



Media Release

For Immediate Release
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Rep. Katrina Shankland Holds Community Town Hall on Launch of Applications for New \$10 Million Grant Program Addressing Contaminated Private Wells

AMHERST – Today, Rep. Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point) held a community town hall at the Jensen Community Center in Amherst to discuss a [new grant program](#) she helped launch to support the replacement, reconstruction, or treatment of contaminated private wells throughout Wisconsin.

Rep. Shankland gave a presentation outlining the state's new \$10 million supplementary grant program, which expands eligibility beyond the state's existing Well Compensation Program to support more homeowners, renters, and small businesses with contaminated private wells and increase access to clean drinking water. Under the program, eligible households and businesses can receive up to \$16,000 in reimbursement for the replacement or reconstruction of a private well, as well as treatment of contaminated private well water. She also answered community members' questions about the program and its [application process, which opens today](#).

Rep. Shankland issued the following statement following the town hall:

"After years of working on water quality in the Legislature, I'm thrilled to have helped launch this new \$10 million grant program to connect so many families and businesses across Wisconsin with the resources they need to access clean drinking water. My number one goal is to help as many constituents as possible connect with these resources and get the safe drinking water they deserve. I look forward to seeing the real, immediate difference it will make, and I am grateful for the transformational impact this will have on communities like ours across the state. Too many people have been searching for solutions to help them address their well contamination issues and coming up empty due to the unnecessarily prohibitive requirements of our state's existing grant program. This new resource will significantly expand eligibility so more people can qualify for assistance, covering 100% of the costs of well replacement, reconstruction, and treatment for rural families and small businesses who need and deserve support.

"There's no time to waste when we're talking about such a fundamental need, and I encourage anyone who is interested in accessing this funding to apply as soon as possible! I also hope that as people make use of this one-time funding, it will underscore the need for a more permanent, state-funded solution to our state's private well contamination problems. I'm as committed as ever to fighting for lasting solutions, and I hope that as we move forward, my colleagues in the Legislature will join me in enacting broader eligibility criteria for the existing state well compensation grant program so that this support is available to those who need it for years to come."

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) began accepting applications for the new program TODAY, October 3rd, and will accept applications on a continuing basis until all of the funds from the \$10 million program are expended.

Anyone interested can find out if they are eligible by completing the [Well Compensation Grant Preliminary Eligibility questionnaire](#) hosted on the DNR's website. Well owners who are eligible for a Well Compensation Grant can follow the steps on the [Well Compensation Grant Program webpage](#) to apply.

Financial assistance is also available to help fill and seal abandoned or unused private or non-community wells. Potential applicants can determine their eligibility for a Well Abandonment Grant by completing the [Well Abandonment Grant Preliminary Eligibility questionnaire](#), and if eligible, they can follow the steps on the [Well Abandonment Grant Program webpage](#).

The DNR will be hosting a webinar for applicants and contractors who want to learn more about these programs at **6:30 p.m. on Nov. 10, 2022**. Those interested should register in advance [here](#). General inquiries on the programs can be directed to DNRARPAWellGrants@wisconsin.gov, and constituents are always welcome to contact Rep. Shankland's office at 608-267-9649 or Rep.Shankland@legis.wisconsin.gov with any additional questions or concerns they may have.

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