

Groundwater Protection Initiative (2024)

ACCELERATED IMPLEMENTATION GRANT REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Minnesota Department of Health
Drinking Water Protection
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St. Paul, MN 55164-0975
651-201-4695
carrie.raber@state.mn.us
www.health.state.mn.us

02/12/2024

To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-4695.

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RFP Part 1: Overview

1.1 General Information

- **Announcement Title:** Groundwater Protection Initiative (2024) Accelerated Implementation Grant
- **Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Program Website:** <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/groundwater/accimpgrant.html>
- **Application Deadline:** Application Deadline: March 15, 2024, by 2:00 p.m. Central Time

To view the application, go to the Minnesota Department of Health program page:

[Groundwater Restoration and Protection Strategies \(GRAPS\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/cwf/localimplem.html)
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/cwf/localimplem.html>)

or

[Drinking Water Grants and Loans](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/grants.html)
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/grants.html>)

1.2 Program Description

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) received funding from the Clean Water Fund to advance Groundwater Restoration and Protection Strategies (GRAPS). A portion of this funding is being offered as grants to build capacity to accelerate implementation of groundwater projects across the state. Each applicant will have the opportunity to apply for up to \$50,000 to conduct pre- project identification, planning and design work that is required before on-the-ground projects can be implemented. Whether it is conducting inventories of potential pollutant sites, utilizing existing targeting tools and datasets, providing technical assistance, or increasing citizen interactions, these grants equip local governments with the capacity to increase the installation and/or management of groundwater projects and practices that protect groundwater. This grant cannot be used for project implementation or mitigation purposes.

1.3 Funding and Project Dates

Funding

Funding will be allocated through a competitive process. If selected, you may only incur eligible expenditures when the grant agreement is fully executed.

Funding	Estimate
Estimated Amount to Grant	\$250,000 available for RFP
Maximum Award	\$50,000
Minimum Award	\$10,000

Match Requirement

There are no match requirements.

Project Dates

The estimated grant start date is May 1, 2024, with kick-off meeting in July 2024 and the grant project period end date is April 30, 2026.

1.4 Eligible Applicants

Applicants must be a local or regional unit of government working to implement a state approved plan, such as a wellhead protection plan, metro county groundwater management plan or comprehensive watershed management plan. All applicants are advised that if they accept state dollars, they will be required to comply with all state laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing these funds. Run the accessibility check by going to File, Check for Issues, Check Accessibility.

1.5 Questions

Open Call for Questions

Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 9:00 to 10:00am Central Standard Time.

Interested organizations must email carrie.raber@state.mn.us or anita.smith@state.mn.us to receive an invitation.

Questions and Answers

Additional questions regarding this request for proposals (RFP) must be submitted to Carrie Raber and Anita Smith at carrie.raber@state.mn.us and anita.smith@state.mn.us.

Please submit questions no later than 2:00 p.m. Central Time on March 4, 2023.

Questions and Answers will be posted at [Accelerated Implementation Grant \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/groundwater/accimpgrant.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/groundwater/accimpgrant.html).

To ensure the proper and fair evaluation of all applications, other communications regarding this RFP, including verbal, telephone, written, or internet initiated by or on behalf of any applicant to any employee of the Department, other than questions submitted to as outlined above, are prohibited. **Any violation of this prohibition may result in the disqualification of the applicant.**

RFP Part 2: Program Details

2.1 Priorities

To build capacity we are seeking grant applicants that consider the priorities identified below. We understand flexibility is needed to respond to local needs, however applications will be favored that support the priorities listed.

Health Equity Priorities

It is the policy of the State of Minnesota to ensure fairness, precision, equity, and consistency in competitive grant awards. This includes implementing diversity and inclusion in grant-making. The Policy on Rating Criteria for Competitive Grant Review establishes the expectation that grant programs intentionally identify how the grant serves diverse populations, especially populations experiencing inequities and/or disparities.

This grant will serve: This grant will serve all residents of the Soil and Water Conservation District.

Grant outcomes will include:

- Minnesotans will be aware of crucial issues impacting groundwater quality and availability, and will understand the need for protecting, restoring, and conserving water.
- Drinking water sources will be protected and safe for all Minnesotans.

2.2 Projects

Collaboration

This grant prioritizes collaborative efforts that result in relationship building. This may entail coordinating with local units of government (LGU), public water systems, landowners, and other organizations to advance groundwater protection. When effectively implemented partners have a shared understanding of resource protection needs, conservation delivery opportunities and regulatory oversight that can be achieved.

