

New York State Department of Health  
*Center for Community Health/Division of Family Health*  
*Bureau of Child Health*

Funding Opportunity # 16466  
Grants Gateway # DOH01-DWFC1-2015 (Component 1)  
Grants Gateway # DOH01- DWFC2-2015 (Component 2)  
*Drinking Water Fluoridation (Projects less than or equal to \$50,000)*  
*Component 1: Planning Projects*  
*Component 2: Implementation Projects*

**AND**

RFA # 1507301130  
Grants Gateway # DOH01-DWF3-2015  
Request for Applications  
Drinking Water Fluoridation

**Questions and Answers**

**Program Specific Questions:**

1. Question: What cities have requested the grant so far?

Response: It is the New York State Department of Health's (Department) policy not to share information about an open procurement prior to its close. This includes letters of intent and applications received. Therefore, the Department is unable to provide that information.

2. Question: Can you tell me what the “Questions Due” component is and if it is a mandatory part of the process?

Response: The "Questions Due" component is not mandatory for applicants. It allows potential applicants to submit questions to the Department regarding the content or any component of the funding opportunity. The responses to the questions are then posted before the application deadline with the purpose of providing as much clarity as possible regarding the funding opportunity.

3. Question: Page 3 of Funding Opportunity #16466 – Drinking Water Fluoridation states “Applicants may request up to \$50,000 in funding and may only apply for one Component at a time.” If the project is estimated to cost more than \$50,000 (\$65,000) and is a simple replacement in-kind of equipment, can we still apply under this funding opportunity (if the applicant is willing to pay the difference in cost above \$50,000? This would negate the need for us to undertake a full engineering report as required by the larger grant limit to replace equipment in-kind.

Response: When considering whether to apply for DWFC2 or DWF3 for implementation projects, applicants must consider the total project cost, not amount to be requested from the Department. If the total project cost for construction, installation, repair, replacement, or upgrade of fluoride equipment is more than \$50,000, even if the total cost of the project is not being requested, applicants should submit an application through the Drinking Water Fluoridation Request for Application (DOH01-DWF3-2015). However, if total project costs are greater than \$50,000 and the project is replacement-in-kind, a brief Engineering Report by a licensed engineer stating the rationale for this determination may suffice for the engineering submittal. The purpose of the Engineer's Report as described in Section III of DWF3 is to verify the infrastructure needs of the public water system as well as describe the schedule of proposed work which is important for projects costing more than \$50,000.

4. Question: In Section II. Who May Apply of the RFAs it states "Applicants must be a NYS county, city, town or village that own their public water system and water supply, including a county in which a public authority owns both its public water system and the water supply for the system." Please clarify, is an Authority eligible for this grant opportunity? Or, more specifically, is the Onondaga County Water Authority eligible?

Response: Public water authorities which have been designated as such under New York State Public Authorities Law (NYS PBA) Article 5 are considered eligible for this specific eligibility criterion. This applies to DWFC1, DWFC2, and DWF3.

The Onondaga County Water Authority does meet this specific eligibility criterion based on NYS PBA, Article 5, Title 7. Please note that the public authority must meet all eligibility criteria as contained in Section II Who May Apply of the RFA to be considered for funding under DWFC1, DWFC2, and DWF3.

5. Question: Do you know how long this money will be available?

Response: The funding for this RFA and Funding Opportunity was made available under the State Fiscal Year 2015-16 Enacted Budget. An additional \$5 million is expected to be appropriated for the 2016-17 State Fiscal Year.

6. Question: Page 6 Section III Project Narrative/Work plan Outcomes of DWFC3 includes a link to identify "Federal designation of a Dental Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)". I went to the website but found it confusing. I am interested in Monroe and Livingston Counties.

