

Interest rates have been rising now is the time to consider utilizing a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund low interest loan to finance your water system infrastructure improvement projects.

Overview Of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) provides below-market-rate loans to community drinking water systems – as well as to nonprofit non-community drinking water suppliers to improve aging infrastructure or in some instances construct new infrastructure, that will aid in maintaining compliance with the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

Water is our most important resource. We are fortunate in Rhode Island to have a safe and adequate supply of water. However this will continue only if we remain vigilant and address emerging issues, such as deteriorating drinking-water infrastructures. Some public drinking water systems are older than 75 years. The DWSRF can provide you with the funds that are needed to upgrade or expand water systems and to remedy water quality problem and threats. The DWSRF could mean relief for these aging water systems.

System Eligibility

Community public water systems and nonprofit non-community public water systems, both privately organized water suppliers and local governmental units are eligible to receive assistance from the DWSRF.



Project Ranking

To receive funding the first step is to place a project or projects on the Project Priority List where a ranking order is assigned based on priorities. The Safe Drinking Water Act gives priority for the use of these funds to projects that address the most serious risk to human health, are necessary to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act, and assist the system most in need on a per household basis according to state affordability criteria. The PPL is updated at least once per year, (more often for special circumstances).

Eligible Projects Include

- Compliance with drinking water rules and regulations;
- Correct or prevent drinking water violations;
- Replacement of aging facilities;
- Rehabilitate or develop sources to replace contaminated sources;
- Install or upgrade treatment facilities, if the project would improve the quality of drinking water to comply with primary and secondary standards;
- Install, upgrade, rehabilitate storage facilities to prevent microbiological contaminants from entering the water system;
- Install or replace transmission and distribution pipes to prevent contamination caused by leaks or breaks in the pipes;
- Install emergency generators for power back up;
- Install radio read water meters to provide timesaving in meter reading and billing.

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Examples of Certificates of Approval That Have Been Issued To The Following Water Systems For DWSRF Funding

South Kingstown Water Dept.
Water Meter Replacement Program

Bristol County Water Authority
Storage Tank Rehabilitation
Water Meter Replacement
Water Main Replacement

Newport Water Division
Lawton Valley Reservoir Aeration
Intake Improvements at Gardiner' Pond
Distribution System Improvements
L. V. Sedimentation Basin Retrofit
Finished water storage tank Improvements
Remote Radio Read Water Meters

Portsmouth Water and Fire Dist
Rehabilitation of 4 Water Storage Tanks

Block Island Water Company
Refinance of 4 USDA Water Loans

City of East Providence
Automatic Meter Reading Rehab

Jamestown Water Department
New filtration Plant
New Standpipe

Paige Associates
Water System Improvements

Special Financing for Disadvantaged Community Systems

To qualify community public water systems must have a service area Median Household Income (MHI) less than or equal to \$42,090. If found eligible for the disadvantaged community program, additional interest subsidies may be calculated for savings up to 75% off their market rate of borrowing, depending on user water rate structure.

Program Administration

The program is administered through a joint effort of the Department of Health and the Rhode Island Clean Water Finance Agency (RICWFA). The RICWFA is responsible for the financial aspects of the program, including the review, approval, and processing of loans. The Department of Health office of Drinking Water Quality (HEALTH) is responsible for administering the technical aspects of the program, which includes reviewing projects for eligibility and ranking projects by priority. The Rhode Island Water Resources Board provided matching funds through a bond issue.

We Provide Assistance

The RICWFA and HEALTH take great pride in providing (within our capabilities) technical and administrative assistance to water systems applying for a DWSRF loan. We attempt to make the loan process as simple as possible. We are just a phone call away from providing you with support. We even prepare the monthly inspection progress reports for you.

For further information on DWSRF low interest loans you may contact Gary Chobanian, P.E. at (401) 222-7768 at HEALTH FAX (401) 222-6953, or Anna Coelho at the RICWFA at (401) 453-4430 ext. 12, FAX (401) 453-4094.