In 2023 we established the Alternative Drinking Water Program in the Department of Health (DOH) Office of Drinking Water (ODW) to provide grants to homes and businesses with contaminated individual wells or small water systems. The program assists with short-term access to safe drinking water while state and federal agencies seek long-term solutions through studies and remediation efforts. Local health jurisdictions and community organizations interested in receiving grant funds for a project should complete an application and submit it to [odw-adwp@doh.wa.gov](mailto:odw-adwp@doh.wa.gov?subject=Alternative%20Drinking%20Water%20Program) with any supporting documents. Email us to request an application at [odw-adwp@doh.wa.gov](mailto:odw-adwp@doh.wa.gov?subject=Alternative%20Drinking%20Water%20Program).

# General Program Information

We requested the funds because aquifers in Washington are becoming more widely contaminated from both natural and man­made impacts like PFAS, nitrate, industrial, commercial, or agricultural influences, as well as arsenic and uranium. We established this program because of advocacy by some of the most impacted communities around our state. They recognized the need for funding and resources to identify and address contaminated individual wells and Group B water systems.

We recognize that contaminants in drinking water are not evenly distributed. Some communities face disproportionate impacts and effects of contaminated drinking water. Part of the purpose of this program is to address environmental injustices and direct funding to overburdened communities and vulnerable populations. Our goal is that at least 40 percent of available program funds go to overburdened communities and vulnerable populations. Part of the requirements of the grant award will be to report on which communities are benefiting from the funds.

## Eligibility

Local health jurisdictions (LHJ) and community organizations are eligible to apply for funds. For LHJ-awarded funds, we can amend ongoing contracts with the LHJ during the periodic updates. For community organizations awarded funds, we will need to develop a timeline with the organization for developing a new contract, if one does not already exist. Group A community public water systems are not eligible for funding through this program.

Eligible project activities include staff time, water testing, lab contracts, filtration installation, and water delivery. On a case-by-case basis, we may approve other proposed activities that are necessary for the applicant to successfully implement their proposal to provide safe and reliable drinking water to their community. If estimated costs for certain services or activities are above currently accepted market rates, applicants should provide a rationale for the costs.

*Note: If an applicant has an existing detailed expense spreadsheet with line items and estimated costs, then the applicant may submit that spreadsheet as an attachment to the application in lieu of pasting the information into the application (identify the document name in the appropriate application field).*

# Application Process

We will maintain an open application cycle for the program so applications can be submitted at any time. We will award funds to approved projects until funds for the fiscal year are all assigned to projects. We will review application’s timelines for completion of stages to determine in which fiscal year to fund a project. Our fiscal year aligns with the state’s cycle of July 1 through June 30 of the next year. For fiscal year 2024 funding, the applicant must be able to complete the project prior to June 30, 2024. For fiscal year 2025 funding, the applicant must be able to complete the project prior to June 30, 2025. It may be possible for us to begin funding a project in fiscal year 2024 if one of more stages of work will be completed June 30, 2024, and the remaining stages will be completed by June 30, 2025. For this latter situation, please make note in the application of the two-year spread of work.

We will review and score applications to determine eligibility and priority for funding. We may use the priority for funding score to determine which eligible applications to fund if requests total more than available funds. We will base priority scoring on:

* Health impact on community.
* Percent of the population considered to be overburdened community and vulnerable population.

Submit completed applications via email with any supporting documents to [odw-adwp@doh.wa.gov](mailto:odw-adwp@doh.wa.gov?subject=Alternative%20Drinking%20Water%20Program).

# Definitions and Resources

Definitions of overburdened community and vulnerable population are outlined in RCW 70A.02.010, as shown below.

RCW 70A.02.010

(11) "Overburdened community" means a geographic area where vulnerable populations face combined, multiple environmental harms and health impacts, and includes, but is not limited to, highly impacted communities as defined in RCW 19.405.020.

(14)(a) "Vulnerable populations" means population groups that are more likely to be at higher risk for poor health outcomes in response to environmental harms, due to: (i) Adverse socioeconomic factors, such as unemployment, high housing and transportation costs relative to income, limited access to nutritious food and adequate health care, linguistic isolation, and other factors that negatively affect health outcomes and increase vulnerability to the effects of environmental harms; and (ii) sensitivity factors, such as low birth weight and higher rates of hospitalization.

(b) "Vulnerable populations" includes, but is not limited to:

(i) Racial or ethnic minorities;

(ii) Low-income populations;

(iii) Populations disproportionately impacted by environmental harms; and

(iv) Populations of workers experiencing environmental harms.

For more information about the origin and use of the terms “overburdened community” and “vulnerable population,” please visit DOH’s [Environmental Justice webpage](https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/health-equity/environmental-justice).

The application fields and questions are provided on the following pages.

# For More Information

Find more resources on our [Drinking Water for Consumers webpage](https://doh.wa.gov/you-and-your-family/healthy-home/drinking-water).

Contact our staff at: [odw-adwp@doh.wa.gov](mailto:odw-adwp@doh.wa.gov).

A picture containing company name

Description automatically generatedTo request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email [civil.rights@doh.wa.gov](mailto:civil.rights@doh.wa.gov).

# Application Fields and Questions

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Proposed Project Name  Enter project name here. | | | |
| Location of Proposed Project  Enter location here. | | | |
| Contact Information | | | |
| Organization Name  Org Name | | | |
| First Name  Enter first name | | Last Name  Enter last name | |
| Title  Enter job title | | | |
| Address  Street Address/PO Box | | | |
| City  Enter city name | State  Enter state | | Zip Code  Enter Zip code |
| Phone Number  Enter phone number | | Email  Enter email address | |
| Organization Website Address  Webiste address, if any | | | |
| Application Questions | | | |
| 1. Please summarize the public health issue that this proposal is addressing. Please include information about the number of people affected and a summary of efforts to communicate with the community about the issue. | | | |
| Enter answer here. | | | |
| 2. Please provide information about the contamination, including types and concentrations of contaminant(s), number of affected sources, and history of contamination. | | | |
| Enter answer here. | | | |
| 3. Describe the scope of work of the proposal. Please summarize the proposed activities and services, such as water testing, lab contracts, filtration installation, or water delivery vouchers, etc. Please attach or include below a proposed spending plan containing specific line items with estimated or real costs. | | | |
| Enter answer here. | | | |
| 4. Please attach or include below a timeline of work. | | | |
| Enter answer here. | | | |
| 5. Please describe how the services and activities will be staffed and managed. If not provided above, please include the percentage of each participating staff member’s time and effort that will be devoted to the services and activities. | | | |
| Enter answer here. | | | |

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| --- |
| 6. Please summarize the organizational readiness to implement the proposal. Please include whether needed approvals have been obtained, such as from a Home Owners Association or a regional authority, whether partners have committed resources, and whether any components of the project have been completed to date. |
| Enter answer here. |
| 7. If applicable, please provide information about whether the impacted community or a portion of the community is an overburdened community or vulnerable population, as defined in [RCW 70A.02.010](https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70A.02.010). |
| Enter answer here. |
| 8. Additional information. You may attach or provide below any additional information to further describe the public health issue or proposed project. |
| Enter answer here. |