

RFA #20171

New York State Department of Health

Center for Community Health, Division of Family Health, Bureau of Child Health

Request for Applications – Rolling Submission

DOH01-DWFAR-2023 (Component A: Planning and Feasibility Projects),

DOH01-DWFBR-2023 (Component B: Implementation and Maintenance Projects)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Question: What is the definition of an eligible municipality? Does the County fall under that category as an oversight agency? We do not operate any water facilities but would apply for the planning portion to look at feasibility.

Response: The term “municipality” shall mean a county, city, town or village. To qualify for this funding opportunity, as noted in Section II of the RFA,

“An eligible municipality for either component must be a:

- NYS county, city, town, village, or public authority (municipality) that owns both its public water system and the water supply for the system; AND
- Community water system* or sell water wholesale* to one or more community water systems.”

For more information regarding the feasibility of ownership of a public water system and/or supply for the system, please contact the New York State Department of Health’s Bureau of Water Supply Protection at bpwsp@health.ny.gov

2. Question: Have the necessary approvals in place to fluoridate the public water supply in accordance with PHL 1100-a. I’ve reviewed the law and it’s not exactly clear what approvals are needed. Does it mean that the municipality has to pass a law approving fluoridation or funds for fluoridation? In my opinion most municipalities will not pass a law until they know it is feasible.

Response: For more information regarding the necessary approvals in place to fluoridate the public water supply in accordance with PHL 1100-a, please contact the New York State Department of Health’s Bureau of Water Supply Protection at bpwsp@health.ny.gov.

3. Question: Am I reading below notice properly that the fluoridation program has no deadline and submissions can be made at any time up until 9/28/28?

Response: Yes. As noted in Section V.A. [Application Format/Content], “Applications must be submitted via the Grants Gateway by the Application deadline date and time specified on the Cover Page of this RFA.” The Cover Page of the RFA indicates “Applications Due: Rolling Submissions until September 28, 2028”.

4. Question: I am interested in learning more about the above RFA, and I was wondering if you are able to send Attachment 2 (Component A Technical Submittal) for me to review. I have not been able to find this portion of the RFA in the Grants Gateway system.

Response: As noted in Section VI. (Attachments), “certain Attachments to this RFA are accessed under the “Pre-Submission Uploads” section of the Grants Gateway online Application and are not included in the RFA document. In order to access the online Application and other required documents such as the Attachments, a prospective Applicant must be registered and logged into the NYS Grants Gateway in the user role of either a “Grantee” or a “Grantee Contract Signatory”.”

5. Question: I am trying to locate Attachment 4 - Component B Technical Submittal for Projects \$50,001 or More OR Projects Initiating Fluoridation, as part of a grant application, however the link does not appear to be in grants gateway. Could you please assist as it goes from Attachment 3: Projects less than \$50,000, to Attachment 5: Definitions.

Response: Addendum #1 has been added to the RFA, which can be found at [Drinking Water Fluoridation – Rolling Submissions - Component B: Implementation and Maintenance Projects](#) and includes Attachment 4 - Component B Technical Submittal for Projects \$50,001 or More OR Projects Initiating Fluoridation. Once completed (if applicable), Attachment 4 can be uploaded to the Pre-Submission Uploads section of the Grants Gateway application.

Posted Date: 2/6/2023

6. Question: I am reaching out to inquire about the engineering report requirements for the NYSDOH Drinking Water Fluoridation Program Grant. Is there a specific outline that the report needs to follow?

Response: There is no specific outline required for the engineering report. However, it is expected that most engineering reports will contain the following information:

- Background including brief system description and fluoridation history
- Existing fluoride equipment, condition, and project justification
- Design criteria
- Recommended design and any associated manufacturer equipment sheets
- Detailed cost analysis
- Regulatory approvals required
- Construction schedule
- Existing supporting documentation including plans, photographs, and reports.

Inclusion of additional information is at the professional judgement of the engineer.

Projects involving other state or federal funding sources may have additional requirements for the engineering report; an “Engineering Report Outline for New York State Assisted Drinking Water Infrastructure Projects” is available at:

https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/iup/2022/docs/engineering_report_outline_oct_2021.pdf.

