

NEW HAMPSHIRE DRINKING WATER & GROUNDWATER TRUST FUND



Emergency Drought Assistance to Low-Income Residential Well Owners New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

Effective September 13, 2021

Purpose

The purpose of this initiative is to provide short-term relief and financial assistance for the drought mitigation actions described below for low-income New Hampshire homeowners served by residential wells that are experiencing insufficient water or no water due to drought conditions. N.H. Dept. of Environmental Services (“NHDES”) will administer this program on behalf of the N.H. Drinking Water and Groundwater Advisory Commission (“Commission”) in the manner provided herein.

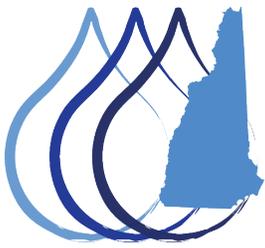
Note: By providing bottled water and offering financial assistance selected on the basis of household income, this initiative will support the state’s citizens hardest hit by the drought.

Eligibility

A homeowner is eligible to receive assistance only for the homeowner’s primary residence, only when the homeowner demonstrates that the primary residence lacks a safe or reliable source of drinking water due to drought, and only in the manner described below. NHDES reserves the right to determine whether payment should be made under this program in a manner consistent with directives from the Commission. All assistance is contingent upon the availability of funds and NHDES or the Commission may prioritize projects if funding is not available for all proposed projects. Costs of repairing homeowner wells that are failing due to their use to provide water for non-essential outdoor activities (landscape, livestock, etc.) or construction of a well on a property where a well does not already exist are *not eligible*. Homeowners may request assistance under the program by filing an application provided by NHDES and the Commission. NHDES will verify project eligibility prior to calculating possible assistance. NHDES reserves the right to have any application reviewed by the Commission or designated Subcommittee for approval. The Commission or designated Subcommittee retains the ability to deny funding for any application if it determines that such funding does not fulfill the purposes of the program.

Low-Income Eligibility Criteria and Financial Assistance

Emergency drought assistance may be available to residential well owners in the following manner and as further described in Attachment A:



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Tier 1: Applicant's household income is at or below 50% of the median household income (MHI) of the State of NH or of their county of residence, whichever is greater; the well owner may qualify for 100% assistance less a \$250 deductible. ⁽¹⁾

Tier 2: Applicant's household income is at or below 65% of the MHI of the State or of their county of residence and above 50% of the MHI of the State or of their county of residence, whichever is greater; the well owner may qualify for 80% assistance and will be responsible for a 20% cost-share of the final project costs, regardless of the price(s) estimated by the contractor(s).

Tier 3: Applicant's household income is at or below 80% of the MHI of the State or of their county of residence and above 65% of the MHI of the State or of their county of residence, whichever is greater; the well owner may qualify for 50% assistance and will be responsible for a 50% cost-share of the final project costs, regardless of the price(s) estimated by the contractor(s).

Drought Mitigation Actions

1. Short-term provision of water for eligible households with insufficient water due to drought.

For eligible homeowners, NHDES may initiate bottled water assistance through the state contract to provide short-term relief while they are in the queue to have their well improved or replaced. The Commission authorizes NHDES to utilize the state contract for this purpose⁽²⁾. The bottled water provision will terminate upon completion of the well mitigation project or at the discretion of NHDES.

2. Improving or Replacing Residential Wells with Insufficient Water Due to Drought

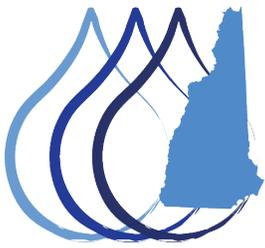
Financial assistance to improve, repair, or replace a residential well is available to qualifying homeowners. The eligible costs include, but are not limited to:

- Providing temporary auxiliary storage tank and bulk water by the drilling contractor;
- Increasing storage;
- Lowering the existing well pump;
- Deepening an existing well; and,
- Installing a replacement well.

Additionally, once the work is completed, all wells must be sampled and tested for the water quality parameters presented in Attachment B by a NH accredited laboratory. The laboratory

¹ NH and county statewide average median household income (MHI) is based on the most recently published Federal HUD income limits for all areas.

² The Commission previously authorized NHDES to utilize this contract to address contamination issues.



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costs for testing the parameters presented in Attachment B are eligible. Should water quality testing results indicate primary MCL exceedances or other water quality conditions where water treatment is deemed necessary, the capital cost associated with installation of treatment may be eligible in accordance with the financial assistance outlined above. Information regarding water quality and treatment is provided in Item #4 below.

