

**PA Coalition for Oral Health (PCOH)
Community Water Fluoridation Grants
Request for Proposal (RFP) March 2022
Guidelines and Application**

BACKGROUND AND ECONOMIC IMPACT

Community water fluoridation is recognized as one of the most cost-effective, equitable, and safe measures communities can take to prevent cavities and improve oral health. That's why it was named 1 of 10 great public health achievements of the 20th century.¹

Economic evaluations reaffirm the cost benefits of community water fluoridation. Studies continue to show that widespread community water fluoridation prevents cavities and saves money, both for families and the health care system. A recent 2016 economic analysis found that for communities of 1,000 or more people, the savings associated with water fluoridation exceeded estimated program costs, with an average annual savings of \$20 per dollar invested.² Additionally, individuals in communities that fluoridate water save an average of \$32 per person by avoiding treatment for dental caries.²

Tooth decay contributes to reduced quality of life and increased need for costly restorative dental care.³ People who consume fluoridated water experience fewer and less severe cavities, resulting in a reduced need for fillings and removing or replacing teeth, and less time taken off from school or work because of dental problems or pain.^{1,3-5} Water fluoridation benefits all members of a community by preventing tooth decay, improving oral health, and saving money for everyone.

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 a total of \$55,000 in community water fluoridation grants in 2022.

Maximum Request The maximum request per water system may not exceed \$55,000. Depending on the number of applications, there may be one award of \$55,000, 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 \$55,000**.

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 **June 20, 2022 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 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 **April 30, 2022**. Applications received after this date will not be considered in the first funding round.

Applications can be submitted either electronically to info@paoralhealth.org or by U.S. mail to:

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

Important Dates

April 30, 2022

Application deadline

May 6, 2022

Awardees notified

June 20, 2022

Expenses incurred and submitted to PCOH

June 30, 2022-Deadline 1

Final reports due

References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Achievements in public health, 1900-1999: fluoridation of drinking water to prevent dental caries. MMWR. 1999;48(41):933-940. [View report](#)
2. O'Connell JM, Rockwell J, Ouellet J, Tomar SL, Maas W. Costs and Savings Associated with Community Water Fluoridation in the United States. Health Affairs. 2016. 1;35(12):2224-2232. [View abstract on PubMed external icon](#)
3. US Department of Health and Human Services. Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General. Rockville, MD: US Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, National Institutes of Health; 2000. [View Reportexternal icon](#)
4. Griffin SO, Regnier E, Griffin PM, Huntley V. Effectiveness of fluoride in preventing caries in adults. J Dent Res. 2007;86:410-415. [View abstract on PubMedexternal icon](#)
5. Guarnizo-Herreno CC, Wehby GL. Children's dental health, school performance, and psychosocial well-being. J Pediatr. 2012;161:1153-9. [View abstract on PubMedexternal icon](#)