



## PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### Protecting Groundwater Grants for Local Residents

Crow Wing County has been awarded State grants to seal unused wells and upgrade septic systems. These measures are crucial in safeguarding our groundwater, which many county residents rely on for drinking water. Grant funds have been provided by the Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and the Clean Water Fund.

An unused or abandoned well is not just a dormant structure; it's a potential threat to our groundwater. It can become a direct path for surface water runoff, contaminated water, or improperly disposed waste to reach an uncontaminated groundwater source. Additionally, larger-diameter wells can be a safety hazard for children and animals, underscoring the urgency of sealing them. There have been 194 wells sealed in Crow Wing County since 2019 through this program.

The County will provide up to a maximum of \$1,000 in cost-share funds per well. A state-licensed well contractor must conduct the work. Residents must contact a licensed well driller to begin the application process.

Funds are also available to assist low-income residents upgrade septic systems that are not working properly and failing to protect groundwater. These funds can only be used to replace existing septic systems, not for new septic systems.

Grant applications can be found at [Grants | Crow Wing County, MN - Official Website](#)

"Sealing wells and upgrading septic systems is one of the most important things that can be done to protect groundwater" said Crow Wing County Environmental Services Manager Chris Pence. Groundwater protection is also identified as a priority in the Crow Wing County Water Plan as well as the One Watershed One Plan Program for County Watersheds.

The Land Services Department is committed to providing excellent customer service while helping our residents make wise decisions that protect Crow Wing County's extraordinary natural resources. Citizens are encouraged to contact the Land Services Office at (218) 824-1010 or [landservices@crowwing.gov](mailto:landservices@crowwing.gov) to discuss groundwater protection or other land use-related activities.

**Our Vision:** Being Minnesota's favorite place.

**Our Mission:** Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.

**Our Values:** Be responsible. Treat people right. Build a better future.