3. Connection to an Existing Community Water System

Financial assistance for construction of a service connection to a community water system to replace a residential well with insufficient water due to drought may be available for properties located close to an existing public water system service main.

The eligible costs include, but are not limited to:

- Designing and permitting the connection to a nearby community water system;
- Installing a service connection to a nearby community water system; and,
- Installation of the connection of the indoor system to the new service connection.

The cost to provide a service connection to an existing community water system may not exceed \$15,000. Cost of monthly usage fees are not eligible.

4. Water Quality and Treatment

The NHDES recognizes that each well has its unique water quality characteristics and that many wells in NH are impacted with natural occurring elements, minerals or bacteria that may be present at a concentration that is not suitable for human consumption. Therefore, to ensure that drinking water from a new or modified water supplies resulting from assistance through this program is safe, NHDES requires that all participants in the program have a well water quality test for the parameters outlined in Attachment B.

The testing results are to be submitted to NHDES for review. If primary MCL's are exceeded, or if water quality is deemed too caustic or poor to be used without treatment, the homeowner may be eligible for an appropriate treatment system to ensure the water is safe for use and consumption.

Eligible costs include, but are not limited to:

- Capital costs related to purchase and installation of an NHDES approved treatment technology and
- Post-treatment confirmation testing.



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Costs related to on-going testing, increased utility usage, operation and maintenance of the water treatment system are not eligible for assistance through this program.

Process and Administration

1. The homeowner or licensed contractor will submit the eligibility application signed by both the homeowner and the licensed contractor which includes verification that the well issues are drought-related and information needed for low-income determination. NHDES will determine eligibility and the financial assistance amount the homeowner may receive.
2. If the homeowner is eligible and requests bottled water service, NHDES may initiate a delivery through the state contract at no cost to the homeowner.
3. NHDES may pay contractors directly in accordance with the provisions described above.
4. To receive payment, the contractor will be required to submit documentation of the work completed, the well installation report, the total cost in a manner that accounts for the balance of payment due from the homeowner, and other reasonable documentation as required by NHDES.
5. Water Treatment: This program aims to support water treatment systems that provide the most cost effective and least complex solution to address water quality. The process for reviewing and approving water treatment is as follows:
 - 1) NHDES will review water quality data and determine need for treatment. If treatment is deemed necessary, NHDES will contact the homeowner to review water quality parameters and discuss treatment options.
 - 2) The homeowner shall request a detailed work scope and budget estimate for a water treatment system from their well installation contractor or other qualified water treatment specialist to be submitted to NHDES for review.
 - 3) The work scope and budget estimate submitted by the water treatment contractor will be reviewed by NHDES. NHDES reserves the right to reject any submittal, request modifications, or seek additional estimates if the work scope and budget does not meet our expectations. **Work may not start until review and approval is completed.**
 - 4) NHDES will provide technical assistance to the homeowner regarding their drinking water quality and treatment to inform them of the continued operation and maintenance needs of the treatment system.
 - 5) To receive payment, the contractor will be required to submit documentation of the work completed, the post-treatment confirmation testing report, and the total cost in a manner of a final invoice that accounts for the balance of payment due by the homeowner, and other reasonable documentation as required by NHDES.

Effective Date: Retroactive to June 23, 2020.



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Sunset Date: The emergency drought assistance in each county expires when the county and all contiguous counties in New Hampshire and/or bordering states have had no drought classification (D1 to D4) designated for four consecutive weeks or available funding has been exhausted⁽³⁾. Eligible homeowners who have submitted their application to NHDES prior to the described date above may be provided assistance until the work is completed.

Waiver: The Commission, in its discretion, may waive any of these provisions if granting the waiver will result in circumstances that better fulfill the purpose and intent of the initiative described above or if strict adherence to the provision being waived would not be in the best interest of the public, the environment, or the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund program. The Commission may designate a Subcommittee to approve or deny waivers on their behalf.

³ Drought classifications are published in the U.S. Drought Monitor which is produced through a partnership between the National Drought Monitor Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

ATTACHMENT A

Median Household Income Limits

Median household income (MHI) defined for each Tier of assistance is calculated based on income data from your county of residence or the State of NH if it is greater than your county of residence. Recognizing that expenses vary based on the number of people in a household, the MHI table shown below is adjusted for family size. NHDES will use the tables below to determine if applicants qualify for financial assistance. Determination is based on Total Household Annual Income, inclusive of all eligible persons in the household.

