reservoir?***

No, system upgrades such as flow meters, or level indicators are not eligible for funding from the SWP grant. The purpose of this grant is to protect source water prior to reaching the drinking water system. Operation and maintenance costs are not eligible for funding from the source water protection grant.

***Can the SWP grant be used to properly abandon a well that was previously improperly abandoned?***

Yes, fixing a well so that it is properly decommissioned is eligible for funding.

***Can the SWP grant be used for a household hazardous waste collection event?***

Yes; however, the SWP grant is one-time funding, and it is recommended that the applicant demonstrate how the HHW program will be continued in the future.

***We are in the process of updating our protection plan. Do we need to complete this prior to submitting our SWP grant application to have priority?***

No, since you have notified DEQ that you are in the process of updating your plan, you will get the points for having an updated plan in the grant review.

***I see where the only attachment mentioned in the SWP grant application was for the project area map. We were going to prepare several key participant support letters. Can they be attached and who should they be addressed to?***

Yes, you can attach other documents as well as maps. Address any support letters to the Source Water Protection Grant Selection Committee.

***Are federal agencies eligible for SWP grant funding?***

No, federal agencies are not eligible for SWP grant funding.

***Are state and local government agencies eligible for funding?***

Yes, state agencies and local government agencies in Idaho, including city and county governments, are eligible for funding.

***Is there a percentage guide for indirect rate per DEQ?***

No, the percentage is usually determined by the applicant based on their overhead expenses that would be incurred during the project. Indirect (overhead) is a percent of the costs to operate the office including rent, utilities, telephone, etc., and includes costs to administer the contract. If it is not an added expense of the project, you do not need to include it in the budget request, or you can also identify it as match if it is a cost that your organization will cover outside of the grant request.

***The budget details section of the SWP grant application states: "Please provide additional information on the amounts budgeted above. Describe how DEQ funds will be used and how match commitments will be applied." Then there are 6 specific questions with areas to fill in with the answers. Do you need an attached narrative to answer the questions in quotes above, or are the 6 questions/answers intended to fulfill this directive?***

The 6 questions are intended to fulfill the request for additional information. However, there is not a question that specifically addresses match information so please include information on what match was provided within each question/ budget category. For example, the first question is "How many personnel hours are included?" Please specify if any of the personnel hours are included as match.

***The grant guidelines state that project costs and applied match must comply with federal guidelines for applicable cost principles. Where would we state this intent to comply?***

This is a requirement of the grant and, if selected, will be included in the final contract agreement, which will be signed by both DEQ and your organization.

***I am trying to bookmark my application so I can return to it later but it will not let me. What do I do?***

Because this is a dynamic webpage, you cannot bookmark your application. You can bookmark the login page for the application, where you can log back into your application using your email address and application number.

***How do I know if I need to comply with Davis Bacon Wages?***

Construction projects over \$2,000 may be required to comply with the Davis Bacon Act. The Davis Bacon Act requires payment of locally prevailing wages (including fringe benefits) as established by the US Department of Labor (Title 40, United States Code) to laborers and mechanics on federal government contracts in excess of \$2,000 for construction, alteration, or repair (including painting and decorating) of public buildings or public works who are employed directly on the site of the work. Grant recipients and their subcontractors must comply with the applicable Davis Bacon Act requirements, specifically the provisions set forth in Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations (29 CFR 5.5). The grant recipient will be responsible for maintaining a complete set of records that document compliance.

Davis Bacon Act requirements may not apply to grant recipients that are government agencies, or political subdivisions thereof, that perform construction work in-house with their own employees (force account labor). However, the grant recipient must provide documentation to DEQ that the Davis Bacon Act requirement would not apply to the construction project. It is the grant recipient's responsibility to demonstrate, upon request by DEQ, compliance with any applicable provisions of the Davis Bacon Act associated with the construction project. [Learn more about Davis Bacon Act qualifications and requirements.](#)

***Are public water systems exempt from Davis Bacon Wage requirements?***

If the recipient is a municipally owned PWS, it is exempt from Davis Bacon Wage requirements if the recipient completes the in house ("force account labor"). However, if the municipally owned PWS subcontracts the work out, the subcontractor must comply with Davis Bacon Wage requirements. If the PWS is a privately owned PWS, it is required to comply with Davis Bacon Wage requirements regardless if it does the work itself (in house) or subcontracts it out. [Learn more about Davis Bacon Act qualifications and requirements.](#)

