



Summary of Funding and Financing Opportunities for Colorado Communities

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WaterSMART: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants (WEEG)

Since 2010, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) has worked to improve water conservation and help water-resource managers narrow the gap between water supply and demand through the WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) Program. Through the [WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants](#), USBR provides financial assistance to support projects that result in quantifiable and sustained water savings, implement renewable energy components, and support broader sustainability benefits. These projects conserve and use water more efficiently, increase the production of renewable energy, mitigate conflict risk in areas at high risk of future water conflict, and accomplish other benefits that contribute to sustainability in the Western United States.

Who Is Eligible?

Category A: States, Indian Tribes, irrigation districts, and water districts; any state, regional, or local authority whose members include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority; and other organizations with water or power delivery authority.

All Category A applicants must be located in the Western United States or United States Territories including Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

Category B: Nonprofit conservation organizations that are acting in partnership with and with the agreement of an entity described in Category A.

All Category B applicants must be located in the United States, or the specific Territories identified above.

What Projects Are Eligible?

The WEEG program funds Capital Projects.

Water conservation and renewable energy projects are eligible for this funding.

Water conservation projects result in quantifiable and sustained water savings or improved water management, and include:

- Canal Lining/Piping
- Municipal Metering
- Irrigation Flow Measurement
- Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition and Automation (SCADA)
- Landscape Irrigation Measures
- High-Efficiency Indoor Appliances and Fixtures
- Commercial Cooling Systems

Projects that increase the use of renewable energy sources in managing and delivering water, and/or projects that upgrade existing water management facilities resulting in quantifiable and sustained energy generation and/or savings. Projects include but are not limited to renewable energy projects related to water management and delivery, such as:

- Developing new hydropower capacity by installing a new hydropower facility or increasing the capacity of an existing hydropower facility
- Bringing existing mothballed hydropower capacity back online through facility investment
- Installing solar-electric, wind energy, or geothermal power systems (e.g., replacing fossil fuel powered pumps with renewable energy-based pumps)

Min/Max Total Project Cost:

There is no maximum total project cost for this opportunity. Federal funding maximums are as follows:

- Funding Group I: Up to \$500K in Federal funds for smaller on-the-ground projects that may take up to 2 years to complete.
- Funding Group II: Up to \$2M in Federal funds for larger on-the-ground projects that may take up to 3 years to complete.
- Funding Group III: Up to \$5M in Federal funds for larger on-the-ground projects that may take up to 3 years to complete.

The recommended minimum total project cost is \$225K. For projects with a total cost of less than \$225K, applicants should consider the smaller WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects grant.

Cost Share Requirement: Applicants must be capable of cost sharing 50% or more of total project costs.

Source(s) of Matching Funds: Cost shares may be made through cash, costs contributed by the applicant, or third-party in-kind contributions. Cost-share funding from sources outside the applicant's organization (e.g., loans or state grants) should be secured and available to the applicant prior to award. Other sources of Federal funding may not be counted towards the required cost share, unless specifically authorized by the program's Federal statute.

Time Frame for Completion: Two to three years dependent on Funding Group.

Application Competitiveness:

Application competitiveness for this program is high. In FY 2019, 51 out of 111 applicants received funding for this grant, according to USBR staff. There were 62 applications under Funding Group I with 34 selected for funding (~55%), and 49 applications under Funding Group II with 17 selected for funding (~35%). The scoring criteria for this grant opportunity puts a large emphasis on the quantified water savings of the project.



WaterSMART: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects (SWEP)

Overview:

Since 2010, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) has worked to improve water conservation and help water-resource managers narrow the gap between water supply and demand through the WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) Program. Through the [WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects](#) opportunity, USBR provides cost shared financial assistance to States, Tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, and other entities with water or power delivery authority to implement small-scale water efficiency projects that have been prioritized through planning efforts led by the applicant.

These projects are generally in the final design stage; environmental and cultural resources compliance have been initiated or already completed; and the non-Federal funding, necessary permits, and other required approvals have been secured. This funding opportunity is for small-scale on-the-ground projects that seek to conserve, better manage, or otherwise make more efficient use of water supplies. Proposed projects that are supported by an existing water management or conservation plan, System Optimization Review, or other planning effort led by the applicant are prioritized.

Who Is Eligible?

Category A: States, Indian Tribes, irrigation districts, and water districts; any state, regional, or local authority whose members include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority; and other organizations with water or power delivery authority.

Category B: Nonprofit conservation organizations that are acting in partnership with and with the agreement of an entity described in Category A.

All applicants must be located in the Western United States or United States Territories including Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

What Projects Are Eligible?

The SWEP program funds Capital Projects.

This funding opportunity is available for small-scale on-the-ground water efficiency projects which seek to implement work identified in an applicant's water planning efforts. Example projects include, but are not limited to:

- Canal Lining/Piping
- Municipal Metering
- Irrigation Flow Measurement
- Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition and Automation (SCADA)
- Landscape Irrigation Measures
- High-Efficiency Indoor Appliances and Fixtures
- Commercial Cooling Systems to Improve Water Use Efficiency

Other projects that are similar to the examples listed above may be submitted for consideration and will be allowed to the extent that they are consistent with program authorization and goals.

Min/Max Total Project Cost: Maximum award is up to \$100K per applicant. Total project costs should generally be \$225K or less.

Cost Share Requirement: Applicants must be capable of cost sharing 50% or more of total project costs.

Source(s) of Matching Funds: Cost share must be made through cash, costs contributed by the applicant, or third-party in-kind contributions. Cost-share funding from sources outside the applicant's organization (e.g., loans or state grants) should be secured and available to the applicant prior to award. In general, other sources of Federal funding may not be counted towards the required non-Federal cost share, unless specifically authorized by the program's Federal statute.

Time Frame for Completion: In general, proposed projects should be completed within two years of receiving the award.

Application Competitiveness:

This is a competitive application process. However, this grant has a streamlined application and less emphasis on quantitative water savings (as compared to WaterSMART WEEG) and the application rate compared to success rate tends to favor applicants, with 50 - 70 projects selected each year.



WaterSMART: Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects (DRP)

Overview:

Since 2010, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) has worked to improve water conservation and help water-resource managers narrow the gap between water supply and demand through the WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) Program. Through the [WaterSMART Drought Resiliency Projects](#) opportunity,

USBR will provide funding for projects that build long-term resilience to drought and reduce the need for emergency response actions.

Under the most recent Notice of Funding Opportunity, USBR will fund projects that will build resiliency to drought by increasing the reliability of water suppliers and improving water management. These projects are generally in the final design stage – environmental and cultural resources compliance may have been initiated, and the non-Federal funding, necessary permits, and other required approvals have been secured. Projects that are supported by an existing drought plan are prioritized. This prioritization will help ensure that projects funded under this NOFO are well thought out, have public support, and have been identified as the best way to address vulnerabilities to drought.

Who Is Eligible?

Category A: States, Indian Tribes, irrigation districts, and water districts; any state, regional, or local authority whose members include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority; and other organizations with water or power delivery authority.

Category A applicants must be located in the Western United States or United States Territories including Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

Category B: Nonprofit conservation organizations that are acting in partnership with and with the agreement of an entity described in Category A.