New Hampshire		1 Person	2 People	3 People	4 People	5 People	6 People	7 People	8 People	9 People	10 People
<i>2021 State of New Hampshire MHI</i>		\$ 68,740	\$ 78,560	\$ 88,380	\$ 98,200	\$ 106,056	\$ 113,912	\$ 121,768	\$ 129,624	\$ 137,480	\$ 145,336
Financial Assistance											
Tier 1: 100% assistance after \$250 deductible	<i>50% MHI</i>	\$ 34,370	\$ 39,280	\$ 44,190	\$ 49,100	\$ 53,028	\$ 56,956	\$ 60,884	\$ 64,812	\$ 68,740	\$ 72,668
Tier 2: 80% assistance, 20% owner contribution	<i>65% MHI</i>	\$ 44,681	\$ 51,064	\$ 57,447	\$ 63,830	\$ 68,936	\$ 74,043	\$ 79,149	\$ 84,256	\$ 89,362	\$ 94,468
Tier 3: 50% assistance, 50% owner contribution	<i>80% MHI</i>	\$ 54,992	\$ 62,848	\$ 70,704	\$ 78,560	\$ 84,845	\$ 91,130	\$ 97,414	\$ 103,699	\$ 109,984	\$ 116,269

The State of New Hampshire MHI Limits is to be used in place of County specific MHI data for the following NH Counties: Belknap, Carroll, Cheshire, Coos, Grafton, Merrimack, Sullivan, and Hillsborough with exceptions identified below.

Hillsborough County (Nashua HUD)		1 Person	2 People	3 People	4 People	5 People	6 People	7 People	8 People	9 People	10 People
<i>MHI for Amherst, Brookline, Greenville, Hollis, Hudson, Litchfield, Mason, Merrimack, Milford, Mont Vernon, Nashua, New Ipswich, Pelham, Wilton</i>		\$ 76,720	\$ 87,680	\$ 98,640	\$ 109,600	\$ 118,368	\$ 127,136	\$ 135,904	\$ 144,672	\$ 153,440	\$ 162,208
Financial Assistance											
Tier 1: 100% assistance after \$250 deductible	<i>50% MHI</i>	\$ 38,360	\$ 43,840	\$ 49,320	\$ 54,800	\$ 59,184	\$ 63,568	\$ 67,952	\$ 72,336	\$ 76,720	\$ 81,104
Tier 2: 80% assistance, 20% owner contribution	<i>65% MHI</i>	\$ 49,868	\$ 56,992	\$ 64,116	\$ 71,240	\$ 76,939	\$ 82,638	\$ 88,338	\$ 94,037	\$ 99,736	\$ 105,435
Tier 3: 50% assistance, 50% owner contribution	<i>80% MHI</i>	\$ 61,376	\$ 70,144	\$ 78,912	\$ 87,680	\$ 94,694	\$ 101,709	\$ 108,723	\$ 115,738	\$ 122,752	\$ 129,766

Strafford-Rockingham Counties (Ports-Roch HUD)		1 Person	2 People	3 People	4 People	5 People	6 People	7 People	8 People	9 People	10 People
<i>MHI for All Strafford County Towns and Cities. Rockingham County: Brentwood, East Kingston, Epping, Exeter, Greenland, Hampton, Hampton Falls, Kensington, New Castle, Newfields, Newington, Newmarket, North Hampton, Portsmouth, Rye, Stratham</i>		\$ 74,620	\$ 85,280	\$ 95,940	\$ 106,600	\$ 115,128	\$ 123,656	\$ 132,184	\$ 140,712	\$ 149,240	\$ 157,768
Financial Assistance											
Tier 1: 100% assistance after \$250 deductible	<i>50% MHI</i>	\$ 37,310	\$ 42,640	\$ 47,970	\$ 53,300	\$ 57,564	\$ 61,828	\$ 66,092	\$ 70,356	\$ 74,620	\$ 78,884
Tier 2: 80% assistance, 20% owner contribution	<i>65% MHI</i>	\$ 48,503	\$ 55,432	\$ 62,361	\$ 69,290	\$ 74,833	\$ 80,376	\$ 85,920	\$ 91,463	\$ 97,006	\$ 102,549
Tier 3: 50% assistance, 50% owner contribution	<i>80% MHI</i>	\$ 59,696	\$ 68,224	\$ 76,752	\$ 85,280	\$ 92,102	\$ 98,925	\$ 105,747	\$ 112,570	\$ 119,392	\$ 126,214

