

June 2004

COMMUNITY SOURCE WATER PROTECTION INITIATIVE

Assistance Fund Criteria and Guidelines

The Clean Water Fund, Clean Water Network, and Campaign for Safe and Affordable Drinking Water have formed the Community Source Water Protection Initiative (Initiative) to help communities around the country make real water quality protection gains using Source Water Assessments and the tools available through the Safe Drinking Water Act, Clean Water Act, and other federal and state programs.

The Initiative is calling on community, public health, consumer, watershed protection and other citizen groups at the state and local level to mobilize local citizens to protect the rivers, streams, wetlands, and groundwater that are the sources of our drinking water. As part of this project, a source water protection assistance fund is available to reimburse participants for activities they carry out in concert with the Initiative's national strategy for turning Source Water Assessments into real water quality gains.

Through this assistance fund, the Initiative will reimburse state and local organizations for costs (up to \$2,000) associated with local and regional source water protection activities. These activities may include education and dissemination of information to Initiative partner groups and the planning and implementation of source water protection projects. Pre-approval of all funding requests is required. To apply for these funds follow the three-step process below:

- (1) Begin by sending an initial email to Lynn Thorp at lthorp@cleanwater.org describing the project, budget and your organization – no more than 250 words – for the initial screening.
- (2) Following review of your project description you may be asked to submit a 1-page description addressing how your project meets the criteria for funding eligibility listed below (1-page maximum.) It will take 1-2 weeks to process your request.
- (3) Once you receive written approval you can begin work on your project. Submit original receipts for expenses* incurred with the completed reimbursement form that you will receive with your award letter.

*Please note that the assistance fund will reimburse you for incurred actual expenses only.

Criteria for deciding which requests meet fund eligibility:

- A. The proposed activity will work in conjunction with and not at odds with the Initiative's national strategy to promote source water protection as part of a multiple-barrier approach and strengthen federal, state and local clean water policies.

- B. Priority will be given to projects that incorporate the innovative use of Source Water Assessments and efforts to work across the traditional divide between the “drinking water” and “clean water” communities.
- C. Preference will be given to activities that work in concert with other related activities in that state. If the Initiative finds that several groups from the same state are requesting funding, Initiative staff will contact the local activists and encourage them to work together before making funding decisions.
- D. Priority will be given to proposed projects that ensure that, taken as a whole, funds are allocated to a representative set of watershed, community, and drinking water system types.
- E. All applicants must have 501(c)(3) status or other appropriate agency affiliation to receive funding. All activities must be within the legal guidelines for 501(c)(3) organizations.
- F. The Initiative reserves the right to consider which activities will have the greatest impact either locally, or as a pilot test of an activity that could be repeated in other communities.
- G. Requests for reimbursements from this fund should not exceed \$2,000.

This fund was made possible through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. EPA.