



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services

Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

July 19, 2023

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The Honorable Ken Weyler, Chairman
 Fiscal Committee of the General Court
 State House
 Concord, NH 03301

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
 and the Honorable Council
 State House
 Concord, NH 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a, VI, authorize the Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to accept and expend \$500,000 in Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Funds to continue to provide financial assistance to low-income New Hampshire homeowners with residential wells experiencing irreversible water supply or quality problems due to natural disasters, effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2025. 100% Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund.

Funding is to be appropriated as follows:

Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund
 03-44-44-444010-74280000
 FY 2024

Class	Budget Category	Current Budget	Requested Action	Revised Budget
Income				
009-401831	DWG Trust Funds	(\$85,416,474)	(\$500,000)	(\$85,916,474)
Expenditures				
018-500106	Overtime	\$10,000	0	\$10,000
020-500200	Current Expenses	\$22,436	0	\$22,436
022-500255	Rents-Leases Other than State	\$500	0	\$500
024-500224	Maint Other Than Bldg/Grnds	\$100	0	\$100
027-582703	Transfers to OIT	\$63,565	0	\$63,565
028-582814	Transfers to General Services	\$25,217	0	\$25,217
030-500321	Equipment	\$700	0	\$700
038-500xxx	Technology- Software	\$38,359	0	\$38,359
039-500188	Telecommunications	\$6,050	0	\$6,050

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Class.	Budget Category	Current Budget	Requested Action	Revised Budget
040-500800	Indirect Costs	\$54,556	0	\$54,556
042-500620	Additional Fringe Benefits	\$47,062	0	\$47,062
049-584920	Transfers to Other Agencies	\$27,470	0	\$27,470
050-500109	Personnel Services Temp	\$289,768	0	\$289,768
059-500117	Personnel Services Temp FT	\$357,513	0	\$357,513
060-500601	Benefits	\$291,461	0	\$291,461
066-500544	Employee Training	\$3,150	0	\$3,150
070-500705	Instate Travel	\$1,500	0	\$1,500
073-500580	Grants - Non federal	\$41,008,678	0	\$41,008,678
080-500710	Out-of-State Travel	\$2,250	0	\$2,250
101-500729	Medical Payments to Provider	\$500	0	\$500
102-500731	Contracts for Program Services	\$3,671,755	0	\$3,671,755
300-500830	Reimbursements	\$550,000	\$500,000	\$1,050,000
301-504059	Loans	\$38,943,884	0	\$38,943,884
	Total	\$85,416,474	\$500,000	\$85,916,474

EXPLANATION

We are requesting approval of this fiscal request to fulfill obligations to low-income homeowners approved for the program before June 30, 2023 with reimbursements pending completion of the well installation. On February 14, 2022, the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund (DWGTF) Advisory Commission (Commission) awarded \$500,000 to NHDES for the Water Assistance for Natural Disaster Impacts to Low-Income Residential Well Owners program (WAND). In response to the high demand for the program, the Commission awarded an additional \$750,000 to NHDES on September 26, 2022, for a total of \$1,250,000 to continue the WAND program. The WAND program provides financial assistance, in the form of reimbursements, for qualifying low-income New Hampshire homeowners served by residential wells that are experiencing irreversible water quantity or quality problems due to extreme weather events or natural hazards, such as flooding and drought. Qualifying homeowners may receive financial assistance from the WAND program to repair or replace the compromised well.

Since initiation of the program in August 2022, NHDES has approved 57 low-income homeowners for financial assistance to replace residential wells that have failed due to drought. There are currently 29 homeowners that have been approved for the program based on irreversible water supply issues and household income. We are requesting approval of this increase because there was insufficient time to process the financial review and complete the work before June 30, 2023 and the FY24 operating budget did not anticipate needing this level of funding. Despite the heavy

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rainfall experienced in New Hampshire in recent weeks, the homeowners in this program have wells located in areas with inadequate groundwater recovery and have been confirmed by a certified well driller to be irrecoverable. These funds will also allow NHDES to keep the program open for qualifying low-income households that experience a natural disaster that impacts their well and access to safe drinking water.

NHDES is requesting to budget these additional funds as shown below:

Class 300 To reimburse costs incurred by eligible homeowners whose wells have experienced irreversible water supply quantity or water quality problems for remedies to include, but not limited to, a temporary auxiliary storage tank and bulk water, increasing supply capacity, increasing storage capacity, lowering an existing well pump, deepening an existing well, installing a replacement well, and water quality sampling and treatment of the deepened/replacement well.

We respectfully request your approval.



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner