



## Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #188

### Clean Sweep Grants (Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection -- Environment)

[LFB 2023-25 Budget Summary: Page 68, #7]

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#### CURRENT LAW

The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) administers the clean sweep program to provide grants to counties and municipalities for the collection and disposal of pesticides, farm chemicals, unwanted prescription drugs, and hazardous wastes. The goal of the program is to reduce potential health and environmental risks caused by the disposal of hazardous waste and unwanted chemicals. DATCP administers a competitive grant process and awards are made to reimburse local costs, with municipalities providing a match of at least 25% of cash or in-kind services.

Eligible grant expenditures include: (a) costs to hire a hazardous waste contractor; (b) equipment rentals, supplies and services to operate the collection site and handle disposal, including permanent, secure drop boxes for unwanted prescription drugs; (c) staff costs related to a continuous or permanent collection event; and (d) educational and promotional activities. Grants may not be used to collect, among other items: (a) uncontaminated oil; (b) batteries; (c) contaminated soil or debris; (d) fluorescent tubes; (e) triple-rinsed plastic pesticide containers; (f) materials or devices that may be disposed of at other waste or recycling sites; (g) personal care products; (h) infectious waste and hypodermic needles; and (i) chemicals for which there is no federal- or state-approved disposal method. DATCP sets maximum grant awards for each eligible activity. Maximum grant awards for 2023 are shown in Table 1.

Municipalities may apply jointly for a grant to host a singular collection site. Sites may be temporary (up to three days per year), continuous (four or more days per year), or permanent (at least six months and with permanent infrastructure for collections). Beginning in 2016, municipalities may apply for funding of \$1,000 per box (maximum five) to purchase drop boxes

for unwanted prescription drugs. In 2022, DATCP estimates the clean sweep program supported 160 drug drop boxes across the state.

**TABLE 1**

**2023 Maximum Clean Sweep Grants**

<u>Event Collection Type</u>	<u>Single Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Multi-Jurisdictional</u>
Agricultural Waste		
Permanent	\$11,000	\$41,000
Continuous	10,000	40,000
Temporary	8,000	20,000
Household		
Permanent	21,000	66,000
Continuous	20,000	65,000
Temporary	16,000	30,000
Prescription Drug*		
Continuous	5,000	8,000
Temporary	4,000	6,000

\*Municipalities may also apply for up to \$5,000 for prescription drug drop boxes, at \$1,000 per box.

The Department is provided \$750,000 SEG annually from the environmental management account of the segregated (SEG) environmental fund for the clean sweep program. DATCP estimates full-time equivalent staffing allocated to the program of 0.5 position at a cost of \$49,000 annually from the segregated agricultural management fund during the 2021- 23 biennium.

**DISCUSSION POINTS**

1. In 2022, DATCP awarded \$749,000 in grants including: (a) \$475,000 for household hazardous waste collections; (b) \$199,000 for collections of agricultural waste; and (c) \$75,000 for collections of unwanted prescription drugs. Of 61 grantees in 2022, 13 were permanent, 25 were continuous, and 23 were temporary. Forty-one grantees collected agricultural waste, 33 collected hazardous household waste, and 20 collected prescription drugs. DATCP reports that participation in the clean sweep program has remained relatively consistent, with minor fluctuations attributed to some counties or municipalities applying every year and some applying every other year.

2. Table 2 shows how much was requested and awarded for each household hazardous waste, agricultural waste, and unwanted prescription drug collection in recent grant cycles. Each category has been oversubscribed, with unwanted household waste presenting the greatest discrepancy between requests and awards.

**TABLE 2**

**Clean Sweep Requests and Awards**

	<u>Household</u>		<u>Award Rate</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>		<u>Award Rate</u>	<u>Unwanted Prescriptions</u>		<u>Award Rate</u>
	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Awarded</u>		<u>Requested</u>	<u>Awarded</u>		<u>Requested</u>	<u>Awarded</u>	
2021	\$913,690	\$475,000	52%	\$318,150	\$198,000	62%	\$83,875	\$75,000	89%
2022	997,233	475,000	48	340,125	198,000	58	90,700	75,000	83
2023	935,925	475,000	51	334,500	199,000	59	83,359	75,000	90

3. Assembly Bill 43/Senate Bill 70 would provide an additional \$250,000 annually from the environmental management account of the segregated environmental fund for clean sweep grants. Base funding for the program would be \$1,000,000 under the bill.

4. DATCP provides awards to all eligible applicants and prorates award amounts to stay within current funding limits. In 2023, DATCP awarded approximately 59% of each applicant's agricultural waste request, 51% of each applicant's household waste request, and 90% of each applicant's pharmaceutical waste request, filling 55% of all requests. With additional funding, DATCP would plan to reduce proration per applicant or provide funding to more applicants.

5. In recent grant cycles, DATCP reports that the cost of collection and disposal of pesticides, farm chemicals, unwanted prescription drugs, and hazardous wastes has increased. DATCP cites the increase in cost is due to cost of supplies, including transportation and fuel, labor, and raw materials. DATCP's allocation of \$750,000 for clean sweep grants has remained unchanged since 2009, and the Department has regularly expended the full allocation.

6. The environmental management account is expected to have a balance of approximately \$33.2 million on June 30, 2023. Further, the account is anticipated to have a positive structural balance in the 2023-25 biennium. That is, anticipated base revenues of \$53.6 million are expected to exceed base expenditures (including standard budget adjustments and debt service reestimates) of \$46.3 million by approximately \$7.3 million each year.

7. DATCP intends for funding to support additional applicants receiving grants or provide additional funding for existing participants. As grant cycles have been routinely oversubscribed, causing proration on requests, the Committee could choose to provide \$250,000 environmental fund SEG for the clean sweep grant program annually in 2023-25 [Alternative 1]. This would bring base funding for the program to \$1 million environmental fund SEG in each year of the 2023-25 biennium.

## ALTERNATIVES

1. Provide an additional \$250,000 from the environmental management account of the SEG environmental fund annually for clean sweep grants. (Base funding for the program would be \$1,000,000 annually.)

ALT 1	Change to Base
SEG	\$500,000

2. Take no action.

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