

# Nonpublic Household Water Well Recommendation #18:

## Assess Interest in Water Well Maintenance Subscription Service

---

### Proposed Action

1. Conduct an interest study to determine if a subscription service for nonpublic water well owners/users would be of interest. This type of service would ensure that nonpublic household water well users are able to access trained professionals to routinely offer installation, maintenance, testing, and remediation services, when needed.
2. Develop a list of regional and local contacts of individuals trained in nonpublic water well inspection, water quality sampling, and remediation of nonpublic water wells. This list will be provided to county health departments and made publicly available every year. This information will be maintained on a publicly-available website.

### Potential Funding

Funding to support this recommendation would most likely come from a combination of sources, including: state funding, fees, and nonpublic water well users.

### Background Information

Private (e.g., local business) or public (e.g., environmental health professional) entities are needed to provide the expertise to care for most aspects of well maintenance and potential risks/hazards near the well. Well owners/users need a clear resource to rely upon to ensure water quality.

### Why This Action Is Needed

There are few visible nonpublic water well experts across many Kansas communities, and many nonpublic household well users do not have a clear resource/entity, private or public, to provide consistent well service and maintenance and ensure water quality standards are met. Interviews with key informants suggest that well owners often incorrectly apply filters, making the water less safe to consume. Moreover, key informants suggested that when well owners ask for help with their nonpublic water well in some communities, they are often referred to multiple agencies and the well owner can get frustrated with inconsistent messages and points of contact.

A subscription service for nonpublic wells could serve as a solid source of funding for local government or private entities, and it would allow for nonpublic well owners to feel confident that their nonpublic well will be safely managed throughout the period of the subscription service.

For more information contact:

Dr. Elizabeth Ablah  
or Jack Brown

[eablah@kumc.edu](mailto:eablah@kumc.edu)  
[jbrown4@kumc.edu](mailto:jbrown4@kumc.edu)  
316-293-2627

October 2018

