

# Private Well Protection Grant Budget Limits

## FY26-27 GRANTS

### New Funding Formula for Grants

In effort to be more equitable in providing funding to promote private well outreach, education, and testing, Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) is using a new funding formula. The formula is based on the number of anticipated private wells in a county multiplied by \$126 per well. MDH is offering up to 10% of that total “cost” for private wells in each county (with at least \$1,000 available). Funding ceilings can be found in Table 1.

The anticipated number of households using private wells for each county was estimated by overlaying community water system service area boundaries with a geocoded dataset of residential properties from the Minnesota Department of Revenue. Residential properties outside the community water system service area boundaries are assumed to get drinking water from a private well. MDH opted to use this approach, rather than the number of private wells in the County Well Index (CWI) because we know not all private wells are in CWI.

Due to the petition to EPA to address nitrate in southeastern Minnesota, separate appropriations have been awarded to the following **eight counties to meet similar objectives and are not eligible to apply**: Dodge, Fillmore, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Wabasha, and Winona.

### Tribal Nations and Communities

The State of Minnesota acknowledges and supports the unique political status of Tribal Nations across Minnesota and their absolute right to existence, self-governance, and self-determination. This unique relationship with federally recognized Indian Tribes is cemented by the Constitution of the United States, treaties, statutes, case law, and agreements. The State of Minnesota and Tribal governments across Minnesota significantly benefit from working together, learning from one another, and partnering where possible.

If a tribal nation or community is interested in applying for Private Well Protection grant funding, please reach out to [anne.nelson@state.mn.us](mailto:anne.nelson@state.mn.us) with your best estimate for the number of private wells within the area you plan to work, and MDH can apply the same funding formula used with counties.

### Funding Available Based on Number of Private Wells

We encourage counties and tribal nations/communities to work together. If groups work together, they can add their individual maximum awards together for a team maximum award.

We understand that not every household offered a well test kit will return the kit for analysis. We request applicants work toward the listed analysis goal (as a minimum) for the number of kits analyzed by a laboratory (if requesting the maximum award). If groups work together, their group goal is the sum of their individual goals.

## If you have evidence of many more active private wells in your county

If you have evidence that there are many more private wells currently used for household drinking water in your county than what is listed in the table above and you need more funding to carry out private well work, please email [anne.nelson@state.mn.us](mailto:anne.nelson@state.mn.us). In your email, please include:

- County
- Estimate of how many private wells are in your county
- Evidence to support the higher estimate of private wells
- Explanation of why your estimate is more accurate than using residential dataset approach (described in the second paragraph under **New Funding Formula for Grants**).

**Table 1. Funding Ceiling by County Including Analysis Goal and Estimated Number of Wells**

County	Maximum award	Analysis goal	Estimated # private wells (rounded)
Aitkin	\$173,880	414	13,800
Anoka	\$231,840	552	18,400
Becker	\$162,540	387	12,900
Beltrami	\$157,500	375	12,500
Benton	\$65,520	156	5,200
Big Stone	\$15,120	36	1,200
Blue Earth	\$70,560	168	5,600
Brown	\$28,980	69	2,300
Carlton	\$104,580	249	8,300
Carver	\$60,480	144	4,800
Cass	\$292,320	696	23,200
Chippewa	\$20,160	48	1,600
Chisago	\$133,560	318	10,600
Clay	\$49,140	117	3,900

PRIVATE WELL PROTECTION GRANT BUDGET LIMITS

County	Maximum award	Analysis goal	Estimated # private wells (rounded)
Clearwater	\$42,840	102	3,400
Cook	\$56,700	135	4,500
Cottonwood	\$1,000	1	20
Crow Wing	\$380,520	906	30,200
Dakota	\$110,800	264	8,800
Dodge	Separate appropriation previously awarded	N/A	2,800
Douglas	\$176,400	420	14,000
Faribault	\$25,200	60	2,000
Fillmore	Separate appropriation previously awarded	N/A	3,900
Freeborn	\$45,360	108	3,600
Goodhue	Separate appropriation previously awarded	N/A	5,700
Grant	\$21,420	51	1,700
Hennepin	\$154,980	369	12,300
Houston	Separate appropriation previously awarded	N/A	3,400
Hubbard	\$153,720	366	12,200
Isanti	\$119,700	285	9,500
Itasca	\$202,860	483	16,100
Jackson	\$5,040	12	400
Kanabec	\$76,860	183	6,100
Kandiyohi	\$103,320	246	8,200
Kittson	\$1,260	3	100
Koochiching	\$47,880	114	3,800

PRIVATE WELL PROTECTION GRANT BUDGET LIMITS

County	Maximum award	Analysis goal	Estimated # private wells (rounded)
Lac qui Parle	\$15,120	36	1,200
Lake	\$65,520	156	5,200
Lake of the Woods	\$37,800	90	3,000
Le Sueur	\$66,780	159	5,300
Lincoln	\$1,260	3	100
Lyon	\$5,040	12	400
Mahnomen	\$15,120	36	1,200
Marshall	\$18,900	45	1,500
Martin	\$21,420	51	1,700
McLeod	\$47,880	114	3,800
Meeker	\$81,900	195	6,500
Mille Lacs	\$100,800	240	8,000
Morrison	\$127,260	303	10,100
Mower	Separate appropriation previously awarded	N/A	3,300
Murray	\$7,560	18	600
Nicollet	\$30,240	72	2,400
Nobles	\$5,040	12	400
Norman	\$15,120	36	1,200
Olmsted	Separate appropriation previously awarded	N/A	8,000
Otter Tail	\$307,440	732	24,400
Pennington	\$21,420	51	1,700
Pine	\$178,920	426	14,200

PRIVATE WELL PROTECTION GRANT BUDGET LIMITS

County	Maximum award	Analysis goal	Estimated # private wells (rounded)
Pipestone	\$1,260	3	100
Polk	\$55,440	132	4,400
Pope	\$50,400	120	4,000
Ramsey	\$26,460	63	2,100
Red Lake	\$11,340	27	900
Redwood	\$22,680	54	1,800
Renville	\$28,980	69	2,300
Rice	\$85,680	204	6,800
Rock	\$2,520	6	200
Roseau	\$45,360	108	3,600
Scott	\$100,800	240	8,000
Sherburne	\$187,740	447	14,900
Sibley	\$32,760	78	2,600
St. Louis	\$405,720	966	32,200
Stearns	\$234,360	558	18,600
Steele	\$35,280	84	2,800
Stevens	\$15,120	36	1,200
Swift	\$21,420	51	1,700
Todd	\$113,400	270	9,000
Traverse	\$10,080	24	800
Wabasha	Separate appropriation previously awarded	N/A	3,800
Wadena	\$44,100	105	3,500

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County	Maximum award	Analysis goal	Estimated # private wells (rounded)
Waseca	\$28,980	69	2,300
Washington	\$194,040	462	15,400
Watonwan	\$6,300	15	500
Wilkin	\$13,860	33	1,100
Winona	Separate appropriation previously awarded	N/A	4,300
Wright	\$180,180	429	14,300
Yellow Medicine	\$5,040	12	400

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*To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-4366.*