

Department of Environmental Protection



SMALL COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM
2010 PRIORITY LIST

I. Program Description

The State of Maine Department of Environmental Protection administers the Construction Grants Program and State Revolving Loan Program. The major funding sources for these programs are the Environmental Protection Agency grants and State Bond Issues. Small water pollution problems have been difficult to correct with these programs since they are tailored for larger sewage treatment needs.

The Small Community Program, originally established by the 110th Legislature, can solve these small but serious water quality problems by providing technical and grant assistance to towns which can be used to construct individual and cluster septic systems and other small wastewater treatment facilities. The local share of most projects is covered directly by the beneficiaries of the grant and don't require the use of town funds.

II. Enabling Legislation

38 MRSA Sec. 411 State Contribution to Pollution Abatement

“...The commissioner may pay up to 90% of the expense of a municipal or quasi-municipal pollution abatement construction program or a pollution abatement construction program in an unorganized township or plantation authorized by the county commissioners in which the construction cost of the project does not exceed \$100,000 as long as total expenditures for the small projects do not exceed \$1,000,000 in any fiscal year and not more than one grant is made to any applicant each year, except that the commissioner may pay a percentage of the cost of individual projects serving single-family dwellings, seasonal dwellings or commercial establishments according to the following schedule:

ANNUAL INCOME	SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLING	SEASONAL DWELLING
\$0 to \$5,000	100%	50%
\$5,001 to \$20,000	90%	50%
\$20,001 to \$30,000	50%	25%
\$30,001 to \$40,000	25%	25%
\$40,001 or more	0%	0%

GROSS PROFIT	COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENT
\$0 to \$50,000	50%
\$50,001 to \$100,000	25%
\$100,001 or more	0%

For the purposes of this section, “annual income” means the sum of all the property owner’s federal taxable income for the previous year for single-family or seasonal dwellings and “gross profit” means the sum of all the commercial establishment owner’s gross profits for the previous year as listed on the relevant federal income tax returns.

To determine eligibility, the commissioners may require an applicant to submit a copy of the relevant federal income tax return of the owner or owners. In addition to any penalty adjudged under section 349, a person who knowingly makes any false statement, representation or certification in the application for a grant under this section and who receives such a grant shall, upon conviction, make restitution to the department in an amount equal to the amount of the grant plus interest and reasonable recovery cost incurred by the department.

State grant-in-aid under this section shall be limited to grants for waste treatment facilities, interceptor systems and outfalls. The word "expense" shall not include costs relating to land acquisition or debt service, unless allowed under federal statutes and regulations.

The Department shall develop a project priority list, for approval by the board, for pollution abatement construction. The factors to be considered in developing the priority lists shall include, but not be limited to, protection of ground and surface water supplies, shellfish, general public health hazards and water contact activities. All proceeds of the sale of bonds for the construction and equipment of pollution abatement facilities to be expended under the direction and supervision of the Department of Environmental Protection shall be segregated, apportioned and expended as provided by the Legislature."

The following priority system was used to develop the 2010 Priority List:

III. Priority System

Applications are prioritized by the severity of the pollution problem posed by the existing condition. Four categories of pollution problems are used to prioritize applications. Grants are awarded on the basis of priority category assigned, documentation of specific problems, and the number of requests received during the year.

Priority 1: Water Supply Protection

The projects must eliminate a source of contamination to a community water supply as defined by 22 M.R.S.A. § 601. Water Supply Protection priority is assigned to projects where a potential public health hazard exists as a result of the contamination, and the contamination does or will require alternative sources of water or additional water treatment if the project is not carried out.

Priority 2: Shellfishery Protection

The projects must eliminate a source of contamination to a shellfishing area. Shellfishery Protection priority is assigned to projects that will eliminate sources of waste responsible for a shellfish area closure or eliminate sources of pollution in order to maintain an open status, according to the standards of the Department of Marine Resources.

Priority 3: Water Quality Protection

The project will eliminate a discharge of untreated sewage to waters of the state. Water Quality Priority is assigned to projects that will remove these discharges.

Priority 4: Public Nuisance Conditions

The project will eliminate a hazard to public health resulting from the improper disposal of sewage. Public nuisance conditions may exist where there is no discharge of sewage to a waterbody. Public Nuisance Conditions priority is assigned to projects where a public health hazard exists due to improper wastewater disposal.

The following applicants have been recommended for a 2010 Small Community Grant:

PRIORITY 1–Public Drinking Water Supply Protection

ROCKPORT	\$11,000
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Total Priority 1 Applicants: 1.
Grant Request: \$11,000

PRIORITY 2–Shellfishery Protection

FRIENDSHIP	\$17,500	STOCKTON SPRINGS	\$10,000
JONESBORO	\$15,000	VAN BUREN	\$12,000
LONG ISLAND	\$25,000	WEST BATH	\$15,000

Total Priority 2 Applicants: 6.
Grant Request: \$94,500.

PRIORITY 3–Water Quality Protection

ABBOT	\$12,000	ISLESBORO	\$40,000
ALLAGASH	\$10,000	LINNEUS	\$15,000
AROOSTOOK CTY COMMISSIONERS	\$40,000	MADAWASKA	\$13,000
ASHLAND	\$12,000	MAPLETON	\$20,000
ATKINSON	\$5,000	MASARDIS	\$10,000
BARING PLANTATION	\$6,000	MOUNT VERNON	\$11,000
BELFAST	\$9,000	NEW LIMERICK	\$6,000
BRIDGEWATER	\$10,000	NEW SWEDEN	\$10,000
BROOKS	\$30,000	OAKFIELD	\$18,000
BUCKFIELD	\$10,000	OAKLAND	\$5,000
BUCKSPORT	\$12,000	PORTAGE LAKE	\$24,000
CALAIS	\$10,000	PRESQUE ISLE	\$8,000
CANAAN	\$13,500	RICHMOND	\$26,000
CHAPMAN	\$10,000	READFIELD	\$9,000
CHARLESTON	\$15,000	ROXBURY	\$23,000

CHESTERVILLE	\$12,000	STACYVILLE	\$10,000
DIXFIELD	\$20,000	ST JOHN PLT	\$10,000
ELLSWORTH	\$10,000	STEUBEN	\$15,000
FARMINGTON	\$21,000	VAN BUREN	\$12,000
FORT FAIRFIELD	\$8,000	VASSALBORO	\$18,500
FORT KENT	\$15,000	WALLAGRASS	\$75,000
FRANKFORT	\$15,000	WOODLAND	\$10,000
HAMLIN	\$13,000	WOOLWICH	\$15,000
HARRISON	\$5,000		

Total Priority 3 Applicants: 47.
Grant Request: \$727,000.

PRIORITY 4–Nuisance Conditions

No Funding Available

Additional Needs

In order to accommodate potential emergency circumstances and certain project adjustments as construction occurs, \$167,500 in contingency funds has been reserved out of this bond issue.