

February 20, 2008

DATCP Announces Intent to Offer Pharmaceutical Collection Grants

In early March, the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) through the Wisconsin Clean Sweep Program will announce plans to offer unwanted drug collection grants to local governments. Because of the very compressed grant cycle for 2008, only three weeks will be available for municipalities to return applications. This announcement is intended to give interested municipalities an opportunity to begin collection planning.

Grants will be available for both traditional disposal methods and innovative or demonstration ones. Maximum requests have been set at \$3,000 - \$5,000 for single applicants and up to \$10,000 for multiple municipalities. Municipalities with innovative methods can receive up to \$10,000. Grants will cover the operating period of July 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008. \$80,525 has been reserved for Year I grants.

For the purpose of initial planning, the focus of this program will be drugs held by prescribers (drug holders) who live in homes, apartments, retirement centers, residential care centers, nursing homes, etc. These drugs are grant reimbursable. Open stock and unprescribed drugs from such places as hospitals, clinics, pharmacies, and schools along with businesses are NOT eligible for reimbursement.

The other important planning concern is controlled substance management. DATCP-funded collection sites must collect controlled substances. DATCP had hoped that an innovative, on-site destruction method could be approved for Year I, but that has yet to happen. As a consequence, the primary collection method for Year I will be law enforcement witness burning at approved thermal facilities. Any other collection methods will be considered on a conditional basis. The Barron County incinerator is no longer available for drug disposal.

Because of the high costs of law enforcement witness burning, DATCP has developed a grant evaluation system that gives extra priority to those municipalities who participate in a cooperative, regional, law enforcement milkrun. The more local governments that get involved; the higher the priority in the grant review process. This option would allow one law enforcement agency to bring controlled substances from many sites to an incinerator, thereby reducing costs for everyone . . . and keeping more money available for disposal.

To expedite cooperative milkruns for Year I, DATCP has worked closely with the Office of Justice Assistance, Governor's Office and they recently released an announcement to

all law enforcement offices in Wisconsin. Should you contact your local law enforcement office, they may already be aware of this opportunity.

We hope you are interested in applying for a Year I pharmaceutical collection grant. Municipalities interested in 2008 Clean Sweep funding are strongly encouraged to begin planning at this time, including discussions with law enforcement. The March grant release will be done electronically through the DATCP website, <http://cleansweep.wi.gov/> . Thank you for your attention on this matter. Roger Springman, Manager, Wisconsin Clean Sweep Program.