

641—20.4(135) Review and rating of applications. The department shall review each application to determine that the applicant is eligible and that the application is complete. The priority of eligible applicants will be established by the department based on the following criteria in order of importance:

20.4(1) Number of people served by the water system. In cases with equal or nearly equal population, priority will be given to the water system serving the higher number of children.

20.4(2) Technical difficulty and cost of implementing fluoridation.

20.4(3) Amount of fluoride deficiency, i.e., the difference between the optimum fluoride concentration as established by the department and the fluoride concentration in the water produced by the water system.

20.4(4) Date of authorization of fluoridation by the water system governing body.

20.4(5) Applicants for funding of equipment replacement shall be lower in priority than applicants initiating community water fluoridation. The department shall evaluate these applicants based on the immediacy of the need for replacement, the population served by the water system, and the cost of the replacement equipment.