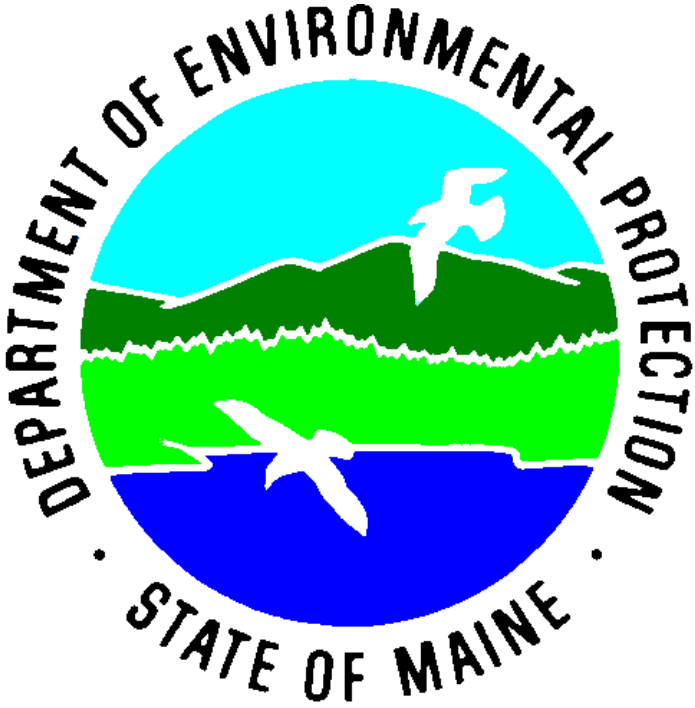


# Department of Environmental Protection



**SMALL COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM  
2008 PRIORITY LIST**

## I. Program Description

The State of Maine Department of Environmental Protection administers the Construction Grants Program and State Revolving Loan Program. The major funding sources for these programs are the Environmental Protection Agency grants and State Bond Issues. Small water pollution problems have been difficult to correct with these programs since they are tailored for larger sewage treatment needs.

The Small Community Program, originally established by the 110<sup>th</sup> Legislature, can solve these small but serious water quality problems by providing technical and grant assistance to towns which can be used to construct individual and cluster septic systems and other small wastewater treatment facilities. The local share of most projects is covered directly by the beneficiaries of the grant and don't require the use of town funds.

## II. Enabling Legislation

### 38 MRSA Sec. 411 State Contribution to Pollution Abatement

"...The commissioner may pay up to 90% of the expense of a municipal or quasi-municipal pollution abatement construction program or a pollution abatement construction program in an unorganized township or plantation authorized by the county commissioners in which the construction cost of the project does not exceed \$100,000 as long as total expenditures for the small projects do not exceed \$1,000,000 in any fiscal year and not more than one grant is made to any applicant each year, except that the commissioner may pay a percentage of the cost of individual projects serving single-family dwellings, seasonal dwellings or commercial establishments according to the following schedule:

ANNUAL INCOME	SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLING	SEASONAL DWELLING
\$0 to \$5,000	100%	50%
\$5,001 to \$20,000	90%	50%
\$20,001 to \$30,000	50%	25%
\$30,001 to \$40,000	25%	25%
\$40,001 or more	0%	0%

GROSS PROFIT	COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENT
\$0 to \$50,000	50%
\$50,001 to \$100,000	25%
\$100,001 or more	0%

For the purposes of this section, "annual income" means the sum of all the property owner's federal taxable income for the previous year for single-family or seasonal dwellings and "gross profit" means the sum of all the commercial establishment owner's gross profits for the previous year as listed on the relevant federal income tax returns.

To determine eligibility, the commissioners may require an applicant to submit a copy of the relevant federal income tax return of the owner or owners. In addition to any penalty adjudged under section 349, a person who knowingly makes any false statement, representation or certification in the application for a grant under this section and who receives such a grant shall, upon conviction, make restitution to the department in an amount equal to the amount of the grant plus interest and reasonable recovery cost incurred by the department.

State grant-in-aid under this section shall be limited to grants for waste treatment facilities, interceptor systems and outfalls. The word "expense" shall not include costs relating to land acquisition or debt service, unless allowed under federal statutes and regulations.

The Department shall develop a project priority list, for approval by the board, for pollution abatement construction. The factors to be considered in developing the priority lists shall include, but not be limited to, protection of ground and surface water supplies, shellfish, general public health hazards and water contact activities. All proceeds of the sale of bonds for the construction and equipment of pollution abatement facilities to be expended under the direction and supervision of the Department of Environmental Protection shall be segregated, apportioned and expended as provided by the Legislature."