Category B applicants must be in the United States or one of the Territories identified above.

What Projects are Eligible?

The DRP program funds Capital Projects.

Reclamation will provide funding for projects that build long-term resilience to drought and reduce the need for emergency response actions. The proposed resiliency project should improve the ability of the water managers to continue to deliver water and power during a drought and decrease vulnerabilities and costs of drought by giving water managers flexibility in times of low water supply.

The proposed project must be beyond routine water management activities or activities required by state law for conservation and efficiency and should also help avoid the need for emergency response actions, such as water hauling programs and temporary infrastructure. Projects must have ongoing benefits to build long-term resilience to drought, even if they also address an immediate drought concern. Tasks A, B, and C below describe project categories eligible for funding under the most recent Notice Of Funding Opportunity. Other projects that are similar to those tasks listed below may be submitted for consideration and will be allowed to the extent they are consistent with program authorization and goals.

- Task A: Increasing the Reliability of Water Supplies through Infrastructure Improvements
 - System modifications or improvements
 - Storing water and/or recharging groundwater supplies
 - Developing alternative sources of water supply including water treatment
- Task B: Increasing the reliability of Water Supplies Through Groundwater Recovery
- Task C: Projects to Improve Water Management through Decision Support Tools, Modeling, and Measurement
 - Developing water management, water marketing, and modeling tools to help communities evaluate options and implement strategies to address drought
 - Installing water measurement equipment and monitoring instrumentation devices to accurately track water supply conditions

Min/Max Total Project Cost:

There is no maximum project cost generally, although small surface or groundwater storage projects with a total estimated project cost of more than \$10M are not eligible. Maximum Federal funding amounts are as follows:

- Funding Group I: Up to \$500K per agreement for a project that can be completed within two years.
- Funding Group II: Up to \$2M per agreement for a project that can be completed within three years. Projects in this group may be funded on an annual basis. Funding for second and third years of the project is contingent upon future appropriations.
- Funding Group III: Up to \$5M per agreement for a project that can be completed within three years. Projects in this group may be funded on an annual basis.

Funding for second and third years of the project is contingent upon future appropriations.

Cost Share Requirement: Applicants must be capable of cost sharing 50% or more of total project costs.

Source(s) of Matching Funds: Cost shares may be made through cash, costs contributed by the applicant, or third-party in-kind contributions. Cost-share funding from sources outside the applicant's organization (e.g., loans or state grants) should be secured and available to the applicant prior to award. Other sources of Federal funding may not be counted towards the required cost share, unless specifically authorized by the program's Federal statute.

Time Frame for Completion: Two to three years dependent on Funding Group.

Application Competitiveness:

This is a competitive application process. In FY 2019, 18 out of 45 applicants received funding for this grant (40%), according to USBR staff.



WaterSMART: Drought Response Program: Drought Contingency Planning (DCP)

Overview:

Since 2010, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) has worked to improve water conservation and help water-resource managers narrow the gap between water supply and demand through the WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) Program. The [WaterSMART Drought Contingency Planning](#) grant opportunity supports the development and update of Drought Contingency Plans that will build long-term resiliency to drought. Through this Notice Of Funding Opportunity, USBR provides funding for planning that, when implemented, will increase water reliability and improve water management through the use of expanded technologies and improved modeling capabilities.

Who Is Eligible?

States, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, or other organizations with water or power delivery located in the Western United States including Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

In addition, applicants must also participate in a Reclamation technical consultation prior to submission of an application.

What Projects are Eligible?

The DCP program funds Planning Projects.

Proposals to develop a new Drought Contingency Plan (Task A), or to update an existing plan (Task B), are eligible for funding under this Notice Of Funding Opportunity. Projects funded must include the required project components identified in [Section C.5 Required Project Components](#). Projects considering multiple entities working together to meet the required project components across multiple applications are also eligible for funding.

Min/Max Total Project Cost: Up to \$200,000 is available for each funded project, with no maximum total project cost.

Cost Share Requirement: In general, applicants must be capable of cost sharing 50% or more of total project costs. In exceptional circumstances, a reduction or waiver of the non-Federal cost share may be considered.

Source(s) of Matching Funds:

All cost-share contributions must meet the applicable administrative and cost principles criteria established in 2 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §200 available at [the eCFR website](#).

Cost shares may be made through cash, costs contributed by the applicant, or third-party in-kind contributions.

Federal funds may not be relied on to satisfy the cost share requirement for an award under this Notice of Funding Opportunity, unless specifically authorized by the program's Federal statute.

Time Frame for Completion: Projects should be completed within two years of award, including the required USBR review of the Drought Contingency Plan.

How to Apply:

Eligible applicants **must participate in a technical consultation** with the Reclamation Drought Coordinator **prior to developing a proposal**. The application may be completed on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) or a hard copy may be submitted. The completed application package includes: Technical Proposal; Project Budget, Mandatory Federal Forms, Letters of Support and Commitment; Official Resolution; Cost-share Reduction or Waiver (if applicable); Overlap or Duplication of Efforts Statement; Conflict of Interest Disclosure; Uniform Audit Reporting Statement; Certification Regarding Lobbying; Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management.



WaterSMART: Environmental Water Resources Projects (EWRP)

Overview:

Since 2010, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) has worked to improve water conservation and help water-resource managers narrow the gap between water supply and demand through the WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) Program. The [WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects](#) supports projects focused on environmental benefits and that have been developed as part of a collaborative process to help carry out an established strategy to increase the reliability of water resources. The Environmental Water Resources Projects is a new category of funding as of FY2022.

Who Is Eligible?

Category A: States, Indian Tribes, irrigation districts, and water districts; any state, regional, or local authority whose members include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority; and other organizations with water or power delivery authority.

All Category A applicants must be located in the Western United States or United States Territories including Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana,

Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

Category B: Nonprofit conservation organizations, including watershed groups as defined in the Cooperative Watershed Management Act, Section 6001 (see [Section C.2. Watershed Group Definition](#)), that are acting in partnership with and with the agreement of an entity described in Category A. Category B applicants must include with their application a letter from the Category A partner stating that the Category A partner:

- 1) Is acting in partnership with the applicant;
- 2) Agrees to the submittal and content of the application; and
- 3) Intends to participate in the project in some way, for example, providing input, feedback, or other support for the project.

All Category B applicants must be in the United States or the specific Territories identified above.

Category C: Nonprofit conservation organizations submitting an application for a project to improve the condition of a natural feature such as wetlands on Federal land without a Category A partner must demonstrate that entities described in Category A from the applicable service area have been notified and do not object to the project. All Category C applicants must be in the United States or the specific Territories identified above.

What Projects Are Eligible?

The EWRP program funds Capital Projects.