Regional or Multijurisdictional Scale

This grant prioritizes proposals that target work at a regional or multijurisdictional scale. Examples may include, but not limited to:

- Sharing services with adjoining counties or soil and water conservation districts.
- Targeted action in multiple Drinking Water Supply Management Areas (DWSMA).
- Targeted action in the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Groundwater Protection Rule priority areas.
- Department of Natural Resources Groundwater Management Areas that span over multiple jurisdictions.
- Targeted action in a watershed Landscape Stewardship Plan.
- Metro County Groundwater Management Plans.
- Targeting at a watershed scale.

Capacity Building

This grant prioritizes efforts that build groundwater expertise to achieve an economy of scale of resource protection. Examples may include, but not limited to:

- Dedicated staff to work on groundwater issues.
- Connecting public water systems to resource protection.
- Evaluate opportunities to successfully apply for implementation grants for protection and/or restoration actions.
- Bringing regional resources to the local level to gain efficiencies of scale.

Ineligible Expenses

Ineligible expenses include but are not limited to:

- Fundraising
- Taxes, except sales tax on goods and services
- Lobbyists, political contributions
- Bad debts, late payment fees, finance charges, or contingency funds

2.3 Grant Management Responsibilities

Grant Agreement

Each grantee must formally enter into a grant agreement. The grant agreement will address the conditions of the award, including implementation for the project. Once the grant agreement is signed, the grantee is expected to read and comply with all conditions of the grant agreement.

A sample grant agreement can be reviewed at [Accelerated Implementation Grant: Groundwater Protection Initiative](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/groundwater/accimpgrant.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/groundwater/accimpgrant.html>).

Applicants should be aware of the terms and conditions of the standard grant agreement in preparing their applications. Much of the language reflected in the sample agreement is required by statute. If an applicant takes exception to any of the terms, conditions or language in the sample grant agreement, the applicant must indicate those exceptions, in writing, in their application in response to this RFP. Certain exceptions may result in an application being disqualified from further review and evaluation. Only those exceptions indicated in an application will be available for discussion or negotiation.

No work on grant activities can begin until a fully executed grant agreement is in place.

The funded applicant will be legally responsible for assuring implementation of the work plan and compliance with all applicable state requirements including worker's compensation insurance, nondiscrimination, data privacy, budget compliance, and reporting.

Accountability and Reporting Requirements

It is the policy of the State of Minnesota to monitor progress on state grants by requiring grantees to submit written progress reports at least annually until all grant funds have been expended and all the terms in the grant agreement have been met.

Grant Monitoring

The monitoring schedule will be:

- Annual progress report.
- A final report is due by April 30, 2026.

Technical Assistance

MDH will provide technical assistance to grantees to support them in fulfilling their grant objectives.

Grant Payments

Per [State Policy on Grant Payments \(PDF\) \(https://mn.gov/bms-stat/assets/grants_policy_08-08.pdf\)](https://mn.gov/bms-stat/assets/grants_policy_08-08.pdf), reimbursement is the method for making grant payments. All grantee requests for reimbursement must correspond to the approved grant budget. The State shall review each request for reimbursement against the approved grant budget, grant expenditures to-date and the latest grant progress report before approving payment. Grant payments shall not be made on grants with past due progress reports unless MDH has given the grantee a written extension.

The invoicing and payment schedule will be quarterly. Grantees will complete and submit Attachment D “**Groundwater Protection Initiative – Accelerated Implementation Grant Invoice**” for the quarter’s expenses by the end of the following month (i.e., December’s invoice is due by January 31st).

2.3 Grant Provisions

Contracting and Bidding Requirements

(a) Municipalities A grantee that is a municipality, defined as a county, town, city, school district or other municipal corporation or political subdivision of the state authorized by law to enter into contracts is subject to the contracting requirements set forth under Minn. Stat. § [471.345 \(https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/471.345\)](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/471.345). Projects that involve construction work are subject to the applicable prevailing wage laws, including those under [Minn Stat. 177.41 \(https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/177.41\)](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/177.41), et. seq.

(b) Non-municipalities Grantees that are not municipalities must adhere to the following standards in the event that duties assigned to the Grantee are to be subcontracted out to a third party:

- i. Any services or materials that are expected to cost \$100,000 or more must undergo a formal notice and bidding process consistent with the standards set forth under Minnesota Statutes 16B.
- ii. Services or materials that are expected to cost between \$25,000 and \$99,999 must be competitively awarded based on a minimum of three (3) verbal quotes or bids.
- iii. Services or materials that are expected to cost between \$10,000 and \$24,999 must be competitively awarded based on a minimum of two (2) verbal quotes or bids or awarded to a targeted vendor.

