

**American Rescue Plan (ARP) State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) Request Form**

Please complete this form in accordance with the process instructions.

**Agency/Point of Contact:** Met Council Environmental Services


**Title of Request:** Determine and Report on the Prevalence SARS-CoV-2 and Variants using Wastewater Data

**Date:** 12/1/2021 **Request Amount:** \$ 600,000

**Expenditure Time Period:** 1/1/2022 to 6/30/2023 (no later than 6/30/2023)

**Brief Summary of Request:** (Summary must be complete on this page with supporting information attached)

As the development of the Delta variant in 2021 has shown, identifying, and monitoring of variants are needed to combat the pandemic and additional data on variant types and prevalence are needed. MCES has developed and proven its ability to determine and report the prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 and of some known variants through analysis of wastewater. It is working with the University of Minnesota Genomics Center to identify and develop sequencing based methods that would allow more complete and proactive variant identification and monitoring. Wastewater data allows one sample to cover a large part of the population. Monitoring of MCES's Metropolitan Plant wastewater influent allows one daily sample to provide aggregated information for 1.9 million people in the Twin Cities Metropolitan area. In addition, as prevalence levels and the degree of testing decreases, wastewater data will continue to provide complete information even when testing data becomes sparse. Under this request, we would continue to generate daily data on the prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 RNA and known targeted variants in the Metropolitan Plant influent and would continue to provide that data, with trend analysis, to the Minnesota Department of Health and we would continue working the University of Minnesota Genomics Center to develop, evaluate, and implement a more robust and proactive approach to monitoring for variants in wastewater.

  
Department Head Signature

12/1/2021  
Date