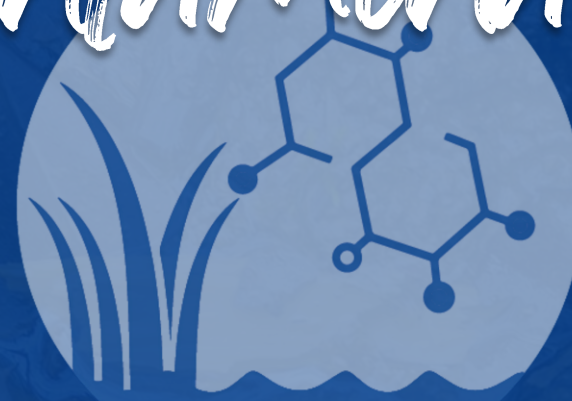


Emerging Contaminants



EC-SDC Grant Webinar

Emerging Contaminants in Small or
Disadvantaged Communities
Grant Program

February 9, 2026

Hosted by:



SC DEPARTMENT of
**ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES**



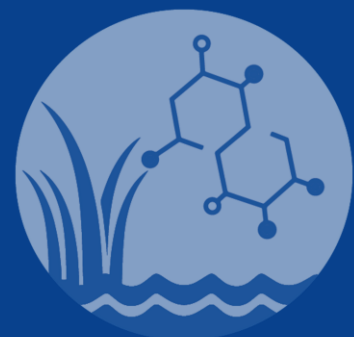
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803.898.3993



des.sc.gov/ec-sdc



EC-SDC GRANT PROGRAM



Frank S. Nemeth, M.S.P.H.

Emerging Contaminants in
Small or Disadvantaged Communities
Grant Coordinator
SCDES Bureau of Water

What EC-SDC is NOT:



Not a loan



Not for addressing lead service lines



Not a clean water program



Not directly aimed at correcting current compliance issues



Not an environmental grant program



Not a means to address future population growth

What EC-SDC is:



Drinking water program to benefit small or disadvantaged communities

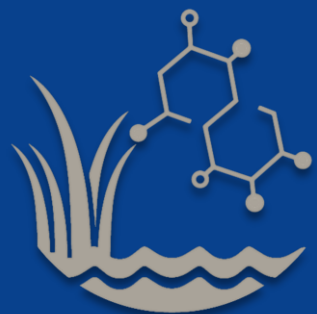


Grant program with no cost share or match requirement

Recipients sign a grant agreement with SCDES



Seeking outcomes that improve drinking water or source water



THE DEFINITION OF EMERGING CONTAMINANTS

A.

PFAS – perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances

B.

EPA CCLs 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5
www.epa.gov/ccl

C.

Long list of eligible contaminants – must specify the contaminants to be addressed in project application



Cannot apply for funding under the umbrella of addressing emerging contaminants in general

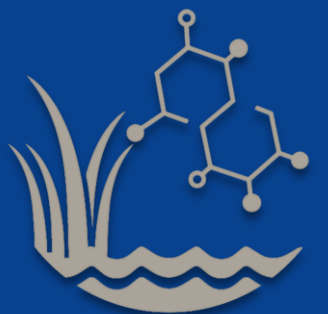
1,2,3-Trichloropropane
1,4-Dioxane
17-alpha ethynyl estradiol
2,4-Dinitrophenol
2-Aminotoluene
2-Hydroxyatrazine
6-Chloro-1,3,5-triazine-2,4-diamine
Acephate
Acrolein
alpha-Hexachlorocyclohexane
Anthraquinone
Bensulide
Bisphenol A
Boron
Bromoxynil
Carbaryl
Carbendazim (MBC)
Chlordecone (Kepone)
Chlorpyrifos
Cobalt
Deethylatrazine
Desisopropyl atrazine
Desvenlafaxine
Diazinon
Dicrotophos

Eligible Applicants

- 
- Privately owned community water systems
 - Publicly owned community water systems
 - Non-profit non-community water systems
 - Non-profit organization partnering with a PWS

Small or Disadvantaged Community (SDC) Definition

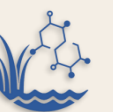
- 
- The median household income (MHI) is less than the state MHI;
 - Serves a population less than 10,000; and
 - The system cannot afford a SRF loan;
- OR
- A sustainable system owner willing to provide drinking water service to homeowners with private wells with emerging contaminants that exceed health-based levels.
- 



