

GRANT ANALYSIS FORM OPERATING & CAPITAL GRANT PROJECTS/PROGRAMS

Department/Division: Health Dept. – Emergency Preparedness Environmental Health (EPEH)

Contact Person & Phone No: Neelu Patil (414) 708-1647

Category of Request

New Grant

Grant Continuation

Previous Council File No. _____

Change in Previously Approved Grant

Previous Council File No. _____

Project/Program Title: Wisconsin Coastal Management Program

Grantor Agency: Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) in collaboration with the Wisconsin Coastal Management Council (WCMC) and the Office for Coastal Management (OCM), U.S. Department of Commerce

Grant Application Date: 10/31/2025

Anticipated Award Date: 7/1/2026

1. **Description of Grant Project/Program (Include Target Locations and Populations):**

Flagpole installation at Milwaukee County Parks beaches to provide visual recognition of unhealthy or unsafe swim conditions. This will involve putting in four 20-foot-high flagpoles which require geotechnical reports on soil bearings and an architectural and engineering design for the foundation and installation. The City of Milwaukee Health Department is responsible for the posting of beach conditions per Wis. s.s. 254.46, to include E. Coli water quality and dangerous surf conditions as alerted by the National Weather Service.

The flagpoles will have an internal halyard, to protect it from weather and vandalism. Flags will also be required (3 per flagpole, red/yellow/green, 3'x5'). These flags will help beachgoers who bypass the current notification signs for swim conditions to not fail to notice 3x5' flags that also indicate the swim status of the beach (closed, advisory, or open). Beach safety and surveillance information will reach more people in this manner.

2. **Relationship to City-Wide Strategic Goals and Departmental Objectives:**

Assures health and safety for beachgoers in the City of Milwaukee by notifying beachgoers on water quality and conditions. Funding will support providing prompt water quality advisories and closures, if needed, based on daily measurement of water quality.

3. **Need for Grant Funds and Impact on Other Departmental Operations (Applies only to Programs):**

Problem: Low visibility of current signage, particularly at popular beaches (e.g., Bradford) covering several hundred yards; issue was brought up to us by concerned beachgoers as well as our own observations of bathers entering the beach at distances far from the postings. Beach access is broad, nearly accessible the entire length without a funnel or chokepoint to catch beachgoers, therefore, persons do not see the important water quality/swim condition information. There have been 11 drownings at our beaches with four occurring in 2020. This is why the department now tracks National Weather Service (NWS) alerts on dangerous surf conditions as they've all been related to riptides and currents. The NWS alerts are calculated in our decision-making with water quality, sewage and rainfall conditions to determine swim conditions; potentially saving lives.

Personnel will update the flags as needed to reflect changes in water quality conditions and dangerous surf. Historically, this is required three times a week, depending on weather and environmental conditions such as sewer overflows. This grant submittal is for 2 persons (buddy system) once per week, at two hours. Personnel costs include July through September 2026; and the entire June, July, August, and September 2027 beach season.

4. **Results Measurement/Progress Report (Applies only to Programs):**

Metrics include an established KPI tracking beach posting turnaround time as well as daily reporting of water quality (red, yellow, green) and number/rate of closures. Performance goal is resulting and posting within one (1) hour of receipt of water quality results from the MHD Lab. Staff spent a total time of 144.3 hours to update beach status.

5. **Grant Period, Timetable and Program Phase-Out Plan:**

Grant period begins July 1, 2026. Geotechnical reports and soil sampling will be done first, with the installation of the flagpoles to follow. The goal will be for the work to conclude by summer of 2027.

6/15/04

6. Provide a list of Subgrantees:
N/A

7 If Possible, complete Grant Budget Form and attach to back.