- iv. The grantee must take all necessary affirmative steps to assure that targeted vendors from businesses with active certifications through these entities are used when possible:
 - Minnesota Department of Administration's Certified Targeted Group, Economically Disadvantaged and Veteran-Owned Vendor List ([Minnesota Department of Administrations' Certified Targeted Group, Economically Disadvantaged and Veteran-Owned Vendor List](http://www.mmd.admin.state.mn.us/process/search) (<http://www.mmd.admin.state.mn.us/process/search>)).
 - Metropolitan Council's Targeted Vendor list: Minnesota Unified Certification Program [Metropolitan Council's Targeted Vendor list: Minnesota Unified Certification Program](https://mnucp.metc.state.mn.us/) (<https://mnucp.metc.state.mn.us/>) or
 - Small Business Certification Program through Hennepin County, Ramsey County, and City of St. Paul: Central Certification Program [Small Business Certification Program through Hennepin County, Ramsey County, and City of St. Paul: Central Certification Program](https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/human-rights-equal-economic-opportunity/contract-compliance-business-development-9) (<https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/human-rights-equal-economic-opportunity/contract-compliance-business-development-9>).
- v. The grantee must maintain written standards of conduct covering conflicts of interest and governing the actions of its employees engaged in the selection, award, and administration of contracts.
- vi. The grantee must maintain support documentation of the purchasing or bidding process utilized to contract services in their financial records, including support documentation justifying a single/sole source bid, if applicable.
- vii. Notwithstanding (i) - (iv) above, State may waive bidding process requirements when:
 - Vendors included in response to competitive grant request for proposal process were approved and incorporated as an approved work plan for the grant or
 - There is only one legitimate or practical source for such materials or services and that grantee has established a fair and reasonable price.
- viii. Projects that include construction work of \$25,000 or more, are subject to applicable prevailing wage laws, including those under Minnesota Statutes 177.41 through 177.44.
- ix. Grantee must not contract with vendors who are suspended or debarred in MN: The list of debarred vendors is available at: [Minnesota Debarred Vendors](http://www.mmd.admin.state.mn.us/debarredreport.asp) (<http://www.mmd.admin.state.mn.us/debarredreport.asp>).

Conflicts of Interest

MDH will take steps to prevent individual and organizational conflicts of interest, both in reference to applicants and reviewers per Minn. Stat. § 16B.98 and the Office of Grants Management's Policy 08-01, "Conflict of Interest Policy for State Grant-Making."

Applicants must complete the Applicant Conflict of Disclosure form (Attachment B) and submit it as part of the completed application. Failure to complete and submit this form will result in disqualification from the review process.

Organizational conflicts of interest occur when:

- a grantee or applicant is unable or potentially unable to render impartial assistance or advice
- a grantees or applicant's objectivity in performing the grant work is or might be otherwise impaired
- a grantee or applicant has an unfair competitive advantage

Individual conflicts of interest occur when:

- an applicant, or any of its employees, uses their position to obtain special advantage, benefit, or access to MDH's time, services, facilities, equipment, supplies, prestige, or influence
- An applicant, or any of its employees, receives or accepts money, or anything else of value, from another state grantee or grant applicant with respect to the specific project covered by this RFP/project.
- An applicant, or any of its employees, has equity or a financial interest in, or partial or whole ownership of, a competing grant applicant organization.
- An applicant, or any of its employees, is an employee of MDH or is a relative of an employee of MDH.

In cases where a conflict of interest is perceived, disclosed, or discovered, the applicants or grantees will be notified and actions may be pursued, including but not limited to disqualification from eligibility for the grant award or termination of the grant agreement.

Public Data and Trade Secret Materials

All applications submitted in response to this RFP will become property of the State. In accordance with Minnesota Statute Section 13.599, all applications and their contents are private or nonpublic until the applications are opened.

Once the applications are opened, the name and address of each applicant and the amount requested is public. All other data in an application is private or nonpublic data until completion of the evaluation process, which is defined by statute as when MDH has completed negotiating the grant agreement with the selected applicant.

After MDH has completed the evaluation process, all remaining data in the applications is public except for trade secret data as defined and classified in Minn. Stat. § 13.37, Subd. 1(b). A statement by an applicant that the application is copyrighted or otherwise protected does not prevent public access to the application or its contents. (Minn. Stat. § 13.599, subd. 3(a)).

If an applicant submits any information in an application that it believes to be trade secret information, as defined by Minnesota Statute Section 13.37, the applicant must:

- Clearly mark all trade secret materials in its application at the time it is submitted,
- Include a statement attached to its application justifying the trade secret designation for each item, and

- Defend any action seeking release of the materials it believes to be trade secret and indemnify and hold harmless MDH and the State of Minnesota, its agents, and employees, from any judgments or damages awarded against the State in favor of the party requesting the materials, and any and all costs connected with that defense.
- This indemnification survives MDH's award of a grant agreement. In applying in response to this RFP, the applicant agrees that this indemnification survives as long as the trade secret materials are in possession of MDH. The State will not consider the prices submitted by the responder to be proprietary or trade secret materials.