Posted Date: 8/24/2023

7. Question: Section III states that “Component A also includes the development of an Engineering Report for currently fluoridating water systems....Please Note: Funding from this Component may be used to develop the Engineering Report required for certain types of projects outlined in Component B of this RFA.” Does the Village have to submit the Component A Grant Application, and wait to be awarded, prior to procuring the Engineering Report? Or, can the Engineering Report be completed in tandem with the grant application, and if awarded, the Report be reimbursed with the awarded funds?

Response: As stated in section III, “Projects cannot begin work or start incurring costs until after a contract has been awarded and executed by the Office of the New York State Comptroller. Any work conducted prior to this time is not eligible for reimbursement.”

Posted Date: 1/19/2024

8. Question: Are these links and the RFA on them still current:

https://grantsgateway.ny.gov/intelligrants_NYSGG//module/nysgg/goportal.aspx?NavItem1=4&ngoID=5002311

https://grantsgateway.ny.gov/intelligrants_NYSGG//module/nysgg/goportal.aspx?NavItem1=4&ngoID=5002313

Response: Yes. The grant opportunity profile for both grant opportunities will remain current until the RFA has been closed. Any addendums to this RFA will appear in the RFA and will not be uploaded separately. All addendums to the RFA are communicated to the same mailing list the grant opportunity announcement was sent to.

Posted Date: 3/29/2024

9. Question: I was looking through the Fluoridation grant a little and it mentions "eligible" municipalities. I wanted to ask what criteria makes a municipality "eligible". Does median household income come into play?

Response: Section II (Who May Apply) of the RFA indicates, “An eligible municipality for either component must be a: NYS county, city, town, village, or public authority (municipality) that owns both its public water system and the water supply for the system; AND Community water system* or sell water wholesale* to one or more community water systems.

A **Component A** eligible municipality **must also meet ONE** of the following criteria:

- (1) Serve at least 5,000 people (includes people served directly through service connections* and/or indirectly through wholesale* purchase); **OR**,
- (2) Currently be fluoridating the public water supply; **OR**,
- (3) Have the necessary approvals in place to fluoridate the public water supply in accordance with New York State Public Health Law §1100-a.

A **Component B** eligible municipality **must also meet ONE** of the following criteria:

- (1) Currently be fluoridating the public water supply; **OR**,
- (2) Have the necessary approvals in place to fluoridate the public water supply in accordance with New York State Public Health Law §1100-a.

Please Note: Federal Government, Native American, private, and state-owned water systems are not eligible for this funding. [Terms marked with *asterisk are further defined in Attachment 5 - Definitions Document.]”

Median household income does not come into play.

Posted Date: 5/24/2024

10. Does the 30% M/WBE goal apply to the \$50,000 grant (Component A) or does that only apply to Component B? Also, can you confirm that the maximum grant amount for Component B is \$1,000,000?

Response: Section IV. I. (Minority & Women-Owned Business Enterprise Requirements) states “For-Profit and Municipality Applicants Eligible Expenditures include the value of the total amount of the Budget provided for the Work Plan in the Grant Contract entered into pursuant to this RFA.” Thus, this would apply to both Component A and Component B.

Section II.A. (Available Funding) states “Component B applicants may request up to \$1 million for the full contract term.”

Posted Date: 6/21/2024

11. Is there a required local Match?

Response: No local match is required.

12. The RFA states that there is up to \$2M total available annually. What is the start of the “new year”? Does it follow the Federal Fiscal Year beginning October 1st?

Response: Section IV. G. (Term of Contract) states “It is expected that contracts resulting from this RFA will have the following time period: 24-month term, with a start date approximately six months from award letter date.”

13. Can you share the list of awarded projects?

Response: The Office of the State Comptroller provides a public report of active agency contracts at <https://www.osc.ny.gov/state-agencies/contracts>. A filter of this report to Department of Health and Drinking Water Fluoridation will provide the list of awarded projects.

