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Grant Funds Available From New York State for Water Fluoridation

The 2015-2016 New York State Budget included \$5 million in grant funding for a new Drinking Water Fluoridation Fund. This fund is available for public water systems to maintain and expand community water fluoridation.

Funds from the Drinking Water Fluoridation Fund will cover technical and administrative costs associated with planning, design, construction and start-up of fluoridation systems or repair and upgrading of existing fluoridation systems. In addition, the fund may be used for costs related to the construction, installation, repair, rehabilitation, replacement, or upgrade of drinking water fluoridation facilities.

The NYS Department of Health is expected to release procurement information and begin accepting applications for these grants in the second half of 2015. Water systems should begin now to determine their equipment needs, including full replacement costs, in order to be ready for the procurement when it is released.

The State Budget also included a provision that requires a local government to issue a public notice of its intent to discontinue fluoridation. The local government may proceed after receiving public comment, but it is required to provide written notice to the NYS Department of Health ninety days prior of the intent to discontinue fluoridation and submit a plan with information that may be required under the State Sanitary Code, a public notice of the final determination, the date of discontinuance, and alternatives to fluoridation, if any, that will be made available in the community.

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