Eligible Project Types

Public Water Systems

- Non-routine, non-compliance sampling for PFAS or other emerging contaminants to determine the presence / absence or significance of PFAS or emerging contaminants
- Feasibility studies
- Preliminary engineering reports (PERs)
- Developing a PFAS / emerging contaminant action plan
- Pilot testing for treatment alternatives
- Permit fees
- Environmental and archaeological review
- Preliminary and final design
- Installation of new treatment processes in a drinking water treatment facility to reduce PFAS or other emerging contaminant levels
- Water system consolidation to reduce or eliminate PFAS or other emerging contaminant levels in the finished drinking water supply
- Connection of homeowners serviced by individual private drinking water wells experiencing PFAS or other emerging contaminant issues to an existing PWS capable of supplying drinking water with fewer or no PFAS or other emerging contaminant issues
- Public education and outreach on PFAS or other emerging contaminants within drinking water



Eligible Project Types

Source Water Activities

- Non-routine, non-compliance sampling for PFAS or other emerging contaminants in source waters to determine the presence / absence, significance, or track PFAS or emerging contaminant sources in source waters
- Development of a source water protection plan or watershed plan to address emerging contaminants in source waters
- Well abandonment
- Wildlife management, such as feral hog removal, to reduce bacteria and pathogen contamination of source waters
- Best management practices (BMPs); such as rain gardens, catch basins, erosion control measures, or vegetated buffers; designed to reduce or capture PFAS or other emerging contaminants prior to them reaching source waters
- Agricultural BMPs to reduce or prevent sediment and/or nutrients from reaching source waters in areas where cyanobacteria / cyanotoxins are a concern
- Public education and outreach on PFAS or other emerging contaminants focused on reducing their impacts on source water



Ineligible Uses & Activities



Projects whose primary purpose is not to address PFAS or ECs



Funding of bottled water



Replacement of premise plumbing



Construction or rehabilitation of dams



Activities primarily for fire protection



Operations and maintenance costs



Lead service line replacement



Remediation of contaminated groundwater or underlying aquifers



Activities needed primarily to serve future population growth



Acquisition of land, rights of way, easements, and/or relocations



Reporting



Quarterly Reports

Required even if no progress is made
or no funds are spent

- January – March, report due April 15
- April – June, report due July 15
- July – September, report due October 15
- October – December, report due January 15



Final Report

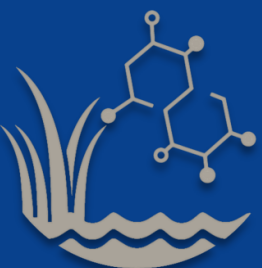
- Due within 30 days of the conclusion of the project
- Summary of the entire project and its outcomes
- Final budget report
- Final draw request / reimbursement request

Requirements

- Universal Grant Guidance
- Build America, Buy America
- FFATA
- Disadvantaged Business Enterprise
- Single audit
- Procurement

Full list of requirements and federal cross-cutting authorities available:

[EPA EC-SDC Implementation Guide](#)



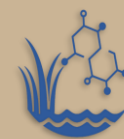
Funding

Approximately \$21 million currently available



No minimum or maximum funding request

- Partial funding may be offered
- Each application encouraged to include clear incremental project steps and costs in case full project funding is not possible
- EC-SDC Grant Program is federally funded – no mixing with other federal funding sources



