

# One Minnesota Budget



**Minnesota Department of Health  
2024 Supplemental Budget Request  
Commissioner Brooke Cunningham, MD, PhD**

**April 9, 2024**



*Our mission is to protect,  
maintain and improve the  
health of all Minnesotans.*

# Safe Drinking Water

## Addressing Nitrate Contamination in Private Wells in Southeast Minnesota

**MDH role: To identify all households with private wells in southeast Minnesota, test at least 10% of the private wells for nitrate in the first year and mitigate water quality issues that are discovered.**

- **This action is required for Minnesota to comply with US EPA direction**
- **Proposal begins to address equity and safety concerns for private well owners who do not receive the same drinking water protections as users on community water systems.**
- **This is the first phase of a necessary multi-year investment, as we anticipate the project will take 10 years.**
- **Combined effort with MDA, MPCA, and local partners**
- **Proposal for FY 2025 is**
  - **\$2.8 million Clean Water Fund (Environment) for well inventory, testing, education, and outreach; and**
  - **\$4.1 million General Fund (Agriculture) for mitigation options to address nitrate issues in wells.**

# Adding Clarity

- **988 Telecom fee**
  - Budget Neutral
  - Added in 2023, MDH is requesting to establish the 988 fee at 12 cents to provide certainty to consumers and providers, and to ensure MDH has adequate funding to provide essential services.
- **Technical Corrections from 2023**
  - Budget Neutral
  - Updated language to enable MDH to implement programs as intended.
- **MDH Background Studies**
  - Budget Reduction. (\$2,880)/year in SGSR
  - Clarifies that licensees regulated by MDH are responsible for paying fees associated with the preparation of fingerprints, criminal records check consent form, and the criminal background check to DHS.

# Adding Clarity

- **HMO Financial Exams**
  - Budget Neutral
  - Aligns financials examinations so that both HMOs and insurance companies are subject to financial exams every five years, allowing coordination for health plans that have both HMO and non-HMO entities.
- **Health Professional Clinical Training Expansion Grant Program**
  - Budget Neutral
  - Updates to a three-year grant period allowing more flexible spending for grantees due to the different funding needs during the years of their training.
- **Loan Forgiveness Repayments**
  - Budget Neutral
  - Creates dedicated SGSR account for MDH loan forgiveness program, allowing those funds to be reinvested and more awards granted instead of cancelled.
- **Supplemental Nursing Services Updates**
  - Budget Neutral
  - Clarifies qualifications, training, and requirements to ensure a high quality of care for children, families, and other vulnerable individuals requiring these services.



Thank you!