MDH reserves the right to reject a claim that any information in an application is trade secret information if it determines the applicant has not met the burden of establishing that the information constitutes a trade secret. MDH will not consider the budgets submitted by applicants to be proprietary or trade secret materials. Use of generic trade secret language encompassing substantial portions of the application or simple assertions of trade secret without substantial explanation of the basis for that designation will be insufficient to warrant a trade secret designation.

If a grant is awarded to an applicant, MDH may use or disclose the trade secret data to the extent provided by law. Any decision by the State to disclose information determined to be trade secret information will be made consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (Minnesota Statutes chapter 13) and other relevant laws and regulations.

If certain information is found to constitute trade secret information, the remainder of the application will become public; in the event a data request is received for application information, only the trade secret data will be removed and remain nonpublic.

Audits

Per [Minn. Stat. §16B.98](#) Subdivision 8, the grantee's books, records, documents, and accounting procedures and practices of the grantee or other party that are relevant to the grant or transaction are subject to examination by the granting agency and either the legislative auditor or the state auditor, as appropriate. This requirement will last for a minimum of six years from the grant agreement end date, receipt, and approval of all final reports, or the required period to satisfy all state and program retention requirements, whichever is later.

Affirmative Action and Non-Discrimination Requirements for all Grantees

The grantee agrees not to discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status regarding public assistance, membership or activity in a local commission, disability, sexual orientation, or age in regard to any position for which the employee or applicant for employment is qualified. Minn. Stat. §363A.02. The grantee agrees to take affirmative steps to employ, advance in employment, upgrade, train, and recruit minority persons, women, and persons with disabilities.

The grantee must not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of physical or mental disability regarding any position for which the employee or applicant for employment is qualified. The grantee agrees to take affirmative action to employ, advance in employment, and otherwise treat qualified disabled persons without discrimination based upon their physical or mental disability in all employment practices such as the following: employment, upgrading, demotion or transfer, recruitment, advertising, layoff or termination,

rates of pay or other forms of compensation, and selection for training, including apprenticeship. Minnesota Rules, part 5000.3500

The grantee agrees to comply with the rules and relevant orders of the Minnesota Department of Human Rights issued pursuant to the Minnesota Human Rights Act.

2.4 Review and Selection Process

Review Process

Funding will be allocated through a competitive process with review by a committee representing state agencies with knowledge on groundwater science in Minnesota. The review committee will evaluate all eligible and complete applications received by the deadline.

MDH will review all committee recommendations and is responsible for award decisions. The award decisions of MDH are final and not subject to appeal. Additionally:

- MDH reserves the right to withhold the distribution of funds in cases where proposals submitted do not meet the necessary criteria.
- The RFP does not obligate MDH to award a grant agreement or complete the project, and MDH reserves the right to cancel this RFP if it is in its best interest.
- MDH reserves the right to waive minor irregularities or request additional information to further clarify or validate information submitted in the application, provided the application, as submitted, substantially complies with the requirements of this RFP. There is, however, no guarantee MDH will look for information or clarification outside of the submitted written application. Therefore, it is important that all applicants ensure that all sections of their application are complete to avoid the possibility of failing an evaluation phase or having their score reduced for lack of information.

Selection Criteria and Weight

The review committee will be reviewing each application on an 80-point scale. A standardized scoring system will be used to determine the extent to which the applicant meets the selection criteria.

The scoring factors and weight that applications will be judged are based on:

1. **Organizational Capacity** (Up to 15 total points for this section.)
 - a. Experience working with other local entities.
 - b. Demonstrated ability and willingness to collaborate with other entities on this project.
 - c. Capacity to meet the project objectives and priorities.
2. **Project Narrative and Work Plan** (Up to 50 total points for this section.)
 - a. Clearly defines project goals and objectives.
 - b. Clearly defines project outcomes.
 - c. Defines the way the project will prepare for future protection and/or implementation.
 - d. Demonstrates how actions benefit already established priorities in state and local plans.
 - e. Clear timeline with key milestones.

3. **Budget and Budget Justification** (Up to 15 total points for this section.)
 - a. Itemized budget.
 - b. Budget reflects grant goals.
 - c. Budget includes in-kind or matching funds.

Notification

MDH anticipates notifying all applicants via email of funding decisions by April 1, 2024.