One of the primary purposes of the project must be to benefit ecological values that have a nexus to water resource management, including projects that benefit plant and animal species, fish and wildlife habitat, riparian areas, and ecosystems that are supported by rivers, streams, and other water sources, or that are directly influenced by water resources management. This may include but is not limited to: projects that improve the timing or quantity of water available; improve water quality and temperature; or that improve stream or riparian conditions for the benefit of plant and animal species, fish, and wildlife habitat, riparian areas, and ecosystems. This does not exclude projects that include benefits to multiple sectors, including projects that benefit ecological values and agricultural, municipal, tribal, or recreation water uses. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to:

- Water conservation and efficiency projects that result in quantifiable and sustained water savings and benefit ecological values
- Water management or infrastructure improvements to mitigate drought-related impacts to ecological values
- Watershed management or restoration projects benefiting ecological values that have a nexus to water resources or water resources management

Min/Max Total Project Cost: Up to \$3,000,000 is available for each funded project, with a maximum total project cost of \$6,000,000.

Cost Share Requirement:

Projects which increase water supply reliability for ecological values, are developed through a collaborative process, and which primarily contribute to an established strategy or plan to increase water supply reliability are eligible to receive 75% of the total project cost as a federal cost share. Projects which do not meet these requirements receive 50% of the total cost in federal cost share. See [Section C.3 Cost Sharing Requirements](#) for additional details about these requirements.

Source(s) of Matching Funds:

Cost shares may be made through cash, costs contributed by the applicant, or third-party in-kind contributions. Cost-share funding from sources outside the applicant's organization (e.g., loans or state grants) should be secured and available to the applicant prior to award. Other sources of Federal funding may not be counted towards the required cost share, unless specifically authorized by the program's Federal statute. Time Frame for Completion: Projects should be completed within three years.

Program History:

In 2010, the Department of the Interior established the WaterSMART program to stretch limited water supplies by improving water conservation, and helping water-resource managers develop the tools they need to make sound decisions about water use.

Through the BIL Congress authorized \$400M for WaterSMART grants, and Congress appropriated this funding over five years (FY2022-FY2026). Coupled with the 2020 amendments to the WaterSMART grants authority in the Secure Water Act, the \$400M for WaterSMART grants funding in the BIL is a significant influx of funding that expands the number and types of WaterSMART grant projects funded by Reclamation.



WaterSMART: Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program (AERP)

Overview:

Since 2010, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) has worked to improve water conservation and help water-resource managers narrow the gap between water supply and demand through the WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) Program. The [Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program](#) is a new opportunity under the umbrella of WaterSMART, funded as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and developed during FY 2022, with a first Notice of Funding Opportunity released in March 2023.

Who Is Eligible?

Category A: States, Tribes, irrigation districts, or water districts; State, regional, or local authorities, the members of which include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority; Agencies established under State law for the joint exercise of powers; or other entities or organizations that own a dam that is eligible for upgrade, modification, or removal.

All applicants must be located in the Western United States or Territories as identified in the Reclamation Act of June 17, 1902, as amended and supplemented; specifically: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Category B: Nonprofit conservation organizations that are acting in partnership with, and with the agreement of an entity described in Category A, with respect to a project involving land or infrastructure owned by the Category A entity. All Category B applicants must be located in the United States, or the specific Territories identified above.

Category B applicants should include with their application a letter from the Category A partner stating that the Category A partner:

- 1) Is acting in partnership with the applicant;
- 2) Agrees to the submittal and content of the application; and

- 3) Intends to participate in the project in some way, for example, by providing input, feedback, or other support for the project.

What Projects Are Eligible?

The Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program funds Planning Projects as well as Capital Projects.

In general, to be eligible under this funding opportunity, an aquatic ecosystem restoration project must be for the purpose of improving the health of fisheries, wildlife and/or aquatic habitat, including through habitat restoration and/or improved fish passage via the removal or bypass of barriers.

Eligible Study and Design Activities include:

- Project Outreach
- Restoration Project Design Alternatives Analysis
- Project Analysis and Design
- Design and Engineering to reach 60% level of final project design
- Preparation of cost estimates and development of construction plans
- Legal and Institutional Requirements Research

Eligible Construction Activities include:

- Completion of Final Project Design
- Outreach to Affected Stakeholders
- Removal or Modification of Barriers to Fish Passage
- Restoration of Connectivity
- Restoration of Aquatic Habitat
- Improvement of Water Availability, Quality, and Temperature
- Other Related Activities

Min/Max Total Project Cost:

For Study and Design projects, a maximum of \$2,000,000 is available for each funded project, with a minimum award of \$500,000, a minimum total project cost of \$675,000, and no maximum total project cost.

For Construction projects, a maximum of \$20,000,000 is available for each funded project, with a minimum award of \$3,000,000, a minimum total project cost of \$4,050,000, and no maximum total project cost.

Cost Share Requirement:

Applicants must be capable of cost-sharing 35 percent (35%) or more of the total project costs. The total project cost is defined as the total allowable costs incurred under a Federal award and all required cost share and voluntary committed cost share contributions, including third-party contributions.

Source(s) of Matching Funds:

Cost shares may be made through cash, costs contributed by the applicant, or third-party in-kind contributions. Cost-share funding from sources outside the applicant's organization (e.g., loans or state grants) should be secured and available to the applicant prior to award. Other sources of Federal funding may not be counted towards the required cost share, unless specifically authorized by the program's Federal statute. Time Frame for Completion: Projects should be completed within three years.

Program History:

In 2010, the Department of the Interior established the WaterSMART program to stretch limited water supplies by improving water conservation, and helping water-resource managers develop the tools they need to make sound decisions about water use.

Through the BIL Congress authorized \$400M for WaterSMART grants, and Congress appropriated this funding over five years (FY2022-FY2026). Coupled with the 2020 amendments to the WaterSMART grants authority in the Secure Water Act, the \$400M for WaterSMART grants funding in the BIL is a significant influx of funding that expands the number and types of WaterSMART grant projects funded by Reclamation.



Drinking Water State Revolving Fund: General Supplemental Funding

Overview:

The [Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund](#) (DWSRF) program is a federal-state partnership established by the 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This financial assistance program helps water systems and states achieve the health

protection objectives of the SDWA. Congress provides federal grants to states, through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). States, in turn, use those grants to administer low-interest loans to communities.

In Colorado, this takes the form of the [Drinking Water Revolving Fund \(DWRF\)](#), which provides financial assistance to government agencies and private non-profit public water systems for the construction of water projects intended to address the state's priority drinking water related public health, water quality, and drinking water infrastructure needs, and aid compliance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and invest in Colorado's water infrastructure.

Nationally, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) appropriates more than \$43B to be administered through the existing Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs from fiscal years 2022 through 2026. In Colorado, existing or base SRF program annual funding includes: \$21.7M for the DWRF and \$12.7M for the WPCRF. These "base" fundings remain in effect, and new BIL funding will be added to them. This includes \$121M in 2022, for:

- \$35M for the DWRF general supplemental funding (49% of this is required as grant or loan forgiveness)
- \$14M for the WPCRF general supplemental funding (49% of this is required as grant or loan forgiveness)
- \$55M lead service line replacement (through the DWRF; 49% of this is required as grant or loan forgiveness)
- \$14M to address emerging contaminants (through the DWRF; 100% of this is required as grant or loan forgiveness)
- \$747,000 to address emerging contaminants (through the WPCRF; 100% of this is required as grant or loan forgiveness)

Annual funding in 2023-2026 is expected to be similar to 2022.

Who Is Eligible?

