

GRANTS AVAILABLE TO PROTECT YOUR DRINKING WATER



Michigan communities are blessed with an abundance of fresh, clean water – from the Great Lakes and connecting waterways to the groundwater that flows beneath our feet. Ten million Michiganders rely on this system for clean drinking water, so protecting it is critical to ensuring safe, healthy water for future generations.

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), through its Source Water Protection Program (SWPP), funds programs to protect clean water sources and educate the public about where their water originates and how best to ensure it remains healthy.

The next round of grant applications for EGLE’s SWPP is expected to be available in May. Applicants must provide 50 percent matching funds for the projects, develop a water protection team, and demonstrate long-term commitment to their source water protection programs. The time is now for communities to consider setting aside funds to support Wellhead Protection Programs (WHPP).

In 2022, EGLE awarded more than \$436,000 in funding to 29 Michigan public water systems to support programs including updated Wellhead Protection Program Plans. Both Cadillac, which has built two new wellfields in the last decade, and Allegan were among the cities receiving grants.

“Over the years, these grants helped us determine our wellhead area,” said Jeffrey Dietlin, director of utilities for the City of Cadillac. “This grant also helps us put into place safety measures to keep our wellfields safe and educate our residents on the importance of clean, safe water.”

The City of Cadillac has been awarded grants since 2014. The latest grant helps the city install WHPA road signs, create an educational video for public distribution and purchase training materials for school presentations.

“The wellhead program grants have been huge for our city,” said Doug Sweeris, water utility director for the City of Allegan. “We have received this grant several times and each time it has helped us to keep our wellhead protection program moving forward.

“They have helped us fund our public education outreach initiatives and keep our wellhead protection plan up to date.”

Since developing its Wellhead Protection Program in 1999, the City of Allegan has received numerous grants over the years. The grants covered 50% of wellhead protection-related activities.

“Knowing where the water comes from, where the aquifer is and what effects the aquifer has been a major benefit of this program,” Sweeris added. “And knowing what potential hazards (sites) are around the aquifer that may impact the aquifer at some point.”

“This program has also brought different people together, in this city and the surrounding township, to discuss source water protection.”

CALL F&V EXPERTS TODAY

The wellhead protection experts at Fleis & VandenBrink (F&V) are leaders in developing effective, efficient, and EGLE-approved programs for communities throughout Michigan. Our experts also assist our clients in successfully obtaining EGLE grants.

F&V assists clients in all phases of their wellhead protection program including facilitating team meetings that select strategies which raise awareness of the area groundwater resources and reduce the likelihood of existing and potential sources of contamination from reaching the community’s drinking water supply wells.

“Having consultants like F&V on the wellhead team is huge because of the knowledge they bring,” Sweeris said. “We would not be able to handle all the information that goes into a wellhead protection plan, including the hydrogeological and background data.”

“Having a knowledgeable engineer on staff is a must.”

Dietlin agreed.

“Most municipal workers are pulled in 10 different directions,” Dietlin said. “We would fall behind if we didn’t have a consultant like F&V help us with the application and assist at the wellhead meetings.”

“F&V helps us stay on point, on task and moving our program forward.”

If you would like more information on EGLE’s Source Water Protection Program, or a cursory review and recommendations for your current Wellhead Protection Plan, contact Jim Brode or Katie Strohauser at 800.494.5202.

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"The wellhead program grants have been huge for our city. They have helped us fund our public education outreach initiatives and keep our well-head protection plan up to date."

– Doug Sweeris, Water Utility Director for the City of Allegan

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