

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



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Drinking Water Section

DWS Circular Letter #2016-03

TO: Community Public Water Systems that Use Surface Water Sources of Supply
FROM:  Lori Mathieu, Public Health Section Chief, Drinking Water Section
DATE: January 20, 2016
SUBJECT: Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant Opportunity for Source Water Protection

The [Healthy Watersheds Consortium](#) Grant Program has published a [Request for Proposals](#) (RFP) to support local projects that protect and sustain healthy watersheds (including drinking water sources). Through this program, EPA will provide approximately \$3.75 million over six years to the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities for projects that develop and/or support state, interstate, and tribal healthy watersheds programs and enhance collaboration among the many groups who benefit from protecting healthy watersheds such as drinking water utilities, hunters and fisherman, foresters and farmers, and more. The Endowment is also matching a portion of EPA's financial commitment to the partnership and expects to leverage additional funding from other public and private sources.

The goal of the Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant Program is to accelerate strategic protection of healthy, freshwater ecosystems and their watersheds. This goal will be achieved by:

- Funding key projects identified in existing watershed protection or conservation plans;
- Building the sustainable organizational infrastructure, social support, and long-term funding commitments necessary to implement large-scale protection of healthy watersheds; and
- Supporting innovative or catalytic projects that may accelerate or broadly advance the field of practice for watershed protection efforts.

The DPH encourages public water systems to review their ongoing source protection strategies and efforts and consider applying for this grant. If you want to learn more about the Consortium and the 2016 Application Process, please plan to attend the informational [Webinar](#) on Tuesday, January 26 at 2:00. The deadline for applications is March 14th.

Cc: Ellen Blaschinski, Branch Chief, Regulatory Services Branch
Local Directors of Health
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