Government agencies and private non-profit public water systems are eligible for base SRF funding. Additional BIL funding for Drinking Water SRFs is only available to Colorado local governments.

What Projects Are Eligible?

The loan is administered to fund capital projects. Eligible project categories include:

1. Treatment
2. Transmission and Distribution
3. Source water (including watershed forest health projects)
4. Storage
5. Consolidation
6. Creation of a new system
7. Security
8. Projects that promote water & energy conservation

A more detailed description of eligibility is available in the [EPA Drinking Water Revolving Fund Eligibility Handbook](#), and examples of potential projects can also be found in the 2022 and 2023 [Intended Use Plans](#) for Colorado.

Min/Max Total Project Cost:

Determined by the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority (CWRPDA) board based on market conditions

Interest Rates:

The CWRPDA board determines the interest rate for direct loans and the interest rate subsidy for leveraged loans.

- *Direct loans* are designed for smaller projects, at or under \$3M, unless otherwise approved by the authority board. Direct loans in excess of \$3M may be offered based on market conditions. The direct loan sources are capitalization grant funds and/or re-loan funds. Rates for direct loans typically range from 0.6 - 2.75%, and any unused funds can be applied to the principal.
- *Leveraged loans* are designed primarily for investment-grade borrowers with projects over \$3M. This type of loan is used as security for bonds that are sold to increase the fund's loan capacity. The loan source comes from capitalization grant funds, state match funds and bond proceeds. Rates for leverage loans are typically 80% of Triple-A market rates. To date, the leveraged loan rates have been in the range of 1.28 - 4.60 %.

Government agencies and private non-profits determined to meet disadvantaged community criteria are eligible for a reduced interest rate.

Principal Forgiveness:

For base funding, the amount of principal forgiveness can range from 20-80%, according to a set of criteria and a scoring system, and is determined at loan application, for communities that meet disadvantaged community criteria. The BIL criteria are intended to expand the existing disadvantaged community criteria to include more communities.

For the BIL funding, principal forgiveness will be available to entities that meet the WPCRF BIL Principal Forgiveness Eligibility Criteria and the funding will be issued as a 49/51% (PF/loan) funding combination, net of set aside funds.

Time Frame for Completion:

While there is no strict limit on project time frames, the loan term is up to 30 years, and up to 40 years for disadvantaged communities, or the project's useful life (whichever is less). All loan approvals are valid for 18 months from the authority board approval date. Prioritized and approved loans that do not execute their loan within 18 months are reprioritized upon the next application deadline as necessary and require new board approval.

Eligibility Survey:

The first step to being considered for a DWRF loan is to complete an annual application survey, typically offered during the month of June. Completing the survey does not obligate the applicant to submit a more detailed application, but it is a necessary first step if the community does choose to apply.



Drinking Water State Revolving Fund: Emerging Contaminants Funding

Overview:

The [Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund](#) (DWSRF) program is a federal-state partnership established by the 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This financial assistance program helps water systems and states achieve the health protection objectives of the SDWA. Congress provides federal grants to states, through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). States, in turn, use those grants to administer low-interest loans to communities.

In Colorado, this takes the form of the [Drinking Water Revolving Fund \(DWRF\)](#), which provides financial assistance to government agencies and private non-profit public water systems for the construction of water projects intended to address the state's priority drinking water related public health, water quality, and drinking water infrastructure needs, and aid compliance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and invest in Colorado's water infrastructure.

Nationally, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) appropriates more than \$43B to be administered through the existing Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs from fiscal years 2022 through 2026. In Colorado, existing or base SRF program annual funding includes: \$21.7M for the DWRF and \$12.7M for the WPCRF. These "base" fundings remain in effect, and new BIL funding will be added to them. This includes \$121M in 2022, for:

- \$35M for the DWRF general supplemental funding (49% of this is required as grant or loan forgiveness)
- \$14M for the WPCRF general supplemental funding (49% of this is required as grant or loan forgiveness)
- \$55M lead service line replacement (through the DWRF; 49% of this is required as grant or loan forgiveness)
- \$14M to address emerging contaminants (through the DWRF; 100% of this is required as grant or loan forgiveness)
- \$747,000 to address emerging contaminants (through the WPCRF; 100% of this is required as grant or loan forgiveness)

Annual funding in 2023-2026 is expected to be similar to 2022.

Who Is Eligible?

This additional BIL funding is only available to Colorado local governments.

While any local Colorado government can apply, 25% of the funding for the DWRF Emerging Contaminants pot must go to disadvantaged communities or communities with populations less than 25K.

What Projects Are Eligible?

The loan is administered to fund capital projects. Eligible project categories [include](#) projects that address eligible emerging contaminants: “substances and microorganisms, including manufactured or naturally occurring physical, chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear materials, which are known or anticipated in the environment, that may pose newly identified or re-emerging risks to human health, aquatic life, or the environment. These substances, microorganisms or materials can include many different types of natural or manufactured chemicals and substances – such as those in some compounds of personal care products, pharmaceuticals, industrial chemicals, pesticides, and microplastics.” Emerging contaminants include perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and contaminants on EPA’s [Contaminant Candidate Lists](#).¹

Examples of projects and activities eligible for funding under this DWSRF appropriation include:

- Emerging contaminants costs associated with the construction of a new treatment facility or upgrade to an existing treatment facility that addresses emerging contaminants.
- Development of a new source (i.e., new/replacement well or intake for a public water system) that addresses an emerging contaminant issue.
- Consolidation with another water system that does not have emerging contaminants present or has removal capability.
- Costs for planning and design and associated pre-project costs.
- Infrastructure related to pilot testing for treatment alternatives.
- Creation of a new community water system to address unsafe drinking water provided by individual (i.e., privately-owned) wells or surface water sources.

¹ Additional eligibility details and requirements for this category are defined in the [EPA BIL SRF Implementation Memo](#) dated March 8, 2022.

Min/Max Total Project Cost: Determined by the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority (CWRPDA) board based on market conditions.

Interest Rates: This funding will be issued 100% as principal forgiveness and/or grants.

Principal Forgiveness: This funding will be issued 100% as principal forgiveness and/or grants.

Time Frame for Completion:

While there is no strict limit on project time frames, the loan term is up to 30 years, and up to 40 years for disadvantaged communities, or the project's useful life (whichever is less). All loan approvals are valid for 18 months from the authority board approval date. Prioritized and approved loans that do not execute their loan within 18 months are reprioritized upon the next application deadline as necessary and require new board approval.

Prioritizing Small Communities:

At least 25% of these funds must go to communities meeting the DWRF BIL Principal Forgiveness Eligibility Criteria OR communities with populations less than 25,000.



Drinking Water State Revolving Fund: Lead Service Line Funding

Overview:

The [Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund \(DWSRF\)](#) program is a federal-state partnership established by the 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This financial assistance program helps water systems and states achieve the health protection objectives of the SDWA. Congress provides federal grants to states, through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). States, in turn, use those grants to administer low-interest loans to communities.

In Colorado, this takes the form of the [Drinking Water Revolving Fund \(DWRf\)](#), which provides financial assistance to government agencies and private non-profit public water systems for the construction of water projects intended to address the state's priority drinking water related public health, water quality, and drinking water infrastructure needs, and aid compliance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and invest in Colorado's water infrastructure.