Posted Date: 8/20/2024

14. I started an application in Grants Gateway, can I still submit it?

Response: No. As indicated in Addendum #2 posted 08/27/2024, Grants Gateway Applications for RFA #20171 (Component A and B) were only be accepted for submission until **August 31, 2024**. Any applications currently in process in Grants Gateway will need to be submitted by this date. If your application will not be ready for submission by that date, please download and save all aspects of the application that have been completed and follow the guidance below for submitting an application outside of Grants Gateway.

15. Where do I submit my application now that Grants Gateway is no longer available?

Response: As indicated in Addendum #2 posted 08/27/2024, starting **September 1, 2024** all applications for RFA #20171, Component A and B, will need to be completed and submitted, as instructed in the “Updated language for RFA 20171” document, to email address: DFHDWF@health.ny.gov. Please see the [New York State Contract Reporter](#) Ad #2093397 which has been updated for the revised posting of RFA #20171 and all attachments.

Posted Date: 9/03/2024

16. The instructions say to follow the ten state standards of water works for the Engineering Report. However, many segments of the report are NOT pertinent to a fluoride dosing system located in an existing WTP. Are there segments we can ignore (such as soil conditions, water use data, flow requirements, etc., as these are already fixed?

Response: The engineer’s report only needs to address those sections of the Recommended Standards for Water Works that are pertinent to the proposed fluoridation project. For example, soil conditions would not be pertinent if no new buildings or roads are included in the project. Water use data, and the potential for future demand increases, would be pertinent as it could influence the size of the fluoridation system. The engineer should use their professional judgement when determining if a section

is relevant. NYSDOH may request additional information during the project review and approval process if needed.

17. The portal doesn't work very well and I cannot locate the required attachments (like Attachment 1, and importantly Attachment 4, 5, 6, etc.). Is there a chance you can forward all 13 attachments or direct me to the correct place?

Response: Please note the [New York State Contract Reporter](#) Ad #2093397 has all attachments available for this funding opportunity in the Documents tab. In addition, the revised posting and all attachments are available on the NYS Department of Health Funding Opportunity webpage <https://www.health.ny.gov/funding/rfa/20171/>.

Posted Date: 08/12/2025

18. Is the MWBE goal 30%

Response: Yes. Section IV. I. (Minority & Women-Owned Business Enterprise Requirements) states "For purposes of this solicitation, the Department of Health hereby establishes a goal of **30%** as follows: 1) For Not-for-Profit Applicants: Eligible Expenditures include any subcontracted labor or services, equipment, materials, or any combined purchase of the foregoing under a contract awarded from this solicitation. 2) For-Profit and Municipality Applicants Eligible Expenditures include the value of the total amount of the Budget provided for the Work Plan in the Grant Contract entered into pursuant to this RFA."

19. The RFA does not reference a match. Can you confirm that there is no match required from the municipality.

Response: While a match is not required, Attachment 9 (Budget Instructions), states "Additional costs incurred by the program, referred to as "in-kind contributions," should be detailed under the narrative sections for the respective budget category (i.e. In-kind staff should not be listed in the Salary Detail, but please identify any in-kind staff and the grant deliverable their work supports in the Personal Services – Salary Narrative)." In addition, note, the Guidelines tab (first tab) in Attachment 10 (Offline Budget) states for Match % and Match Funds (rows 76 and 77) indicate "Always leave blank."

Posted Date: 01/30/2026

20. Since our project is an overall Water Treatment Plant Improvements project, our contractors will be submitting a MWBE Utilization Plan or a MWBE Utilization Waiver Request for their overall scope of work and not necessarily for the work related to Fluoridation.

Response: Per the RFA Section IV. I. (Minority & Women-Owned Business Enterprise Requirements), by submitting an Application, each Applicant and potential Grantee agrees to complete an M/WBE Utilization plan as directed in **Attachment 6** of this RFA. "2) For-Profit and Municipality Applicants Eligible Expenditures include the value of the total amount of the Budget provided for the Work Plan in the Grant Contract entered into pursuant to this RFA." The standard work plan, depending on component applied for, is Attachment 11 or Attachment 12.

Posted Date: 06/23/2026