RFP Part 3: Application and Submission Instructions

3.1 Application Deadline

All applications must be received by MDH no later than 2:00 p.m. Central Time, on Friday, March 15, 2024.

Late applications will not be accepted. It is the applicant's sole responsibility to allow sufficient time to address all potential delays caused by any reason whatsoever. MDH will not be responsible for delays caused by mail, delivery, computer, or technology problems.

Notification

MDH anticipates notifying all applicants via email of funding decisions by April 1, 2024.

3.2 Application Submission Instructions

Applications must be submitted via email to:

Attention: GRAPS Grant Coordinator
health.drinkingwater@state.mn.us

3.3 Application Instructions

Each Application must contain the following items to be considered complete:

- Signed Grant Application that includes the Project Narrative, Work Plan, and Budget – key points outlined in Attachment A.
- Any narrative or supplemental portions of the application.
- Grantee Conflict of Interest Attachment B.
- Due Diligence Form Attachment C

Incomplete applications will be rejected and not evaluated.

Applications must include all required application materials, including attachments. Do not provide any materials that are not requested in this RFP, as such materials will not be considered nor evaluated. **MDH reserves the right to reject any application that does not meet these requirements.**

By submitting an application, each applicant warrants that the information provided is true, correct, and reliable for purposes of evaluation for potential grant award. The submission of inaccurate or misleading information may be grounds for disqualification from the award, as well as subject the applicant to suspension or debarment proceedings and other remedies available by law.

All costs incurred in responding to this RFP will be borne by the applicant.

RFP Part 4: Attachments

Attachment A: Application

Attachment B: Granted Conflict of Interest

Attachment C: Due Diligence

Attachment D: Grantee Invoice template

Groundwater Protection Initiative Accelerated Implementation Grant Application

Organization's Legal Name: _____

Contact Name and Title: _____

Phone No.: _____

E-mail address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Federal Tax ID #: _____

Person Authorized to Sign Grant Agreement on Behalf of the Organization:

Name: _____ Title: _____

The project narrative and work plan describe your organization and details of what you intend to accomplish through the grant program. Successful grant applications will be **no more than four pages long (excluding timeline and budget) and will include the following information.**

Applicants must provide a list of all entities with which it has relationships that create, or appear to create, a conflict of interest with the work contemplated by the RFP.

Organizational Capacity

(Use separate sheet)

Who will work on this project and what is their training and expertise?

What entities will collaborate on this project?

What is your organization's experience and capacity to work with other entities to achieve the goals of this project?

Work Plan

(Use separate sheet)

Describe your proposed capacity building project and the groundwater and/or drinking water concerns to be addressed.

What outcomes will be achieved as a result of the proposed actions?

How will you ensure the proposed actions result in future implementation activities and/or sustained groundwater protection?

GROUNDWATER PROTECTION INITIATIVE ACCELERATED IMPLEMENTATION
GRANT APPLICATION

List the state approved plan(s) and cite the measures and/or actions that identify the need for groundwater protection and restoration.

Submit a timeline showing the major tasks, deliverables, and deadlines for the project.
(Use separate sheet)

Tasks	Deliverables	Deadline

Budget and Budget Justification

(Use separate sheet)

Your budget must include the following:

- Itemized projection of costs for each task and deliverable.
- Description of any other funding (including in-kind) that is directed toward accomplishing the same or similar goals as the goals of this grant program.
- Clear identification of the total amount of grant funding requested.

Certification: I certify that the information herein is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, and I submit this application on behalf of the applicant organization.

Signature: _____ Title: _____ Date: _____

NOTE: If you are awarded a grant, NO work should begin until all required signatures have been obtained on the grant agreement and grantee receives a signed copy of the grant agreement.

Applications are to be submitted to: health.drinkingwater@state.mn.us.

Carrie Raber
Principal Planner
Source Water Protection Unit, Environmental Health Division
Minnesota Department of Health
carrie.raber@state.mn.us

Minnesota Department of Health | Drinking Water Protection Section | 625 Robert Street North | PO Box 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975 | 651-201-4700 | www.health.state.mn.us

March 2024

To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-4700.



Applicant Conflict of Interest Disclosure

The purpose of this form is to provide grant applicants a mechanism to disclose any actual, perceived or potential individual or organizational conflicts of interest that exist, as required by [Minn. Stat. § 16B.98](#), subd 2-3; Minnesota Office of Grants Management (OGM) [Policy 08-01, “Conflict of Interest Policy for State Grant-Making”](#); and federal regulation [2 Code of Federal Regulation \(CFR\) § 200.112, “Conflict of Interest.”](#) It is helpful if the applicant explains the reason for the conflict, but it is not required.

A disclosure will not automatically result in removal of the applicant, or grant application, from the review process.