The following priority system was used to develop the 2008 Priority List:

### **III. Priority System**

Applications are prioritized by the severity of the pollution problem posed by the existing condition. Four categories of pollution problems are used to prioritize applications. Grants are awarded on the basis of priority category assigned, documentation of specific problems, and the number of requests received during the year.

#### **Priority 1: Water Supply Protection**

The projects must eliminate a source of contamination to a community water supply as defined by 22 M.R.S.A. § 601. Water Supply Protection priority is assigned to projects where a potential public health hazard exists as a result of the contamination, and the contamination does or will require alternative sources of water or additional water treatment if the project is not carried out.

#### **Priority 2: Shellfishery Protection**

The projects must eliminate a source of contamination to a shellfishing area. Shellfishery Protection priority is assigned to projects that will eliminate sources of waste responsible for a shellfish area closure or eliminate sources of pollution in order to maintain an open status, according to the standards of the Department of Marine Resources.

#### **Priority 3: Water Quality Protection**

The project will eliminate a discharge of untreated sewage to waters of the state. Water Quality Priority is assigned to projects that will remove these discharges.

#### **Priority 4: Public Nuisance Conditions**

The project will eliminate a hazard to public health resulting from the improper disposal of sewage. Public nuisance conditions may exist where there is no discharge of sewage to a waterbody. Public Nuisance Conditions priority is assigned to projects where a public health hazard exists due to improper wastewater disposal.

The following applicants have been recommended for a 2008 Small Community Grant:

**PRIORITY 1–Public Drinking Water Supply Protection**

HOULTON	\$14,000
ISLESBORO	\$40,000

Total Priority 1 Applicants: 2.  
Grant Request: \$54,000

**PRIORITY 2–Shellfishery Protection**

BLUE HILL	\$35,000	SEARSPORT	\$40,000
BOOTHBAY	\$72,000	ST. GEORGE	\$20,000
BRISTOL	\$10,000	STOCKTON SPRINGS	\$10,000
BROOKLIN	\$7,000	SULLIVAN	\$20,000
MILBRIDGE	\$5,000	VINALHAVEN	\$30,000
PEMBROKE	\$15,000	WEST BATH	\$18,000

Total Priority 2 Applicants: 12.  
Grant Request: \$282,000.

**PRIORITY 3–Water Quality Protection**

AMITY	\$3,000	JAY	\$13,500
AROOSTOOK CTY COMMISSIONERS	\$24,000	LONG ISLAND	\$54,000
BLAINE	\$8,000	MARS HILL	\$7,500
BOWDOINHAM	\$12,000	MEXICO	\$6,000
BRIDGTON	\$20,000	NEW LIMERICK	\$10,000
BRIDGEWATER	\$10,000	OAKLAND	\$8,000
BUCKSPORT	\$13,500	ORIENT	\$15,000
CARIBOU	\$10,000	PARKMAN	\$8,000
CHESTERVILLE	\$13,000	PERU	\$22,000
COLUMBIA FALLS	\$8,000	PORTAGE LAKE	\$20,000
DANFORTH	\$25,000	PRESQUE ISLE	\$5,000

ELLSWORTH	\$12,000	REED PLANTATION	\$8,000
ETNA	\$10,000	ROCKLAND	\$10,000
FARMINGTON	\$14,000	ROCKPORT	\$5,000
FORT FAIRFIELD	\$6,500	SHERMAN	\$10,000
FORT KENT	\$10,000	ST AGATHA	\$20,000
FRANKFORT	\$8,000	ST JOHN PLT	\$12,000
FREEDOM	\$9,500	STACYVILLE	\$14,000
FRENCHVILLE	\$30,000	TOPSHAM	\$10,000
HANCOCK	\$10,000	TURNER	\$8,500
HARMONY	\$10,000	WALDOBORO	\$9,000
HARRINGTON	\$8,000	WALLAGRASS	\$10,000
HARRISON	\$18,000	WASHINGTON	\$10,000
ISLAND FALLS	\$15,000	WILLIMANTIC	\$6,000

Total Priority 3 Applicants: 48.  
Grant Request: \$609,000.

**PRIORITY 4–Nuisance Conditions**

No Funding Available

**Additional Needs**

In order to accommodate potential emergency circumstances and certain project adjustments as construction occurs, \$55,000 in contingency funds has been reserved out of this bond issue.