SCDES has applied for additional EPA funding for future years



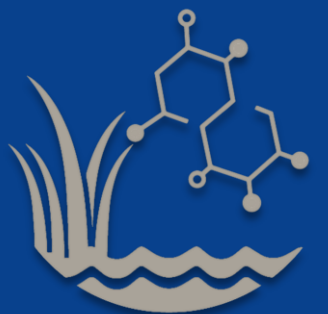
Reimbursement

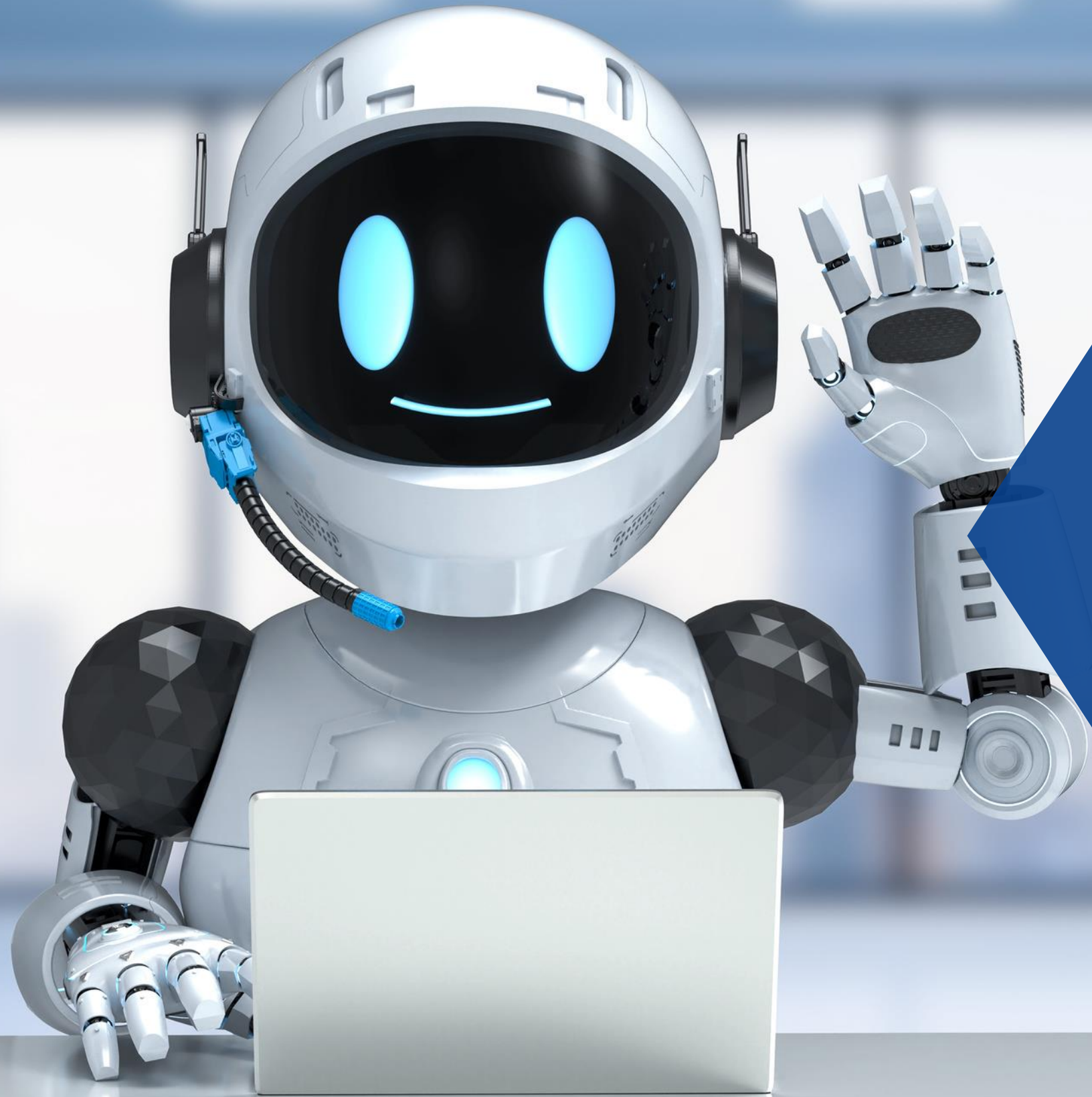
- \$5,000 minimum per draw request
- Requests may be submitted as often as once per month
- May request reimbursement of up to 90% of awarded funding prior to the submission of the final report / final draw request
- Remaining 10% to be requested with submission of final report (final draw request)

Timeline



- Application deadline: March 31, 2026 at 5 pm ET.
- Project selection and grant agreements signed by the end of summer 2026
- Maximum project length of 24 months for this round of funding





Technical Assistance

Email to request technical assistance

- Developing an application
- Applicant eligibility questions
- Project eligibility questions



EC-SDC@des.sc.gov

How to Apply



Application available at:
des.sc.gov/ec-sdc

Due by:
March 31, 2026
at 5:00 pm ET

Submit via email to:
EC-SDC@des.sc.gov



EC-SDC@des.sc.gov



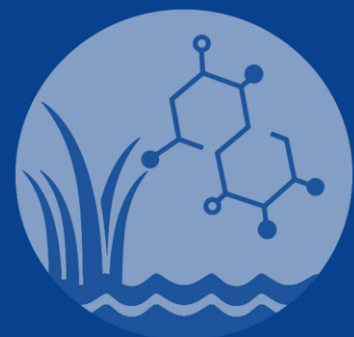
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[SCDES EC-SDC webpage](#)



[EPA EC-SDC webpage](#)



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Contact Info



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