Instructions

Read the descriptions below, mark the appropriate box(es) that pertain to you and your organization as it relates to this specific Request for Proposal (RFP), obtain applicant signature (applicant to determine appropriate signer).

Conflicts of Interest

Conflicts of interest may be actual, potential, or perceived. An actual conflict of interest occurs when a person uses or attempts to use their official position to secure benefits, privileges, exemptions or advantages for self, relatives, or organization with which the person is associated which are different from those available to the general public ([Minn. Stat. § 43A.38](#), subd. 5). A potential conflict of interest may exist if an applicant has relationships, affiliations, or other interests that could create an inappropriate influence if the person is called on to make a decision or recommendation that would affect one or more of those relationships, affiliations, or interests. A perceived conflict of interest is any situation in which a reasonable person would conclude that conflicting duties or loyalties exists. A conflict of interest may exist even if no unethical, improper or illegal act results from it.

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) recognizes that applicants must maintain relationships with other public and private sector entities in order to continue as a viable organization. MDH will take this into account as it evaluates the appropriateness of proposed measures to mitigate actual, potential, and perceived conflicts of interest. It is not MDH’s intent to disqualify applicants based merely on the existence of a relationships with another entity, but rather only when such relationships cause a conflict that cannot be mitigated. Nevertheless, MDH and its partners must follow federal regulation and statutory guidance on conflicts of interest.

I. **Organizational Conflict of Interest:**

An **organizational conflict** of interest exists when, because of other activities or relationships with other persons, a person is unable or potentially unable to render impartial assistance or advice, or a person’s objectivity in performing the grant work is or might be otherwise impaired, or a person has an unfair competitive advantage.

An example of organizational conflict of interest includes, but is not limited to:

- Unequal Access to Information. Access to information that is classified as nonpublic data or is otherwise unavailable to the public could provide a vendor a competitive advantage in a later competition for another grant. For example, a nonprofit entity, in the course of conducting grant work for the State, may be given access to information that is not available to the public such as government plans, opinions, interpretations or positions. This nonprofit entity cannot use this information to its advantage in securing a subsequent grant, and measures must be put into place to assure this. Such an advantage could be perceived as unfair by a competing vendor who is not given similar access to the relevant information.

II. Individual Conflict of Interest:

An **individual conflict** of interest occurs when any of the following conditions is present:

- a. An applicant, or any of its employees, uses their position to obtain special advantage, benefit, or access to MDH’s time, services, facilities, equipment, supplies, prestige, or influence.
- b. An applicant, or any of its employees, receives or accepts money, or anything else of value, from another state grantee or grant applicant with respect to the specific project covered by this RFP/project.
- c. An applicant, or any of its employees, has equity or a financial interest in, or partial or whole ownership of, a competing grant applicant organization.
- d. An applicant, or any of its employees, is an employee of MDH or is a relative of an employee of MDH.

Examples of individual conflict of interest include, but are not limited to:

- An individual owns Entity C and also sits on the board of Entity D, and both entities are applying to the same RFP.
- An employee or volunteer of the applicant has previously worked with MDH to create the “ground rules” for this solicitation by performing work such as, but not limited to: writing this RFP, preparing evaluation criteria, or evaluation guides for this RFP.
- An employee or volunteer of the applicant is compensated for serving on the board of a non-profit that may benefit from this work.

Instances in which an individual or applicant worked in a volunteer capacity with MDH should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Volunteer status has the potential to, but does not necessarily create a conflict of interest, depending on the nature of the relationship between the two parties. Volunteer is defined as “[a]n individual who performs hours of service for a public agency for civic, charitable, or humanitarian reasons, without promise, expectation or receipt of compensation for services rendered, is considered to be a volunteer during such hours” ([29 CFR § 553.101\(a\)](#)).

Certification and signature required on next page.

III. Certification:

Applicant Name: _____

RFP Title: _____

MDH Grant Program Name: _____

*(Ex: Family Planning Grant)***Select ONE of the following responses below:**

1. To the best of Applicant's knowledge and belief, and except as otherwise disclosed, there are no relevant facts or circumstances that could give rise to individual or organizational conflicts of interest.
2. Applicant, or employees of applicant, have an actual, potential, or perceived conflict(s) of interest which are listed below.

To the best of your knowledge, write the names of entities/individuals with which you have an actual, potential, or perceived conflict:

Name of entity/individual: _____

Relationship (e.g., Volunteer, Employee, Contractor, Family Relation): _____

Description of conflict (optional): _____

Add additional names on separate sheet as necessary.*By signing in the space provided below, Applicant certifies the following:**

- If a conflict of interest is discovered at any time after submission of this form, Applicant will immediately provide full disclosure in writing to MDH. If a conflict of interest is determined to exist, MDH may, at its discretion, take action.
- Applicant will obtain, and keep record of, conflict of interest disclosure forms from any subgrantees or subcontractors and keep them on file.

