

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Sara Gagne-Holmes
Commissioner



Maine Department of Health and Human Services
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
11 State House Station
286 Water Street
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
Tel; (207) 287-8016; Fax (207) 287-9058
TTY: Dial 711 (Maine Relay)

Date: August 28, 2024

To: All Maine Public Water Systems and Interested Parties

From: McKenzie Parker, P.E.
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program

Subject: **Request for Project Applications for the 2025 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)**

The Maine Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) is soliciting applications for drinking water projects to be funded through the DWSRF program. This letter is to inform you of the drinking water infrastructure funds available.

The DWSRF program is a low-interest loan program with principal forgiveness for “Disadvantaged Communities.” The fund assists public water systems with the cost of improving drinking water infrastructure, including but not limited to:

- New and replacement water sources;
- Treatment and pump station construction and upgrades;
- Storage tank construction and repair;
- Water main replacements;
- Lead service line replacements;
- New or replacement service water meters; and
- Interconnections between two or more existing public water systems.

In 2025, the DWSRF will continue to have supplemental sources of funds available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). Approximately \$30 Million is anticipated to be available for general infrastructure projects and \$6 Million will be available for emerging contaminants (PFAS) projects. \$28 Million will also be available for lead service line replacements if demand necessitates.

Eligible public water systems include all community public water systems. Non-transient non-community (NTNC) public water systems that are classified as not-for-profit entities are also eligible.

Additional funding will also be available through the **Emerging Contaminants in Small and/or Disadvantaged Communities (EC-SDC) Grant Program**. Approximately \$9 Million will be available through this program for community public water systems with populations less than 10,000 and/or those that meet the definition of “Disadvantaged” based on MHI and residential water rates. These funds can be used for PFAS treatment installation, new source development,

consolidation with another public water system, and water main extensions to assist private well owners impacted by PFAS contamination.

Public water systems desiring to receive financial assistance through the 2025 DWSRF must complete and submit an Application Form for DWSRF Eligible Projects by **October 4, 2024**. All applicants are directed to submit an online application. The application form can be found on the DWP website at www.medwp.com/pws/srf.shtml. Submissions must be received by DWP before 5:00 pm on Friday, October 4, 2024. Paper copies of the application are available by request for those who are incapable of utilizing the online application.

Projects will be ranked by the DWP using Priority Ranking Criteria approved by USEPA to determine which projects will receive priority for 2025 DWSRF funding. The primary objective for distributing funds is to focus on projects that will provide assistance to public water systems to maintain the health objectives of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). However, additional points may be given for projects with legal requirements, compatibility with previously identified needs, readiness to proceed to construction, and availability of co-funding with other funding agencies.

Principal Forgiveness Qualified Disadvantaged Communities may be eligible for Principal Forgiveness of a portion of their DWSRF loan. Eligibility is based on a community’s Median Household Income (MHI) and current residential water user rates. The MHI is based on information from the U. S. Census American Community Survey (ACS). Because of the statistical sample size and survey frequencies the Department must use the ACS 5-year estimates for comparison of median household incomes.

Anticipated Schedule for the 2025 DWSRF Program Implementation

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Project application deadline | October 4, 2024 |
| Projects prioritized, placed in IUP | November 2024 |
| Draft IUP available for public review | December 2024 |
| Public comment meeting | January 2025 |
| End of written comment period | February 2025 |
| DWSRF Grant Application submission to EPA Region I | June 2025 |
| Grant Award by EPA Region I | September 2025 |

Finalization of loan offers will be subject to DHHS receipt of EPA Region 1 DWSRF Grant in 2025. Technical/administrative questions regarding the 2025 DWSRF application process should be directed to David Welch, David.Welch@maine.gov. Questions regarding loan applications and the loan approval process should be directed to Jeremy McDaniel at the Maine Municipal Bond Bank (MMBB) at 207-620-1473 ext: 220.