



LE SUEUR COUNTY WELL-SEALING GRANT POLICY



Project Description

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) was awarded Clean Water Funds (CWF) to help well owners seal unused and/or abandoned wells. Half of the funds that are awarded to the MDH are distributed to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). BWSR then allocates the funds to local government units, such as Le Sueur County, in order to assist private well owners in sealing their unused and/or abandoned wells.

Eligible Projects

Must include the following:

- Wells that are not designated as public water supply by the MDH
- Residential or commercial properties located within Le Sueur County
- Sealing an unused and/or abandoned well

Ineligible Projects

- Wells designated as public water supply by the MDH
- Drilling a new well or repairing an existing well
- Wells that do not meet at least one of the priority requirements
- Projects that have started before approval of the application and completion of a cost-share contract with Le Sueur County

Terms of the Grant

Amount Eligible - Limited to 50% of the total cost not to exceed a \$1,000 maximum to seal an unused and/or abandoned well. Applicant may request less if desired.

Match Requirement- As part of the grant, a match amount of a (1:1) is required. Non-state funding sources and landowner in-kind is eligible to fulfill the match requirements.

Grant Pre-Approval

Grant pre-approval by the Environmental Services Department is required. To qualify for the well-sealing grant, applicants will be selected on a priority ranking process based off of the following:

- Wells that are located within a drinking water supply management area (DWSMA)
- Wells in the same aquifer as one or more nearby (within one mile) public water supply wells designated by the MDH
- Large diameter wells (8 inches or greater)
- Multi-aquifer wells
- Wells located within areas of known (documented) groundwater contamination

***Higher priority will be given to wells that meet multiple criteria.**

Application

Must be accompanied by a well contractor's itemized estimate. The estimate is required to include all costs associated with labor and materials. A permit must be issued by Le Sueur County prior to being approved for well-sealing cost-share and prior to sealing of a well. Grant funds will not be allocated for any well sealing project that has started prior to grant application approval and prior to the required completion of a cost-share contract with Le Sueur County.

Final Grant Approval

Is subject to the well contractor's itemized invoice and a well inspection by Le Sueur County in accordance with Minnesota Administrative Rules, Chapters 103I and 145A, and the Le Sueur County Zoning Ordinance. In order to receive cost-share payment for the project, a voucher form will need to be completed by the landowner(s) and contractor for 50% of the total cost or not to exceed a \$1,000 maximum. Payment will be sent to the contractor.

Well-Sealing Requirements

Well sealing must be performed by a state licensed and certified well contractor, with the applicable license for the type of work being performed. Selection of the well contractor is the landowner's choice.

County review, approval, and permit of proposed well sealing is required prior to starting the project.

Final site inspections by a County Well Inspector is required.

Funding Source and Longevity

Funding Source -

Well-sealing grant funds are used to help assist with the financial costs that are required to seal unused and/or abandoned wells on residential and commercial properties. The grant is not intended to cover all costs associated with the project. The landowner(s) may utilize other funding sources such as Agriculture Best Management Practice (Ag BMP) Loans, Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and (USDA) Single Family Housing Repair Loans & Grants in order to cover the remaining expenses that are not funded by the well-sealing grant. It will be the responsibility of the landowner to take care of any expenses that remain after the cost-share payment is processed.

Longevity-

The FY'2019 Well-Sealing Grant **deadline is December 31, 2020**. The well must be sealed **prior to the deadline**. Any well sealing performed after December 31, 2020 will no longer be eligible for grant funds. All invoices for projects must be received by the Environmental Services Department within 14 calendar days after the project is completed, and the invoice may not be billed **after December 31, 2020**. Delays in submitting invoices can affect eligibility for grant funds.