Nationally, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) appropriates more than \$43B to be administered through the existing Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs from fiscal years 2022 through 2026. In Colorado, existing or base SRF program annual funding includes: \$21.7M for the DWRf and \$12.7M for the WPCRF. These "base" fundings remain in effect, and new BIL funding will be added to them. This includes \$121M in 2022, for:

- \$35M for the DWRf general supplemental funding (49% of this is required as grant or loan forgiveness)
- \$14M for the WPCRF general supplemental funding (49% of this is required as grant or loan forgiveness)
- \$55M lead service line replacement (through the DWRf; 49% of this is required as grant or loan forgiveness)
- \$14M to address emerging contaminants (through the DWRf; 100% of this is required as grant or loan forgiveness)
- \$747,000 to address emerging contaminants (through the WPCRF; 100% of this is required as grant or loan forgiveness)

Annual funding in 2023-2026 is expected to be similar to 2022.

Who Is Eligible?

Government agencies and private non-profit public water systems are eligible for base SRF funding. Additional BIL funding for Drinking Water SRFs is only available to Colorado local governments.

What Projects Are Eligible?

The loan is administered to fund capital projects. For a project or activity to be eligible for funding under this appropriation, it must be otherwise DWSRF eligible and be a lead service line replacement project or associated activity directly connected to the identification, planning, design, and replacement of lead service lines. Any project funded

under this appropriation involving the replacement of a lead service line must replace the entire lead service line, not just a portion, unless a portion has already been replaced. To address household affordability concerns and to minimize adverse public health effects, the EPA encourages states to fund projects that cover the private portion of service line replacements at no additional cost to the homeowner.

Min/Max Total Project Cost:

Determined by the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority (CWRPDA) board based on market conditions.

Interest Rates:

The CWRPDA board determines the interest rate for direct loans and the interest rate subsidy for leveraged loans.

- *Direct loans* are designed for smaller projects, at or under \$3M, unless otherwise approved by the authority board. Direct loans in excess of \$3M may be offered based on market conditions. The direct loan sources are capitalization grant funds and/or re-loan funds. Rates for direct loans typically range from 0.6 - 2.75%, and any unused funds can be applied to the principal.
- *Leveraged loans* are designed primarily for investment-grade borrowers with projects over \$3M. This type of loan is used as security for bonds that are sold to increase the fund's loan capacity. The loan source comes from capitalization grant funds, state match funds and bond proceeds. Rates for leverage loans are typically 80% of Triple-A market rates. To date, the leveraged loan rates have been in the range of 1.28 - 4.60%.

Government agencies and private non-profits determined to meet disadvantaged community criteria are eligible for a reduced interest rate.

Principal Forgiveness:

Principal forgiveness will be available to entities that meet the DWRF BIL Principal Forgiveness Eligibility Criteria. 49% of the capitalization grant amount will be issued as additional subsidization in the form of principal forgiveness and/or grants.

Time Frame for Completion:

While there is no strict limit on project time frames, the loan term is up to 30 years, and up to 40 years for disadvantaged communities, or the project's useful life (whichever is less). All loan approvals are valid for 18 months from the authority board approval date. Prioritized and approved loans that do not execute their loan within 18 months are reprioritized upon the next application deadline as necessary and require new board approval.

Eligibility Survey:

The first step to being considered for a DWRF loan is to complete an annual application survey, typically offered during the month of June. Completing the survey does not obligate the applicant to submit a more detailed application, but it is a necessary first step if the community does choose to apply.



Water Pollution Control State Revolving Fund: General Supplemental Funding

Overview:

The [Clean Water State Revolving Fund \(CWSRF\)](#) program is a federal-state partnership that provides communities low-cost financing for a wide range of water quality infrastructure projects. The program was created by the 1987 amendments to the Clean Water Act (CWA). Congress provides federal grants to states, through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). States, in turn, use those grants to administer low-interest loans to communities for constructing water infrastructure that help them meet the water quality requirements of the CWA.

In Colorado, this takes the form of the [Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund \(WPCRF\)](#), which provides financial assistance to governmental agencies for the construction of wastewater projects that improve public and environmental health, and address the state's priority water related public health, water quality and infrastructure needs.

Nationally, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) appropriates more than \$43B to be administered through the existing Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs from fiscal years 2022 through 2026. In Colorado, existing or base SRF program annual funding includes: \$21.7M for the DWRF and \$12.7M for the WPCRF. These "base" fundings remain in effect, and new BIL funding will be added to them. This includes \$121M in 2022, for:

- \$35M for the DWRF general supplemental funding (49% of this is required as grant or loan forgiveness)
- \$14M for the WPCRF general supplemental funding (49% of this is required as grant or loan forgiveness)
- \$55M lead service line replacement (through the DWRF; 49% of this is required as grant or loan forgiveness)
- \$14M to address emerging contaminants (through the DWRF; 100% of this is required as grant or loan forgiveness)
- \$747,000 to address emerging contaminants (through the WPCRF; 100% of this is required as grant or loan forgiveness)

Annual funding in 2023-2026 is expected to be similar to 2022.

Who Is Eligible?

Colorado local governments are eligible to apply.

What Projects Are Eligible?

The loan is administered to fund capital projects. Eligible project categories include:

1. Treatment
2. Conservation and management plan
3. Decentralized wastewater treatment systems
4. Stormwater management projects
5. Water conservation, efficiency, or reuse
6. Watershed projects (e.g., streambank restoration and post-fire mitigation efforts)
7. Energy efficiency of publicly owned treatment works
8. Water reclamation (reuse or recycling of wastewater, stormwater, subsurface drainage water)
9. Security measures

A more detailed description of eligibility is available in the [EPA Overview of Clean Water Revolving Fund Eligibilities](#), and examples of potential projects can also be found in the 2022 and 2023 [Intended Use Plans](#) for Colorado.

Min/Max Total Project Cost:

Determined by the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority (CWRPDA) board based on market conditions.

Interest Rates:

The CWRPDA board determines the interest rate for direct loans and the interest rate subsidy for leveraged loans.

- *Direct loans* are designed for smaller projects, at or under \$3M, unless otherwise approved by the authority board. Direct loans in excess of \$3M may be offered based on market conditions. The direct loan sources are capitalization grant funds and/or re-loan funds. Rates for direct loans typically range from 0.6 - 2.75%, and any unused funds can be applied to the principal.
- *Leveraged loans* are designed primarily for investment-grade borrowers with projects over \$3M. This type of loan is used as security for bonds that are sold to increase the fund's loan capacity. The loan source comes from capitalization grant funds, state match funds and bond proceeds. Rates for leverage loans are typically 80% of Triple-A market rates. To date, the leveraged loan rates have been in the range of 1.28 - 4.60%.

Government agencies determined to meet disadvantaged community criteria or Green Project Reserve criteria are eligible for reduced interest rates.

Principal Forgiveness:

The amount of principal forgiveness can range from 20-80%, according to a set of criteria and a scoring system, and is determined at loan application, for communities that meet disadvantaged community criteria. The BIL criteria are intended to expand the existing disadvantaged community criteria to include more communities.