***I am an applicant who will be required to comply with Davis Bacon Wages. How do I identify the wages for my project in order to complete the budget in the application?***

Wage determinations must be identified for each work classification that will be used for the construction project. Wage determinations can be found or requested on the [US Department of Labor's website](#). [Learn more about Davis Bacon Act qualifications and requirements.](#)

***Are there setback requirements when fencing a source water area (well, spring or surface water intake)?***

Drinking Water Rules require a 100 foot radius for spring sources and 50 foot radius for wells to be fenced to prevent the trespass of *livestock*. There is no setback requirement for fences to prevent the trespass of wildlife or people.

***Is an engineering review required for fencing a drinking water source?***

No, an engineering review is not required. Drinking Water Rules require plan and spec review and approval for "material modifications," which are defined as modifications intended to increase the capacity or alter the methods or process employed. Fencing is not considered a material modification. As part of the grant requirements, grant recipients need to have DEQ approval prior to installation of fencing to prevent the trespass of livestock to insure the required setbacks are met.

***Can SWP grant funding be used to investigate if a facility (in a source water protection area) is leaking and potentially contributing contaminants to a PWS drinking water source (aquifer or surface water)?***

SWP grant funding cannot be used to investigate if a problem exists with a specific facility. SWP funding can be used for contaminant source identification (research). SWP grant funding could be provided to identify the source or potential sources of contamination where an existing contamination issue may pose a risk to a public drinking water source.

***Can SWP funding be used to correct problems found at a facility so it does not potentially contaminate source water?***

SWP funding cannot be used for capital improvements or operation and maintenance costs. Any improvements to a facility to correct a problem would likely be considered a capital improvement or maintenance issue.

***Can a city apply for the cost to add four houses with septic systems to its sewer as a source water protection measure? The homes are adjacent to a city well in an area that was recently annexed.***

As requested, we would not fund a project to hook up homes to the city sewer system that have been annexed by the city. We do not fund projects that provide a benefit to one specific individual. However, we may provide funding for a city cost share program that has a set of predefined criteria that would be used to identify who will receive assistance. SWP funding could be used, under certain conditions, to develop or provide initial startup funding for a city cost share program to assist homeowners who have a septic system that poses a threat to the drinking water source to hook up to the city sewer system. For example, if the city wanted to develop a cost share program, where the homeowner pays portion of the costs, and they have a set of predefined criteria that will be used to prioritize and identify who will receive the funding, and this criteria is based on protecting the drinking water source (i.e. how close to the source, is it failing/contributing contamination, etc.), it would be eligible for funding.

The SWP grant cannot be used to fund operation and maintenance costs. Funding a cost share program to assist homeowners in hooking up to a city sewer system rather than using a failing septic system would be eligible because it removes a potential contaminant source (septic system) and is not considered operation and maintenance.

***A water system asked if they could apply for funding to pay for an individual farmer's secondary containment for a fuel storage tank and a concrete pad under the tank near their well to protect groundwater.***

We will not fund a project that provides a benefit to one specific individual.

***Can the grant be used to fund training for cross connection control?***

No. This grant is intended to protect source water, which is drinking water before it reaches the drinking water system. Cross connection control is a threat to drinking water after the water reaches the drinking water system. The SWP grant can be used for training related to source water, potential contaminants sources, protection strategies, and best management practices to protect source water, etc. but not training on issues not related to protecting drinking water sources.

***Can the grant be used to properly abandon injection wells?***

The SWP grant can be used to properly abandon or decommission publically owned wells, including injection wells that pose a risk to drinking water sources. The grant cannot be used to fund the proper abandonment of privately owned wells because it provides a benefit to one specific individual (well owner). The SWP grant also cannot be used to fund the proper abandonment of motor vehicle disposal wells, which are required by law to be decommissioned.

***Can the SWP grant be used to repair a spring box or reservoir?***

No. The SWP grant cannot be used for water system maintenance or system construction. The Drinking Water SRF program can provide loans for system construction. For more information, visit DEQ's grant and loan website at <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/grants-loans.aspx>

***Additional questions?***

For additional questions on the SWP grant, contact your [regional DEQ office](#) or contact Amy Williams at (208) 373-0502 or email [amy.williams@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:amy.williams@deq.idaho.gov).