



State of California – Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

Section 75021 Emergency Grant Criteria

**Proposition 84 – Chapter 2 Safe Drinking Water and Water Quality Projects
Section 75021 – Safe Drinking Water Emergency Funding (\$10 Million)**

California Department of Health Services - Emergency Clean Water Grant Criteria

Purpose:

(a) The sum of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) shall be available to the Department of Health Services for grants and direct expenditures to fund emergency and urgent actions to ensure that safe drinking water supplies are available to all Californians.

Eligible projects include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) Providing alternate water supplies including bottled water where necessary to protect public health.*
- (2) Improvements in existing water systems necessary to prevent contamination or provide other sources of safe drinking water including replacement wells.*
- (3) Establishing connections to an adjacent water system.*
- (4) Design, purchase, installation and initial operation costs for water treatment equipment and systems.*

(b) Grants and expenditures shall not exceed \$250,000 per project.

(c) Direct expenditures for the purposes of this section shall be exempt from contracting and procurement requirements to the extent necessary to take immediate action to protect public health and safety.

Background

California Department of Health Services (CDHS) developed grant criteria in the 1980s for its Emergency Clean Water Grant Fund (ECWG), which was created under Chapter 1428, Statutes of 1985 and amended under Chapter 885, Statutes of 1987 (Health and Safety Code 116475). These criteria were established to provide a process to award and approve grants for emergencies. CDHS will continue to use these criteria in funding Proposition 84 projects.

CDHS reserves the right to modify these criteria, in consultation with appropriate stakeholder groups, as necessary to effectively implement this program. The most recent criteria will be used for evaluation of a request for funding under this Section.

CDHS may expend funds as grants and direct expenditures to fund emergency and urgent actions in order to ensure that safe drinking water supplies are available to all Californians who are served by public water systems. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Providing alternate water supplies including bottled water where necessary to protect public health
2. Improvements in existing water systems necessary to prevent contamination or provide other sources of safe drinking water including replacement wells
3. Establishing connections to an adjacent water system
4. Design, purchase, installation and initial operation costs for water treatment and equipment and systems

Criteria

Requests for funds must come from a public water system, the local Health Officer, or the local Director of Environmental Health. Requests for emergency funding must be submitted to CDHS' Drinking Water Program District Office having regulatory responsibility for the applicant. The District Office will review and verify the facts related to the public health emergency and/or threat of each request for ECWG funds. All requests which meet the eligibility criteria will be funded until the funds are exhausted.

Factors which will be considered by CDHS will include the following:

1. The degree of contamination
2. The nature of the contaminants
3. Whether the health hazard is acute (short term) or chronic (long term)
4. The length of time to which consumers have been or will be exposed
5. Any actual or suspected illnesses
6. Any actions taken by the local Health Officer or the local Director of Environmental Health
7. If there are other sources of funds to resolve the public health threat or emergency
8. Actual water outage, duration and extent of the outage, as a result of an emergency
9. Loss of power, duration and extent of outage, as a result of an emergency

When the District Office determines that an application meets the eligibility criteria, and addresses a Public Health Emergency or Public Health Threat, a memo will be sent to the Chief of the Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management (DDWEM) recommending the use of emergency grant funds. This memo should include the following information:

1. Nature of health threat
2. Source of health threat
3. How problem was discovered.
4. Other agencies, if any, called for assistance
5. Type of corrective action requested by the local Health Officer or local Director of Environmental Health or public water system
6. The District Office's recommendation for corrective action
7. Actions taken to obtain funds from other sources

8. Result if ECWG funds are denied
9. Recommendation of an ECWG Fund grant.
10. Likelihood that additional funds will be requested
11. If the public health threat is the result of a toxic spill or contamination

Funding from this program can be used for the following activities:

1. System Improvements
2. Inter-tie with adjacent water systems
3. Temporary treatment system
4. Rented, borrowed or purchased equipment replacements
5. Consultant to address operational problems
6. Alternate water supply
7. Bottled water supply

If the request conforms to the criteria for emergency financial assistance, a recommendation for the use of the emergency funds will be sent to the Chief of DDWEM, who shall make the final determination as to approval/disapproval of the application. CDHS will give first priority for use of funds to situations where a public health emergency/threat exists and other funds are not readily available.

If CDHS approves a request for emergency funding, it may determine to provide the funding as a grant to the public water system, or CDHS may determine to expend such emergency funding on the public water system's behalf, or some combination of both. A direct expenditure may be via written or oral contract(s). An oral contract is limited to expenditure of a maximum of \$5000. Grants and expenditures shall not exceed \$250,000 per project.

Definitions:

“Public health emergency” means an existing or emergent health hazard of such magnitude that immediate remedial action is necessary to prevent the contamination or potential contamination of the water supplied by public water system.

“Public health threat” means a situation involving an imminent health hazard due to serious system defects where corrective action is necessary to prevent or alleviate the contamination or potential contamination of the water supplied by a public water system.