



DWSRF Funding Program

Emerging Contaminant (EC) Funding

Program Overview:

The Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA) authorizes increased funding to states to address emerging contaminants in drinking water with a focus on perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). With this funding, 100% of annual state appropriations must be awarded in the form of additional subsidy (i.e., principal forgiveness) to water systems for eligible projects.

Funding for this program is anticipated to be applied for annually through 2026 and is dependent on availability of two federal funding sources:

- 1) **IIJA-Emerging Contaminant Funding (IIJA-EC):** Federal funding requirements under IIJA-EC require that at least 25% of the funds be used to assist [disadvantaged communities](#) **or** public water systems serving fewer than 25,000 people.
- 2) **Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities Funding (EC-SDC):** Federal funding requirements under EC-SDC require that funds be used to assist [disadvantaged communities](#) **or** public water systems with a population of less than 10,000 individuals that the Administrator determines does not have the capacity to incur debt sufficient to finance a project. In Oregon, water systems must be designated as disadvantaged to be eligible for EC-SDC funding for water infrastructure projects.

The following emerging contaminants are prioritized for this funding: perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), manganese and cyanotoxins, with the priority focus on PFAS. Future funding may allow for additional emerging contaminants.

To be eligible for this funding program, public water systems must provide documentation to Oregon Drinking Water Services (OHA-DWS) confirming detection of the emerging contaminant identified in the submitted funding application.

Prospective applicants must submit a no-obligation application form to apply. Please visit [Business Oregon's Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund Website](#) for more information on submission and to download the application form.

For more information on emerging contaminants, including a list of accredited labs for PFAS analysis, visit OHA's [Emerging Contaminants webpage](#).

Eligible Project Activities:

The following outlines current project eligibilities for Emerging Contaminant (EC) funding:

- Eligible projects address a confirmed emerging contaminant in drinking water.
- Only project activities that are integral to addressing emerging contaminants are eligible for EC funding. Even if a project is eligible overall, some components may not be eligible for EC funding if they are ancillary to the contaminant mitigation activities.

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- Project activities or components must be DWSRF eligible and identified in the funding application as integral to addressing the emerging contaminant of concern. See the [SDW Program Handbook Appendix A](#) for more information and general examples of DWSRF eligible project costs.
- Public water systems must provide data to OHA Drinking Water Services confirming detection of an emerging contaminant to be eligible for BIL-EC funding. Future funding may allow for projects focused on prevention of an emerging contaminant.
- Eligible project activities include:
 - Planning & Design: Costs for planning and design and associated pre-project costs.
 - Pilot Testing: Infrastructure related to pilot testing for treatment alternatives.
 - Treatment: Construction of a new treatment facility or upgrade to an existing treatment facility.
 - Source: Development of a new source (i.e., new/replacement well or intake).
 - Consolidation: Interconnecting two or more water systems to address the contaminant of concern.
 - Public communication, engagement, and education to support a capital improvement project addressing the contaminant of concern.
 - Conducting initial, special (non-routine/non-compliance) testing to establish a baseline understanding of the contaminant of concern or operation of newly-used technology. Testing must be part of a feasibility study or the larger project addressing the contaminant of concern.
 - Research and investigations to identify the presence, source, or extent of emerging contaminant contamination in water systems or source water (non-routine monitoring or testing) to support a capital improvement project addressing the contaminant of concern.

Other project activities may be eligible but only when clearly demonstrated that it is an integral part of the project for addressing the contaminant of concern.

Ineligible Activities:

- If EPA has promulgated a National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) for a contaminant, then a project whose primary purpose is to address that contaminant is not eligible for EC funding, except for PFAS. PFAS-focused projects will be eligible for funding regardless of whether a NPDWR has been established.
- Land acquisition as the sole focus of the project scope is not eligible for EC funding.
 - For land acquisition to be eligible, it must be part of a funding award that includes facility construction.
 - For “soft costs” related to land acquisition planning, such as land use feasibility analysis, legal work, and appraisals, these are allowed to be included with a design project.
- Funding for bottled water.
- Remediation of contaminated groundwater or underlying aquifers.
- Operations and maintenance costs.

Examples of Funded Projects and Activities

Treatment

A water system consistently measured levels of manganese residual in their untreated groundwater that exceeded health advisory levels. This system planned for system improvements, including manganese treatment, in their Water Master Plan. They applied for funding to design and construct a manganese water treatment plant to remove the emerging contaminant from the raw well water before final treatment and distribution.

Eligible Project: Water Treatment Plant to remove manganese from groundwater well

Eligible Activities:

- Final design of water treatment plant for manganese removal
- Construction of water treatment plant for manganese removal including:
 - On-site chlorine generation systems
 - Pressure vessel filters with pyrolucite filtration media
 - Residuals handling including backwash tank and associated site work

Ineligible Activities:

Activities performed at the project site which were not integral to the installation of manganese treatment, and were not eligible for EC funding (these activities were performed with the system's own funds and other federal funding):

- Upgrades to the existing pump station
- Seismic retrofitting of the existing reservoir
- Construction of a new groundwater wellhouse

Source

A water system detected PFAS compounds above maximum contaminant levels at their wells and distribution entry points. The community had performed prior planning work which evaluated their wellfields and treatment options, but instead of progressing with the option of installing treatment, they decided to perform additional planning to further consider well replacement. They applied for funding for a Feasibility Study that utilized a well driller and hydrogeologic consultant to drill soil borings and collect soil and water samples for analysis. The resulting study was able to provide the data to confirm drilling a new well in a non-contaminated aquifer could be done with additional EC funding to provide cleaner water and allow contaminated wells to be turned off and replaced.

Eligible Project: Remediation Alternatives Feasibility Study, Design and construct a new well.

Eligible Activities:

- Soil borings to collect soil and groundwater sampling for analysis.
- Hydrogeologic Services Data Report, specific to PFAS investigation.
- Engineering final design of the new well
- Well drilling and development
- Pump and wellhead installation
- Connection of new well to the existing system

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Ineligible Activities:

- Replace aging and faulty distribution piping

Consolidation

A small water system located at a mobile home park detected PFAS compounds above maximum contaminant levels in their drinking water. This community had not performed prior planning for addressing PFAS in their drinking water and was unsure of which option to pursue and what costs would be associated with each alternative. The community applied for a feasibility study to assess alternatives, and capital costs as well as maintenance costs. The proximity of the community to the nearest water system, a city, meant that consolidation was determined to be the most suitable long-term option. They applied for additional EC funding to design and construct the infrastructure needed to connect to the city's water system to provide safe drinking water to their community.

Eligible Project: PFAS Remediation Feasibility Study, Connection to city water system

Eligible Activities:

- Engineer prepared feasibility study to evaluate alternatives to address PFAS
- Extension of the existing water main to reach the city's water system
- Physical connection to the city's water system
- Installation of a meter and required appurtenances at the connection site
- Permitting, frontage fees, and system development charges as required to consolidate

Ineligible Activities:

- Replace leaky distribution piping within the water system
- Install new meters at each residence