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## New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Launches Emergency Drought Assistance Grant Program



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## Emergency Drought Assistance

***Financial assistance to low-income homeowners with dry wells due to the ongoing drought.***

Website Link: <https://www.dwgtf.des.nh.gov/funding-programs/emergency-drought-assistance>

In response to the severe drought conditions experienced during the summer of 2025—when 91% of New Hampshire's geographic area was classified as being in drought—the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services has launched the **Emergency Drought Assistance Program**.

Through the **\$1.5 million in grant funding** from the New Hampshire Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund, financial assistance is now available to **private residential well owners** whose drinking water supplies were compromised by the drought. Eligible uses include **repairing, rehabilitating, or replacing a residential well**.

This program is offered on a **first-come, first-served basis**, and I strongly encourage private residential well owners in **District Three** who were impacted by the drought to apply, provided they meet the program requirements.

Please note that **applications may be mailed directly to residents**. For additional information or assistance, residents may contact Cheryl Bondi at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services at (603) 271-8321.

Website Link: <https://www.dwgftf.des.nh.gov/funding-programs/emergency-drought-assistance>

## Program eligibility

- Homeowners of a primary residence within an area of New Hampshire impacted by the ongoing drought.
- Drinking water for the primary residence is served by a private well.
- A licensed New Hampshire water well contractor or pump installer has confirmed the well is an unreliable source of drinking water due to irreversible water supply problems from drought.
- Financial assistance is based on the income eligibility outlined below. Refer to the "[EDAP Income Limits for Financial Assistance](#) pdf" document to determine level of assistance.

Level of Assistance	Qualifying Total Household Income	Eligible Costs
Tier 1	Less than 50% of State/County of residence MHI	100%
Tier 2	Greater than 50% but less than 80% of State/County of residence MHI	50%

## What costs may be covered by the program?

Money from the EDAP could be used to cover the cost to increase water storage, lower the existing well pump, deepen or hydrofrack an existing well, or install a replacement well. For properties located close to an existing public water service main, a better solution may be to connect the home to that water system. Eligible costs to connect to the public water system include design and permitting water main as needed, and installation of a new service connection.

All new or rehabilitated wells must be sampled and tested for drinking water quality by a New Hampshire accredited laboratory. If primary maximum contaminant levels (MCL) are exceeded, or if water quality is deemed too poor to be used without treatment, the homeowner may be eligible for assistance for an appropriate treatment system. Eligible treatment costs include laboratory costs for water testing, purchase and installation of an NHDES-approved treatment technology and post-treatment confirmation testing.

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*Executive Councilor Janet Stevens of Rye represents the 266,000 residents living in District Three, which encompasses the cities and towns of - Atkinson, Brentwood, Chester, Danville, Derry, E. Kingston, Epping, Exeter, Fremont, Greenland, Hampstead, Hampton, Hampton Falls, Kensington, Kingston, New Castle, Newfields, Newington, Newmarket, Newton, No. Hampton, Pelham, Plaistow, Raymond, Rye, Salem, Sandown, Seabrook, So Hampton, Stratham, Windham and the City of Portsmouth.*