



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

Tel. (207) 287-2070

Drinking Water Program

Fax (207) 287-4172

VERY SMALL SYSTEM COMPLIANCE LOAN (VSSCL)

Qualifying water systems may receive up to \$50,000 loans for infrastructure projects that are needed to achieve compliance with a current or future standard of the Safe Drinking Water Act, excluding the Total Coliform Rule. The loans would need to meet all requirements for a standard construction loan including contract documents, environmental review, capacity review, Davis-Bacon wage rates, American Iron and Steel (AIS), and other applicable requirements. The loan term would be set at 100 percent principal forgiveness.

Qualifying systems include all community systems (except those regulated by the Public Utilities Commission) with a population of 100 or less and all not-for-profit, non-transient, non-community water systems. For community public water systems that are Manufactured Housing Communities, the population shall be based on "licensed sites" as defined by the State of Maine Manufactured Housing Board.

Systems do not need to be on the project priority list. Projects cannot be the result of a failure to maintain an existing treatment system. Projects can consist of developing a new well and/or the installation of treatment. Consolidation with another water system could be funded with a consolidation grant. Consolidation with another Public Water System regulated by the Maine Public Utilities Commission will be considered if the cost of the connection is less or equal to the cost of installing water treatment and if the small water system ceases to be a public water system.

Contact Nathan Saunders at (207) 287-5685 or e-mail nathan.saunder@maine.gov with questions or comments.

What types of projects are eligible? Projects that must be completed to meet a current or future Safe Drinking Water Act Rule requirement are eligible for a Very Small System Compliance Loan (VSSCL). This includes public water systems with Radon levels above 4,000 pCi/L for Community systems and 20,000 pCi/L for Non-Transient, Non-Community (NTNC) systems (*Maine has a Maximum Exposure Guideline (MEG) of 4,000 pCi/L for Community systems and 20,000 pCi/L for NTNC systems*). The loan may be used to purchase capital items or for engineering design of a water treatment system. All equipment or materials purchased must remain the property of the water system or other public entity. Examples of eligible projects may include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ Installation of a replacement well in order to meet a current or future Safe Drinking Water Act Rule, excluding the Total Coliform Rule,
- ◆ Installation of a water treatment system in order to meet a current or future Safe Drinking Water Act Rule, excluding the Total Coliform Rule.

Which water systems are eligible? All water systems including all community systems (except those regulated by the Public Utilities Commission) with a population of 100 or less, and all not-for-profit, non-transient, non-community (NTNC) water systems. Examples include mobile home parks, apartment buildings, nursing homes, and not-for-profit schools.

What project costs are eligible for reimbursement? Costs associated with the project that can be paid with loan funds include engineering services, contractor labor, materials, equipment, and legal fees associated with the creation of the loan. Materials and costs for operation and maintenance are not eligible for reimbursement.

How much money will be awarded? Individual loans will be awarded up to \$50,000. If more requests for money are received than we have allocated for the Very Small System Compliance Loan Program, funds will be made available on a first come first served basis and the ability of the applicant to implement the improvements on a timely basis.

What types of projects are not eligible? Loans will not be awarded for projects which involve the maintenance of water system infrastructure, maintenance of treatment facilities, or costs that are part of normal system operation. Also, the water system may not be reimbursed for its own equipment use or water system employee labor costs, even if the work is in support of an eligible project. Loans will not be awarded retroactively for completed projects.

What is the deadline for applications? Water systems may apply at any time. If more requests for money are received than we have allocated for the Very Small System Compliance Loan Program, funds will be made available on a first come first served basis and the ability of the applicant to implement the improvements on a timely basis.

If I am awarded a loan, how do I get reimbursed? First, submit a project application to the Maine Drinking Water Program. Second, submit a loan application to the Maine Municipal Bond Bank. Once the loan is approved and in place, the project is approved for construction, and construction proceeds, then submit a reimbursement request to the Maine Drinking Water Program for project expenses containing:

1. Documentation of the project work completed.
2. Copies of **paid** invoices for reimbursable costs up to the award amount; and
3. Copies of at least three written quotes for any materials or services.

How can I get more information? Contact Nathan Saunders at (207) 287-5685 or e-mail nathan.saunders@maine.gov.

Very Small System Compliance Loan Application

Please complete this form and return to the Maine Drinking Water Program. Contact Nathan Saunders at (207) 287-5685 or e-mail nathan.saunders@maine.gov with questions.

PWS NAME: _____ PWSID#: _____
CONTACT: _____ TELEPHONE: _____
E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____ DATE: _____
ADDRESS: _____ TOWN/CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

1. **Describe the Project;** *Include brief description of proposed improvements, existing treatment if any, name of water treatment design professional, project cost estimate and implementation schedule.*

2. **Describe any Cost Sharing.** *Will any other source of funds contribute money to fund a portion of the project costs?.*

3. **Previous loans/and grants.** *Has this systems received previous SRF Project funding?*

Signature: _____ **Title:** _____

Print Name: _____ **Date:** _____

**MAIL OR EMAIL
APPLICATION TO:**

DRINKING WATER PROGRAM
11 STATE HOUSE STATION
286 WATER STREET, 3RD FLOOR
AUGUSTA, ME 04333-0011
ATTN: NATHAN SAUNDERS

nathan.saunders@maine.gov