Time Frame for Completion:

While there is no strict limit on project time frames, the loan term is up to 30 years, and up to 40 years for disadvantaged communities, or the project's useful life (whichever is less). All loan approvals are valid for 18 months from the authority board approval date. Prioritized and approved loans that do not execute their loan within 18 months are reprioritized upon the next application deadline as necessary and require new board approval.

Green Project Reserve:

The Green Project Reserve provides additional reductions in interest rates to WPCRF projects focused on critical green infrastructure, water efficiency improvements, energy efficiency improvements, and other environmentally innovative activities. Additional information about the reserve and project eligibility is available [here](#).



Water Pollution Control State Revolving Fund: Emerging Contaminants Funding

Overview:

The [Clean Water State Revolving Fund \(CWSRF\)](#) program is a federal-state partnership that provides communities low-cost financing for a wide range of water quality infrastructure projects. The program was created by the 1987 amendments to the Clean Water Act (CWA). Congress provides federal grants to states, through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). States, in turn, use those grants to administer low-interest loans to communities for constructing water infrastructure that help them meet the water quality requirements of the CWA.

In Colorado, this takes the form of the [Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund \(WPCRF\)](#), which provides financial assistance to governmental agencies for the construction of

wastewater projects that improve public and environmental health, and address the state's priority water related public health, water quality and infrastructure needs.

Nationally, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) appropriates more than \$43B to be administered through the existing Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs from fiscal years 2022 through 2026. In Colorado, existing or base SRF program annual funding includes: \$21.7M for the DWRF and \$12.7M for the WPCRF. These "base" fundings remain in effect, and new BIL funding will be added to them. This includes \$121M in 2022, for:

- \$35M for the DWRF general supplemental funding (49% of this is required as grant or loan forgiveness)
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- \$55M lead service line replacement (through the DWRF; 49% of this is required as grant or loan forgiveness)
- \$14M to address emerging contaminants (through the DWRF; 100% of this is required as grant or loan forgiveness)
- \$747,000 to address emerging contaminants (through the WPCRF; 100% of this is required as grant or loan forgiveness)

Annual funding in 2023-2026 is expected to be similar to 2022.

Who Is Eligible?

Colorado local governments are eligible to apply. While any local Colorado government can apply, disadvantaged communities will be prioritized.

What Projects Are Eligible?

The loan is administered to fund capital projects. Eligible project categories include those that address [emerging contaminants](#): "substances and microorganisms, including manufactured or naturally occurring physical, chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear materials, which are known or anticipated in the environment, that may pose newly identified or re-emerging risks to human health, aquatic life, or the environment. These substances, microorganisms or materials can include many different types of natural or

manufactured chemicals and substances – such as those in some compounds of personal care products, pharmaceuticals, industrial chemicals, pesticides, and microplastics."²

Min/Max Total Project Cost: Determined by the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority (CWRPDA) board based on market conditions.

Interest Rates: All of the funding from the BIL to address emerging contaminants will be distributed 100% through grants or loan forgiveness.

Principal Forgiveness: All of the funding from the BIL to address emerging contaminants will be distributed 100% through grants or loan forgiveness.

Time Frame for Completion:

While there is no strict limit on project time frames, the loan term is up to 30 years, and up to 40 years for disadvantaged communities, or the project's useful life (whichever is less). All loan approvals are valid for 18 months from the authority board approval date. Prioritized and approved loans that do not execute their loan within 18 months are reprioritized upon the next application deadline as necessary and require new board approval.

² The specific eligibility requirements and eligible emerging contaminants for this category of funding are defined in the EPA BIL SRF Implementation Memo dated March 8, 2022: https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-03/combined_srf-implementation-memo_final_03.2022.pdf.

State Revolving Fund Grants

SRF applicants that meet disadvantaged community criteria and are on the current year's Intended Use Plan (Appendix A - Project Eligibility List) are eligible to apply for State Revolving Fund Planning Grants and Design and Engineering Grants, which are designed to assist applicants with the costs of complying with program requirements. Additional information about both grant programs follows below.



State Revolving Fund: Planning Grant

Overview:

The intent of the [State Revolving Fund Planning Grant](#) is to assist applicants with the costs of complying with SRF program requirements such as project needs assessments, environmental assessments, energy audits, and the legal and accounting fees that may be associated with the formation of a government entity. Planning Grants are only intended to assist disadvantaged communities that expect to come through the SRF program (e.g., that are included in that year's list of potential projects in the Intended Use Plan).

Who Is Eligible?

Entities that meet the disadvantaged community criteria and have the project on the current year's Intended Use Plan are eligible. For DWRF applicants, this includes local Colorado governments and private non-profit public water systems. For WPCRF applicants, this includes local Colorado governments.

Planning Grant requests are included as part of the pre-qualification process; applicants are required to have a pre-qualification meeting with SRF program staff and to complete a pre-qualification form.

What Projects Are Eligible?

The intent of this planning grant is to assist applicants with the costs of complying with SRF program requirements, such as project needs assessments, environmental assessments, energy audits, and the legal and accounting fees that may be associated with the formation of a government entity.

Min/Max Total Project Cost: One planning grant of up to \$10K may be awarded per disadvantaged community, per project. The Authority Board may review and adjust the maximum Planning Grant amount if necessary.

Cost Share Requirement: 20% applicant cost share

Source(s) of Matching Funds: Not specified.

Time Frame for Completion: Planning grant terms are no longer than one year, unless otherwise approved by the authority board or its executive director.

Application Process:

Any intent to apply for a Planning Grant should be discussed during the pre-qualification process, through a meeting with SRF program staff. Pre-qualification meetings typically occur *before* the preferred SRF application deadline.



State Revolving Fund: Design and Engineering Grant

Overview:

The intent of the [SRF Design and Engineering Grant](#) program is to assist SRF applicants with the costs of complying with eligible design and engineering expenditures. Design and Engineering Grants are only intended to assist disadvantaged communities that expect to come through the SRF program (e.g., that are included in that year's list of potential projects in the Intended Use Plan). Design and engineering grant applicants are considered during the project needs assessment submissions phase of the SRF application process.

Who Is Eligible?

Entities that meet the disadvantaged community criteria with the project on the current year Drinking Water Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan are eligible for Design & Engineering Grants. For DWRF applicants, this includes local Colorado governments and private non-profit public water systems, and non-profit applicants. For WPCRF applicants,

this includes local Colorado governments. The applicant must submit a project needs assessment and an environmental determination checklist to initiate grant eligibility.

What Projects Are Eligible?

The grant assists with costs associated with eligible design expenditures.

Min/Max Total Project Cost:

Total costs up to \$300K. Design and engineering grant amounts depend on the size and need of a project. Up to 80% of the grant can be reimbursed before the SRF loan application is received. The final 20% will be reimbursed upon SRF loan execution.

The Authority Board may review and adjust the maximum design & engineering grant amount if necessary. The amount of the grant is determined by actual design and engineering fees relative to total project costs, and depends on the size and need of a project. Up to 80% of the grant can be reimbursed before the SRF loan application is received. The final 20% will be reimbursed upon SRF loan execution.

Cost Share Requirement: 20% applicant cost share.

