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The Florida Fluoridation Project

The Public Health Dental Program of the Department of Health is administering federal Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant funds through the Florida Fluoridation Project. The purpose of the project is to assist communities throughout Florida to promote, implement, and maintain fluoridation of their water systems. Community water fluoridation has been demonstrated to be the most cost-effective mechanism for preventing dental caries. Communities that elect to add fluoride to their water may be provided with funds for the necessary fluoridation equipment, installation costs, engineering fees, and chemical costs for two years. The requirements for project assistance are as follows:

1. Authorization to fluoridate from city or county officials either through a motion, a resolution, or an ordinance;
2. Approval by the Public Health Dental Program, of the cost estimate for fluoridation equipment, installation costs, engineering fees, and chemical costs;
3. A signed contract between the DOH and the city for the approved amount of funding.

Other requirements are (1) a permit from the Department of Environmental Protection authorizing installation of fluoridation equipment; (2) that operation of the fluoridation equipment will continue after project support has terminated; (3) that the program will be monitored in compliance with Chapter 62-555 of the Florida Administrative Code; and (4) that monthly reports of daily fluoride tests, along with the split sample results, will be submitted to the Public Health Dental Program.

For more information about the Florida Fluoridation Project and how to get the benefits of fluoridation in your community, contact the Public Health Dental Program at (850) 245-4333.