Response: Information about federal designations of dental health professional shortage areas (HPSA) can be found at <http://hpsafind.hrsa.gov/>. Follow these steps to determine which geographic areas have been designated as a dental HPSA:

- Under "or search by state/county," select New York, your applicable county/counties, and the box labeled "Dental Health"
- Click "[+] Expand Search options"
- Under "Types" select the following three options by holding down the Ctrl button: "HPSA Geographic," "HPSA Geographic High Needs" and "HPSA population."
- Click the "Search" button

- Each dental HPSA will be listed in a separate row on the results page. To determine the geographic area designated, refer to the third column, “HPSA Name,” and the information included in the sub table generated directly below, specifically the fifth column “Designation Type”. Note, the geographic area varies. It could list:
  - Census tracts- ex. City of Buffalo in Erie County
  - Minor civil divisions- ex. Rochester in Monroe County
  - An entire county- ex. Cattaraugus County

7. Question: Where is the best place to go to get info on free and reduced lunches and Medicaid?

Response: Information on free and reduced lunch can be found on the New York State Education Department website at:

[http://portal.nysed.gov/pls/cn\\_port/mel3\\_pkg.elig\\_enroll\\_query](http://portal.nysed.gov/pls/cn_port/mel3_pkg.elig_enroll_query).

- Once on the website, click the blue arrow next to the “School Food Authority” field
- Type in the name of the school district and click “find”
- Click on the correct record
- Next, click the box labeled all next to the SFA Agency Type
- Finally click the Blue find button
- If no data appears, you may need to change the school year to 2014-2015
- Information on free and reduced lunch can also be found on the Kids’ Well-Being Indicator Clearinghouse website,  
[http://www.nyskwic.org/get\\_data/indicator\\_profile.cfm?subIndicatorID=52](http://www.nyskwic.org/get_data/indicator_profile.cfm?subIndicatorID=52)  
 (Note, this is county level data)

Information regarding the number of Medicaid enrollees by county can be found on the Department website at:

[http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/health\\_care/medicaid/eligible\\_expenditures/el2013/2013-cy\\_enrollees.htm](http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/health_care/medicaid/eligible_expenditures/el2013/2013-cy_enrollees.htm).

8. Question: How will MWBEs work if we will be doing all of the work in-house? Still 15% minority and 15% Women for all our purchases?

Response: The Minority and Women Owned Business requirements, or MWBE, applies to any subcontracted labor or services, equipment, materials, or any combined purchase of the foregoing greater than \$25,000. The MWBE requirement is not applicable for work being done in-house including labor and engineering. It only applies to work, equipment, materials and supplies procured from an external vendor which, in this case, would be the purchase of fluoridation equipment, supplies and materials needed for implementation. The applicant must demonstrate and document “good faith efforts” to provide meaningful participation by MWBEs as subcontractors or suppliers in the performance of the contract.

For guidance on how the Department will determine “good faith efforts,” refer to 5 NYCRR §142.8. If the applicant is unable to fully meet the MWBE goal of this contract, which is 15% for minority-owned and 15% for women-owned, a request for a waiver must be submitted using the Minority and Women Business Enterprise Waiver Request form. This can be found on the New York State Governor’s Office for Employee Relations website at: <http://www.goer.ny.gov/forms/index.cfm> . The form number is ADM-149. The directory of New York State Certified MWBEs can be viewed at: <https://ny.newnycontracts.com/FrontEnd/VendorSearchPublic.asp>.

9. Question: The City of White Plains does not own its public water system and water supply. We receive our water supply from the Kensico Reservoir (i.e. NYCDEP). Please advise if the City is still eligible for this grant opportunity.

Response: The first eligibility criterion in Section II Who is Eligible in DWFC1, DWFC2, and DWF3 states, “applicants must be a NYS county, city, town, or village that own their public water system and water supply, including a county in which a public authority owns both its public water system and the water supply for the system.” The City of White Plains is a municipally-owned water system with its own public water system identification number. Therefore the response is yes, the City of White Plains does meet this specific eligibility criterion. Please note that the municipality must meet **all** eligibility criteria as contained in Section II Who May Apply of the RFA to be considered for funding under DWFC1, DWFC2, and DWF3.

10. Question: The City of White Plains is in the process of receiving a revised Consultant proposal for professional engineering services related to the engineering work for the proposed fluoride storage improvements. We had project meetings with this Consultant, and are in the conceptual design stage (at best). Therefore, we cannot meet the February 26, 2016 application deadline. Please advise if there will be a RFA application deadline extension, and if this will eliminate the City from pursuing this grant opportunity.

Response: It is not likely that the DWF3 deadline will be extended beyond February 29, 2016. However, the State Fiscal Year 2016-17 Executive Budget is expected to include another \$5 million for the fluoridation grant program. The Department of Health will most likely release another RFA once the 2016-17 State Fiscal Year Budget is passed. The Department encourages you to continue working on your proposal and ideally submit by the February 29, 2016 deadline or have it prepared for the release of a subsequent RFA.

