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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 19, 2017

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MDHHS seeks applicants to install or replace community fluoridation systems

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Oral Health Program today announced project funds of up to \$24,000 each for communities seeking to purchase and install new or replacement water fluoridation equipment.

Fluoridation of a community water system is one of the most cost effective and efficient ways to reduce dental disease in a population. Over 65 years of research on this topic has proven community water fluoridation to be safe and effective in improving the oral health of the community's citizens. Currently, nearly 7 million Michigan residents are already benefiting from community fluoridated water.

For those municipal water systems wishing to initiate or update this basic public health practice in their communities, the Community Water Fluoridation Equipment Program is providing grants to assist with the cost of the purchase and installation of fluoridation equipment. The funds must be used for new and replacement fluoridation equipment during the grant period of May 1 through September 30, 2017.

Up to ten local communities will be awarded funding to support the purchase and installation of water fluoridation equipment. Funds from this grant opportunity are intended to support purchasing fluoridation equipment to initiate a community water fluoridation program or for purchases to replace worn out fluoridation equipment in existing fluoridating communities. Engineering costs, installation and labor costs and testing equipment are allowed.

Eligible applicants include municipal water systems. First priority will be given to Michigan water systems currently without a water fluoridation program. The community's Water System Operator or Water Engineer must certify that the community will continue fluoridation for a minimum of 5 years after receipt of the grant award.

This funding opportunity is supported through a generous gift from Delta Dental of Michigan.

Applications must be submitted electronically through the MI E-Grants program. For information or to apply, visit the MI E-Grants website (<http://egramms-mi.com/dch>) and click the "About EGrAMS" link on the left panel to access the "Competitive Application Instructions" training manual. The complete Request for Proposals document can be accessed on the MI E-Grants website in the 'Current Grants' section by clicking the "Public Health Administration" link and selecting the "FLRD-2017" grant program.

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