Western Rockingham County		1 Person	2 People	3 People	4 People	5 People	6 People	7 People	8 People	9 People	10 People
<i>MHI for Auburn, Candia, Deerfield, Londonderry, Northwood, Nottingham</i>		\$ 80,500	\$ 92,000	\$ 103,500	\$ 115,000	\$ 124,200	\$ 133,400	\$ 142,600	\$ 151,800	\$ 161,000	\$ 170,200
Financial Assistance											
Tier 1: 100% assistance after \$250 deductible	<i>50% MHI</i>	\$ 40,250	\$ 46,000	\$ 51,750	\$ 57,500	\$ 62,100	\$ 66,700	\$ 71,300	\$ 75,900	\$ 80,500	\$ 85,100
Tier 2: 80% assistance, 20% owner contribution	<i>65% MHI</i>	\$ 52,325	\$ 59,800	\$ 67,275	\$ 74,750	\$ 80,730	\$ 86,710	\$ 92,690	\$ 98,670	\$ 104,650	\$ 110,630
Tier 3: 50% assistance, 50% owner contribution	<i>80% MHI</i>	\$ 64,400	\$ 73,600	\$ 82,800	\$ 92,000	\$ 99,360	\$ 106,720	\$ 114,080	\$ 121,440	\$ 128,800	\$ 136,160

ATTACHMENT A

Median Household Income Limits

Boston-Cambridge-Rockingham HUD Area		1 Person	2 People	3 People	4 People	5 People	6 People	7 People	8 People	9 People	10 People
<i>MHI for Seabrook, South Hampton</i>		\$ 84,560	\$ 96,640	\$ 108,720	\$ 120,800	\$ 130,464	\$ 140,128	\$ 149,792	\$ 159,456	\$ 169,120	\$ 178,784
Financial Assistance											
Tier 1: 100% assistance after \$250 deductible	50% MHI	\$ 42,280	\$ 48,320	\$ 54,360	\$ 60,400	\$ 65,232	\$ 70,064	\$ 74,896	\$ 79,728	\$ 84,560	\$ 89,392
Tier 2: 80% assistance, 20% owner contribution	65% MHI	\$ 54,964	\$ 62,816	\$ 70,668	\$ 78,520	\$ 84,802	\$ 91,083	\$ 97,365	\$ 103,646	\$ 109,928	\$ 116,210
Tier 3: 50% assistance, 50% owner contribution	80% MHI	\$ 67,648	\$ 77,312	\$ 86,976	\$ 96,640	\$ 104,371	\$ 112,102	\$ 119,834	\$ 127,565	\$ 135,296	\$ 143,027

Lawrence MA-Rockingham HUD Area		1 Person	2 People	3 People	4 People	5 People	6 People	7 People	8 People	9 People	10 People
<i>MHI for Atkinson, Chester, Danville, Derry, Fremont, Hampstead, Kingston, Newton, Plaistow, Raymond, Salem, Sandown, Windham</i>		\$ 73,780	\$ 84,320	\$ 94,860	\$ 105,400	\$ 113,832	\$ 122,264	\$ 130,696	\$ 139,128	\$ 147,560	\$ 155,992
Financial Assistance											
Tier 1: 100% assistance after \$250 deductible	50% MHI	\$ 36,890	\$ 42,160	\$ 47,430	\$ 52,700	\$ 56,916	\$ 61,132	\$ 65,348	\$ 69,564	\$ 73,780	\$ 77,996
Tier 2: 80% assistance, 20% owner contribution	65% MHI	\$ 47,957	\$ 54,808	\$ 61,659	\$ 68,510	\$ 73,991	\$ 79,472	\$ 84,952	\$ 90,433	\$ 95,914	\$ 101,395
Tier 3: 50% assistance, 50% owner contribution	80% MHI	\$ 59,024	\$ 67,456	\$ 75,888	\$ 84,320	\$ 91,066	\$ 97,811	\$ 104,557	\$ 111,302	\$ 118,048	\$ 124,794

ATTACHMENT B

Eligible Water Quality Testing Parameters⁽¹⁾

Upon completion of drought mitigation actions associated with improvements or replacement of the existing well, all wells must be sampled for the following water quality parameters. The laboratory costs for parameters listed below are eligible project costs⁽²⁾.

Arsenic	Bacteria (Total Coliform and E.coli)
Chloride	Copper (both stagnant and flushed)
Fluoride	Hardness
Iron	Manganese
Nitrate/Nitrite	pH
Radon	Sodium
Uranium	Lead (both stagnant and flushed)

Notes:

1. The list of water quality parameters is recommended by New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services for private well users and home buyers. For additional information, please visit the NHDES website: <https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/nhelap/index.htm>
2. For the laboratory costs to be eligible, the analyses must be performed by a laboratory accredited through the New Hampshire Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program. The NHDES website has an accredited laboratory search available at <http://www4.des.state.nh.us/CertifiedLabs/Certified-Method.aspx> and a list of accredited laboratories providing well water quality testing services in new Hampshire at <https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/nhelap/documents/labs-private-wells.pdf>.