11. Question: We want to switch from a non-working dry feed fluoride operation to a liquid process. Is the cost of decommissioning the dry operation an eligible expense in association with implementation of the liquid operation?

Response: Yes, the cost of decommissioning the dry operation is an eligible expense under DWFC2 and DWF3. It falls under upgrade of fluoridation equipment. However, in the application, the applicant should thoroughly outline all applicable costs and detail the process

and timeline for completing the decommission of old and installation of new equipment within the year timeframe. This information should be included under the applicable program specific questions as contained in the Section “How to File an Application” (Page 9 of Funding Opportunity and Page 16 of RFA)

12. Question: Where can I find Attachment 3?

Response: Attachment 3 was inadvertently omitted from the Pre Submission Upload section of the Grants Gateway. Applicants may obtain Attachment 3 from the full viewable DWF3 RFA on the Grants Gateway (Addendum 2) or can request the form by emailing [oralhealth@health.ny.gov](mailto:oralhealth@health.ny.gov).

13. Question: Where can I find Attachment 7?

Response: Attachment 7 was inadvertently omitted from the Pre Submission Upload section of the Grants Gateway. Applicants may use Attachment 7 or can upload a similar style estimate document including the cost estimate section of the Engineer’s Report. Applicants may obtain Attachment 7 from the full viewable DWF3 RFA on the Grants Gateway (Addendum 2) or can request the form by emailing [oralhealth@health.ny.gov](mailto:oralhealth@health.ny.gov).

14. Question: In Section II. Who May Apply of the RFAs it states that funding must be for communities with 5,000 people served OR have necessary approvals in place to add fluoride to the water under law 1100-a. Our little village of Cherry Valley definitely would not meet the first requirement, but is there a way that we could have approvals to meet the third?

Response: Yes, there is a way the Village of Cherry Valley can meet the third option, “have the necessary approvals in place to add fluoride to the public water supply in accordance with New York State Public Health Law §1100-a.” Public Health Law §1100-a, assures that the elected local legislature of a county or municipality, that owns and operates both its water supply and water supply system, has the final approval authority (in the case of a public authority, the County Legislature has final approval authority) over the fluoridation of its public water supply.

In order for the Village of Cherry to be eligible for DWFC1, the elected body overseeing the water system and water supply will need to formally approve the addition of fluoride to the water supply. This should be done in accordance with the established policies, practices and procedures of the Village. Depending on the Village’s bylaws this may include the passing of a resolution, a law or another approval process.

Once the Village of Cherry Valley officially votes to implement water fluoridation, the Village may then apply for funding under DWFC1. The Village would also be eligible for funding under DWFC2 and DWF3.

**Questions received - Non RFA or Funding Opportunity Related:**

15. Question: How are you informing new parents and caregivers that they should not routinely mix fluoridated water into infant formula? And what does that mean? Every other day; once a week; once a month, etc.?

Response: Question is not relevant to this RFA

16. Question: Are cities required to determine total fluoride intake in the localities that are requesting money to start fluoridation? Often children consume too much fluoride already from food, beverages, dental products and medicines without water fluoridation. e.g. Connersville, Indiana.

Response: Question is not relevant to potential applicants applying to this RFA

17. Question: Since fluoride varnish is newly being painted on babies teeth after they emerge – which sometimes is younger than 6 months, how much fluoride gets into the bloodstream after application of this highly concentrated fluoride (26,600 ppm)?

Response: Question is not relevant to potential applicants applying to this RFA

18. Question: Have any recent studies on possible adverse side effects such as hypo-thyroidism, ADHD, learning disabilities in NYC or NYS and increased levels of the fluorine ion in blood or urine been conducted and/or published?

Response: Question is not relevant to potential applicants applying to this RFA

19. Question: Have any recent studies been conducted and/or published showing that fluoride or the fluorine element is an essential nutrient?

Response: Question is not relevant to potential applicants applying to this RFA

20. Question: Has the FDA approved and/or tested the element fluorine used in the fluoridation chemical hexafluorosilicic acid that is used as a treatment for a medical disease in our water?

Response: Question is not relevant to potential applicants applying to this RFA