Applicant's Signature

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

**This form is required from every grant applicant.
Please include this form with your RFP application materials.**

(This form is considered public data under [Minn. Stat. § 13.599](#))

MDH Program Use Only

This section to be completed by appropriate Grant Program Staff.

- Applicant has no conflict(s) of interest.
- Applicant has disclosed conflict(s) of interest and appropriate MDH Program staff have reviewed the conflict(s) in accordance with [ST510.01](#). MDH Program has determined the conflict(s) can be mitigated in the following way(s):
 - Describe how conflict(s) will be eliminated. Example: *Applicant's application will not be reviewed by External Partners with which they have a conflict.*
- Applicant has disclosed conflict(s) of interest and appropriate MDH Program staff have reviewed the conflict(s) in accordance with ST510.01. MDH Program has determined the conflict(s) cannot be mitigated. As such Applicant will not move forward in the RFP/grant process. MDH will communicate back to the Applicant and keep documentation of communication in RFP/grant files.

I certify that the conflict(s) has/have been discussed with this Applicant and the actions above have been taken.

MDH Program's Signature

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Resources

- [Minn. Stat. § 16B.98 \(https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=16B.98\)](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=16B.98), subd 2-3
- <https://mn.gov/admin/government/grants/policies-statutes-forms/>
- [2 Code of Federal Regulation \(CFR\) § 200.112, "Conflict of Interest" \(https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=576da87cebd5b7ac75e212d4c64aa93d&mc=true&node=se2.1.200_1112&rgn=div8\)](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=576da87cebd5b7ac75e212d4c64aa93d&mc=true&node=se2.1.200_1112&rgn=div8)
- [Minn. Stat. § 43A.38 \(https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/43A.38\)](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/43A.38), subd. 5
- [29 CFR § 553.101\(a\) \(https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-29/subtitle-B/chapter-V/subchapter-A/part-553/subpart-B/section-553.101\)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-29/subtitle-B/chapter-V/subchapter-A/part-553/subpart-B/section-553.101)
- [Minn. Stat. § 13.599 \(https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/13.599\)](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/13.599)

Due Diligence Review Form

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) conducts pre-award assessments of all grant recipients prior to award of funds in accordance with federal, state and agency policies. **The Due Diligence Review is an important part of this assessment.**

These reviews allow MDH to better understand the capacity of applicants and identify opportunities for technical assistance to those that receive grant funds.

Organization	Information
Organization Name:	
Organization Address:	
If the organization has an Employer Identification Number (EIN), please provide EIN here:	
If the organization has done business under any other name(s) in the past five years, please list here:	
If the organization has received grant(s) from MDH within the past five years, please list here:	

Section 1: To be completed by all organization types

Section 1: Organization Structure	Points
1. How many years has your organization been in existence? <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 5 years (5 points) <input type="checkbox"/> 5 or more years (0 points)	
2. How many paid employees does your organization have (part-time and full-time)? <input type="checkbox"/> 1 (5 points) <input type="checkbox"/> 2-4 (2 points) <input type="checkbox"/> 5 or more (0 points)	
3. Does your organization have a paid bookkeeper? <input type="checkbox"/> No (3 points) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, an internal staff member (0 points) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, a contracted third party (0 points)	
SECTION 1 POINT TOTAL	

DUE DILIGENCE REVIEW FORM

Section 2: To be completed by all organization types

Section 2: Systems and Oversight	Points
<p>4. Does your organization have internal controls in place that require approval before funds can be expended?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No (6 points)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes (0 points)</p>	
<p>5. Does your organization have written policies and procedures for the following processes?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accounting • Purchasing • Payroll <p><input type="checkbox"/> No (3 points)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for one or two of the processes listed, but not all (2 points)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for all of the processes listed (0 points)</p>	
<p>6. Is your organization’s accounting system new within the past twelve months?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No (0 points)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes (1 point)</p>	
<p>7. Can your organization’s accounting system identify and track grant program-related income and expense separate from all other income and expense?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No (3 points)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes (0 points)</p>	
<p>8. Does your organization track the time of employees who receive funding from multiple sources?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No (1 point)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes (0 points)</p>	
SECTION 2 POINT TOTAL	

