



## **Portage County WATER Project** **(Well Owner Assistance for Treatment and Economic Recovery)**

---

April 2022, Portage County set aside 2.3 million dollars of **American Rescue Plan Act - State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (ARPA-SLFRF)** for projects to improve access to and provide safe drinking water for Portage County residents. The projects are specifically for testing to identify nitrate-nitrogen concentrations in wells and treatment activities and remediation strategies for wells with nitrate-nitrogen concentrations that exceed the state drinking water standard.

The funds are broken up into two separate programs. One program is designed to serve County residents who obtain their drinking water from a private residential well and the other is designed to serve drinking water sources that are categorized as transient non-community drinking water sources by the Wisconsin DNR.

To learn more about these programs you can visit:

<https://www.co.portage.wi.us/departments/planning-zoning/water-resources/portage-county-water-well-owner-assistance-for-treatment-and-economic-recovery-project>

### **Private Residential Well User**

The private residential well program is open to any Portage County resident that uses a potable private well for drinking water. This program is available to residents that own the property served by a private well and those who rent or lease property served by a private well with the written preapproval of the property owner. Such well users are eligible to receive a free lab-certified water test. Those well users who have water quality results that exceed the nitrate-nitrogen drinking water standard of 10 mg/L may be eligible to receive up to \$1,500.00 in reimbursement to offset the cost of purchasing/installing a reverse osmosis treatment system. Well users must complete all the required steps below in order to qualify for the water test and/or potential reimbursement.

**1)** Private well users must register to receive a lab certified water test kit by completing the [Water Test Registration Form](#) or registering at:

<https://www.co.portage.wi.us/departments/planning-zoning/water-resources/portage-county-water-well-owner-assistance-for-treatment-and-economic-recovery-project/water-test-registration-form>

If well users do not feel comfortable registering online they may contact Jen McNelly and Lindsay Benaszkeski at the information below and they can provide assistance with alternative registration.

*(See other side for additional steps)*

- 2) Well users will be directly mailed a copy of their water test results. Well users with results over the nitrate-nitrogen drinking water standard of 10 mg/L will be contacted by Portage County Staff and invited to fill out a pre-application for cost reimbursement of a reverse osmosis treatment system.
- 3) When the County receives a completed pre-application, County staff will review it for program qualification. The County will notify the well user if the pre-application is approved. The well user may proceed with the installation of a reverse osmosis system of their choosing that was identified in their pre-application.
- 4) After the water treatment system is installed, the well user may seek reimbursement through an application to the County. Specific requirements that must be met will be listed in the application materials.
- 5) The reimbursement application will be reviewed by County Staff. If approved, the County will pay a reimbursement amount up to \$1,500.00 to the well user applicant. The County will also notify a well user when their reimbursement application is not approved and the reasons.
- 6) Approximately one year from the date of installation of the reverse osmosis water treatment system, the County will mail to the well user a nitrate-nitrogen water test kit. The test kit will include the tasks that the well user will need to complete and the date to return the water sample to the county, which is a requirement of this program.

**For More Information Contact:**

**Jen McNelly**  
Portage County Water Resource Specialist  
715-346-1334  
mcnellyj@co.portage.wi.us

**Lindsay Benaszkeski**  
Portage County Environmental Health Sanitarian  
715-345-5771  
benaszkeskil@co.portage.wi.us