Source(s) of Matching Funds: Not specified.

Time Frame for Completion: The Design & Engineering grants have an 18-month expiration, unless otherwise approved by the authority board or authority executive director.

Application Process:

Any intent to apply for a Design and Engineering Fund Grant should be discussed during the pre-qualification process, through a meeting with SRF program staff. The applicant must submit a *project needs assessment* and an *environmental determination checklist* to initiate grant eligibility.



Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA)

Overview:

The [Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act \(WIFIA\) program](#) accelerates investment in water and wastewater infrastructure by providing long-term, low-cost, supplemental credit assistance under customized terms to creditworthy water and wastewater projects of national and regional significance. It was signed into law in 2014 and provides long-term, low-cost supplemental loans for regionally and nationally significant projects. The program received \$50M from the BIL.

Who Is Eligible?

The entity applying for WIFIA credit assistance must be one of the following:

- Local, state, tribal, and federal government entities
- Partnerships and joint ventures
- Corporations and trusts
- Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs

What Projects Are Eligible?

The loan is administered to fund capital projects.

Eligible projects include:

- Projects eligible under the Clean Water SRF & the Drinking Water SRF
- Wastewater conveyance and treatment projects
- Drinking water treatment and distribution projects
- Enhanced energy efficiency projects at drinking water and wastewater facilities
- Desalination, aquifer recharge, and water recycling projects
- Acquisition of property if it is integral to the project or will mitigate the environmental impact of a project
- A combination of eligible projects secured by a common security pledge or submitted under one application by an SRF program

Min/Max Total Project Cost:

\$20M minimum project size for large communities; \$5M minimum project size for small communities (population of 25,000 or less). The amount of WIFIA credit assistance may not exceed 49% of the reasonably anticipated eligible project costs.

Interest Rates: Interest rate is equal to the US Treasury rate of a similar maturity.

Principal Forgiveness: NA

Time Frame for Completion: 5 years is the maximum time that repayment may be deferred after substantial completion of the project. The final maturity date of the WIFIA credit instrument must be the earlier of 35 years after the date of substantial completion of the relevant project or the useful life of the project (as determined by the Administrator).

Additional WIFIA Resources:

Additional information about the WIFIA program is collated at WaterNow's [Tap Into Resilience Library](#), including:

- An overview of past selected projects
- A self-paced, interactive training module designed to teach prospective borrowers about WIFIA financing.
- An overview of potential terms and conditions that may be applicable in a WIFIA transaction, including various options that the WIFIA program can offer.
- The WIFIA Public Handbook, which details how EPA administers the WIFIA program to help prospective borrowers understand the requirements and procedures for WIFIA funding.
- A summary of the program and its benefits.



FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants: Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)

Overview:

The Federal Environment Management Agency (FEMA) [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\)](#) program supports states, local communities, tribes and territories as they undertake hazard mitigation projects, reducing the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards. BRIC mitigates all natural hazards, and focuses on transformative infrastructure and community-level projects. Funds are distributed both through

allocations to states and territories (Colorado has a state allocation of \$1M), through tribal set-asides, and through a national competition for hazard mitigation projects.

The guiding principles of the program are to: (1) support state and local governments, tribes, and territories through capability and capacity-building to enable them to identify mitigation actions and implement projects that reduce risks posed by natural hazards; (2) encourage and enable innovation; (3) promote partnerships and enable high-impact investments to reduce risk from natural hazards with a focus on critical services and facilities, public infrastructure, public safety, public health, and communities; (4) provide a significant opportunity to reduce future losses and minimize impacts on the Disaster Relief Fund; and (5) support the adoption and enforcement of building codes, standards, and policies that will protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the public, take into account future conditions, and have long-lasting impacts on community risk reduction, including for critical services and facilities and for future disaster costs.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Act provides \$1B over five years, which is in addition to the funding FEMA provides, by setting aside up to 6% of the assistance the agency provides following major disaster declarations through the Public Assistance and Individuals and Households Program.

Who Is Eligible?

Local governments are eligible for this grant.

Each state, territory, the District of Columbia, and federally recognized tribal government designates one agency to serve as the applicant for BRIC funding. Communities, including local governments, cities, townships, counties, special district governments, and tribal governments are considered sub-applicants and must submit sub-applications for financial assistance to this administering state agency (in Colorado, this is the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM)).

What Projects Are Eligible?

This grant supports capital and planning projects. Eligible projects [include](#):

- Capability- and Capacity-Building (C&CB) activities, which enhance the knowledge, skills, expertise, etc., of the current workforce to expand or improve the administration of mitigation assistance (e.g., building codes activities, partnerships, project scoping, hazard mitigation planning and planning- related activities).

- Hazard Mitigation Projects (construction), cost-effective projects designed to increase resilience and public safety; reduce injuries and loss of life; and reduce damage and destruction to property, critical services, facilities, and infrastructure (including natural systems) from a multitude of natural hazards and the effects of climate change.
- (3) Management Costs – financial assistance to reimburse the recipient and subrecipient for eligible and reasonable indirect costs, direct administrative costs, and other administrative expenses associated with a specific mitigation measure or project (in an amount up to 15% of the total grant amount).

Common project types [include](#) acquisitions, elevation, flood control, Hazard Mitigation Plan updates, mitigation reconstruction, project scoping, retrofits, stabilization and restoration, and utility/infrastructure projection.

Min/Max Total Project Cost: Not specified.

Cost Share Requirement:

A non-federal cost share is required for all sub-applications funded under BRIC. Generally, there is a 25% non-federal cost share.

Economically disadvantaged rural communities, also known as small, impoverished communities, are eligible for a reduced non-federal cost share, as low as 10%.

Economically disadvantaged rural communities are communities of 3,000 or fewer individuals identified by the applicant, with residents having an average per capita annual income not exceeding 80% of the national per capita income, based on best available data.

Source(s) of Matching Funds: A non-federal cost share may consist of cash, donated or third-party in-kind services, materials, or any combination thereof.

Time Frame for Completion: 36 months from the start date (typically; extension requests are also possible).

Direct Technical Assistance:

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Direct Technical Assistance (DTA) gives full support to communities that may not have the resources to begin climate resilience planning and project solution design on their own. This support could include activities such as climate risk assessment, community engagement, partnership building, and mitigation and climate adaptation planning. Additional details are available [here](#).



USFS & USDA Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program

Overview:

The purpose of the United States Forest Service (USFS) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) [Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program](#) is to encourage the collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration of priority forest landscapes. The program also seeks to:

- Encourage ecological, economic, and social sustainability
- Leverage local resources with national and private resources
- Facilitate the reduction of wildfire management costs, including through re-establishing natural fire regimes and reducing the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire
- Demonstrate the degree to which various ecological restoration techniques achieve ecological and watershed health objectives
- Encourage utilization of forest restoration by-products to offset treatment costs, to benefit local rural economies, to and improve forest health

Who Is Eligible?

Proposals are submitted by the USDA Forest Service Regional Office, reflecting partnerships/proposals by collaborative groups of businesses; non-profit organizations; local, state and tribal governments; and other federal agencies (e.g., Department of Interior).

What Projects Are Eligible?