DUE DILIGENCE REVIEW FORM

Section 3: To be completed by all organization types

Section 3: Financial Health	Points
<p>9. If required, has your organization had an audit conducted by an independent Certified Public Accountant (CPA) within the past twelve months?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable (N/A) (0 points) – if N/A, skip to question 10</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No (5 points) - if no, skip to question 10</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes (0 points) - if yes, answer question 9A</p>	
<p>9A. Are there any unresolved findings or exceptions?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No (0 points)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes (1 point) – if yes, attach a copy of the management letter and a written explanation to include the finding(s) and why they are unresolved.</p>	
<p>10. Have there been any instances of misuse or fraud in the past three years?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No (0 points)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes (5 points) – if yes, attach a written explanation of the issue(s), how they were resolved and what safeguards are now in place.</p>	
<p>11. Are there any current or pending lawsuits against the organization?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No (0 points) – If no, skip to question 12</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes (3 points) – If yes, answer question 11A</p>	
<p>11A. Could there be an impact on the organization’s financial status or stability?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No (0 points) – if no, attach a written explanation of the lawsuit(s), and why they would not impact the organization’s financial status or stability.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes (3 points) – if yes, attach a written explanation of the lawsuit(s), and how they might impact the organization’s financial status or stability.</p>	
<p>12. From how many different funding sources does total revenue come from?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 (4 points)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 3-5 (2 points)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 6+ (0 points)</p>	
SECTION 3 POINT TOTAL	

DUE DILIGENCE REVIEW FORM

Section 4: To be completed by nonprofit organizations with potential to receive award over \$25,000 (excluding formula grants)

Office of Grants Management Policy 08-06 requires state agencies to assess a recent financial statement from nonprofit organizations before awarding a grant of over \$25,000 (excluding formula grants).

Section 4: Nonprofit Financial Review	Points
13. Does your nonprofit have tax-exempt status from the IRS? <input type="checkbox"/> No - If no, go to question 14 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes - If yes, answer question 13A	Unscored
13A. What is your nonprofit's IRS designation? <input type="checkbox"/> 501(c)3 <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please list:	Unscored
14. What was your nonprofit's total revenue (income, including grant funds) in the most recent twelve-month accounting period? Enter total revenue here:	Unscored
15. What financial documentation will you be attaching to this form? <input type="checkbox"/> If your answer to question 14 is less than \$50,000, then attach your most recent Board-approved financial statement <input type="checkbox"/> If your answer to question 14 is \$50,000 - \$750,000, then attach your most recent IRS form 990 <input type="checkbox"/> If your answer to question 14 is more than \$750,000, then attach your most recent certified financial audit	Unscored

Signature

I certify that the information provided is true, complete and current to the best of my knowledge.

Signature _____

Name & title _____

Phone number _____

Email address _____

MDH Staff Use Only

Section 4A: Nonprofit Financial Review Summary

Complete Section 4A for nonprofit organizations with the potential to receive an award over \$25,000 (with the exception of formula grants). Skip Section 4A and move to Section 5 for all other grantee types.

1. Were there significant operating and/or unrestricted net asset deficits?
 - Yes – if yes, answer questions 3 and 4
 - No – if no, skip questions 3 and 4 and answer questions 5 and 6
2. Were there any other concerns about the nonprofit organization’s financial stability?
 - Yes – if yes, answer questions 3 and 4
 - No – if no, skip questions 3 and 4 and answer questions 5 and 6
3. Please describe the deficit(s) and/or other concerns about the nonprofit organization’s financial stability:
4. Please describe how the grant applicant organization addressed deficit(s) and/or other concerns about the nonprofit organization’s financial stability:
5. Granting Decision:
6. Rationale for grant decision:

Section 5: Total Points

Section 1	+	Section 2	+	Section 3	=	Total Points
	+		+		=	

Section 6: Program Information

MDH Grant Program	Information
Applicant Project Name	
MDH Grant Program Name	
Division/Section	
Date Nonprofit Review Completed	
Review conducted by	

Minnesota Department of Health
 Revised 2024.

To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-3584.

Groundwater Protection Initiative – Accelerated Implementation Grant Invoice

Grantee Information

Organization name _____

Address _____

Contact person _____

Phone number _____ Email _____

Reimbursement Description: “Activities for Quarter __, 20XX”

Expenditure Description

Use an additional page if necessary.

Activity Description	Personnel	Hours	Rate	Cost
Invoice total				

Disclaimer and signature: I declare that no part of this claim has been previously billed to MDH, and that the Total Expenditures reflect only charges related to the source water protection project. I also declare that the data on this document is correct and all transactions that support this claim were made in accordance with all applicable Federal and State statutes and regulations.

Authorized grantee signature _____ Date _____

For Minnesota Department of Health Use Only

Grantee manager signature _____ Date _____

PO _____ Approved by _____

Period of service _____ Date sent to F.M. _____