



# Business Item 2025-52 SW:

Approval of Application Process for Equity-Focused Water Efficiency Grant Pilot Program



Environment Committee: February 11, 2025

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# Overview

- Minnesota Session Law 2023, Chapter 40, Article 2, Section 8(b)
  - \$750,000 the first year and \$750,000 the second year are for the water demand reduction grants to assist municipalities in the metropolitan area with implementing water demand reduction measures to ensure the reliability and protection of drinking water supplies.
- Goal: support technical and behavioral changes in underserved and disproportionately burdened communities that improve municipal water use efficiency in the seven-county metropolitan area

# Total appropriation of \$1.5 million

## Program plan for 2024-2026

- **\$400,000 for the Equity-Focused Water Efficiency Grant Pilot Program**
  - **(UPCOMING)**
  - *Surveyed communities in Summer 2024*
  - *Held conversation with communities in November 2024*
  - *Program design and comments from communities December 2024 thru January 2025*
- **\$1,100,000 for traditional Water Efficiency Grant Program**
  - **(ONGOING)**
  - *41 communities in this grant cycle*
  - *Began in July 2024*



# Award and selection details

## Awards

\$400,000 available July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026

- Any municipality served by a municipal public water supply system is eligible to apply
- Grant award range: up to \$100,000
- No required match from municipalities, no cost requirement for residents

## Selection criteria note

Competitive grant program. Criteria used to inform selections and amount granted:

- Equity focus
- Ease of participation for residents
- Estimated water savings
- Estimated number of participants
- Ease of implementation of project

# Eligible Expenses for 2025 - 2026



- **Toilet replacement with a water efficient alternative**
  - Installation / plumber costs included

# Anticipated timeline and next steps



- Environment Committee: February 11<sup>th</sup>
- Council Approval: February 12<sup>th</sup>
- Announce Program: week of February 17<sup>th</sup>
- Application Deadline: March 28<sup>th</sup>
- Grant Decisions Complete: April 26<sup>th</sup>
- Environment Committee: May 13<sup>th</sup>
- Council Approval: May 14<sup>th</sup>
- Grants Awarded: around May 15<sup>th</sup> / 16<sup>th</sup>
- Program Begins: July 1<sup>st</sup>

# Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approves Business Item 2025-52 SW on the process for the 2025-2026 Equity-Focused Water Efficiency Grant Pilot Program and authorizes staff to advertise the availability of grant funding and solicit applications.



Thank you

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