The grant funds capital projects.

Project criteria include a complete or substantially complete landscape restoration strategy that:

- Identifies and prioritizes ecological restoration treatments for a 10-year period within a landscape
- Covers at least 50,000 acres
- Primarily includes forested National Forest System land (but may also include land under the jurisdiction of the: Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, or other Federal, State, tribal, or private land)
- Is accessible by existing or proposed wood-processing infrastructure at an appropriate scale to use woody biomass and small-diameter wood removed in ecological restoration treatments
- Does not include the establishment of permanent roads, and would commit funding to decommission all temporary roads constructed to carry out the strategy
- Employs a transparent, nonexclusive, and collaborative process to develop and implement the strategy, that includes multiple interested persons representing diverse interests
- Reduces the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire
- Improves fish and wildlife habitat, including for endangered, threatened, and sensitive species
- Maintains or improves water quality and watershed function
- Prevents, remediates, or controls invasions of exotic species
- Maintains, decommissions, and rehabilitates roads and trails

Priority is given to projects which provide social and economic benefits to local communities, including disadvantaged communities, and which implement a strong multi-party monitoring process.

A detailed list of project criteria is available [here](#).

Min/Max Total Project Cost:

Projects may request up to \$4M annually for discretionary expenses (such as contracts, agreements, materials, supply, and fleet). The program does not cover salary and expenses (e.g., it does not cover permanent and temporary employees), overtime, awards, travel, training, or transfer of station.

Cost Share Requirement: At least 50% match required from the applicant.

Source(s) of Matching Funds:

Forest Service funding, partner contributions (in-kind and through agreements), goods for services through stewardship contracting, and revenue through Good Neighbor Authority to be reinvested in restoration.

Time Frame for Completion:

A CFLR restoration project must plan for 10 years of restoration treatments. Multiparty monitoring is required to assess the positive and negative ecological, social, and economic effects of projects implementing a selected proposal for not less than 15 years after implementation commences. Annual reporting is required.

Project Administration:

The large scale of this grant program, its tendency to favor multi-party collaboration, and the need for long-term implementation and monitoring make it a unique grant to administer. Successful projects are typically led by state forestry departments.



NRCS Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) Program

Overview:

The National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) [Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program](#) (WFPO) helps state government entities, local municipalities, conservation districts, and federally-recognized tribal organizations (referred to as *project sponsors* in grant materials) protect and restore watersheds up to 250,000 acres.

Through this program, the Federal government, states and their political subdivisions cooperate to prevent erosion, floodwater and sediment damage; to further the conservation development, use and disposal of water; and to further the conservation and proper use of land in authorized watersheds.

Who Is Eligible?

Projects are sponsored by one or more local organizations. In essence, the sponsor acts as the fiscal agent and is responsible for initiating, supervising and maintaining the entire project as planned. Historically, sponsorship involves local government agencies or tribal authorities who have the ability to create revenue to maintain the structure/project over its lifetime and ensure the continued protection and safety of the community it serves.

More details can be found in the [Sponsor Guide](#).

What Projects Are Eligible?

This grant supports the planning and implementation of projects at the watershed scale, for watersheds of up to 250,000 acres.

Eligible projects provide the following benefits:

- Erosion and sediment control
- Watershed protection
- Flood prevention
- Water quality improvements
- Rural, municipal and industrial water supply
- Water management
- Fish and wildlife habitat enhancement
- Hydropower sources

Proposals must include at least 20% in benefits to agriculture and/or rural communities.

Min/Max Total Project Cost: Maximum \$25M per project.

Cost Share Requirement:

No cost share for planning projects. Cost share for project installation and construction is variable depending on project type. See the [2021 NRCS WFPO Fact Sheet](#) for more details.

Source(s) of Matching Funds: Not specified.

Time Frame for Completion: None given.

Program Priorities:

Priorities for the FY22 WFPO program include requests that help address western drought and water, or which serve historically underserved and socially disadvantaged communities, tribal communities, and new sponsors.



Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership Program

Overview:

The [Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership](#) enables the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Forest Service to collaborate with agricultural producers and forest landowners to invest in conservation and restoration at a big enough scale to make a difference. Working in partnership, and at this scale, helps reduce wildfire threats, protect water quality and supply, and improve wildlife habitat for at-risk species.

Through the new three-year projects, landowners will work with local USDA experts and partners to apply targeted forestry management practices on their land, such as thinning, hazardous fuel treatments, fire breaks and other systems to meet unique forestry challenges in their area.

Who Is Eligible?

Past partners have included county, state, and tribal participants, utilities, and private individual stakeholders.

What Projects Are Eligible?

The Joint Chiefs' program funds partnerships between the Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and local partners, prioritizing projects which include:

- Clear descriptions with goals and objectives, deliverables, timeline and measurable desired outcomes.
- Reduction of wildfire risk in a municipal watershed or the wildland-urban interface (WUI).
- Development of the proposal through a collaborative process with participation from diverse stakeholders.

- Increase of forest workforce capacity or forest business infrastructure and development.
- Leveraging existing authorities and non-federal funding contributions from partners.
- Support of established state, Tribal and regional priorities (e.g., firehatched analysis, wildfire risk assessment, state technical committee watershed prioritization, Endangered Species Act recovery plan, state wildlife action plan, etc.).
- Alignment with USDA priorities and the Justice40 initiative, including benefits to historically underserved communities and climate mitigation and adaptation efforts.
- Partner participation in proposal development or project implementation.
- Coordination (i.e., pre-planning) with individual landowners within the proposal footprint.
- The geographic distribution of individual project activities across the landscape demonstrates a focus on resource conditions and a balance between land ownerships.
- Education and outreach to local communities about the project.

Min/Max Total Project Cost:

Recent past projects have been funded at levels ranging from \$200K to \$2.8M per year, on a three year timeline.

Cost Share Requirement: N/A; the program fully funds the partnership projects it supports.

Source(s) of Matching Funds: N/A

Time Frame for Completion: Partnerships are funded for three years.

Proposal Development:

Project proposals are developed through a collaborative process between NRCS, the Forest Service, and project partners. Proposals are reviewed and vetted at multiple levels in the agencies based on local, state, tribal and regional priorities. To initiate the process, prospective partners should reach out to local Forest Service and NRCS leadership.



Environmental Protection Agency: Clean Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program

Overview:

The Clean Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program is a new funding opportunity created in the [BIL \(Sect. 50205\)](#). It has yet to be implemented, but will fund projects that increase the resilience of publicly owned treatment works to a natural hazard or cybersecurity vulnerability.

Who Is Eligible?

Municipalities; or intermunicipal, interstate, or state agencies.

What Projects Are Eligible?

Both planning and capital projects will be funded under this program.

Projects should address the resilience of a publicly owned treatment works to natural hazards or cybersecurity vulnerabilities through:

- Water conservation
- Water use efficiency enhancements
- The enhancement of wastewater and stormwater management by increasing watershed preservation and protection, including through the use of:
 - Natural and engineered green infrastructure
 - Reclamation and reuse of wastewater and stormwater, such as aquifer recharge zones
- Modifying or relocating an existing publicly owned treatment works, conveyance, or discharge system component that is at risk of being significantly impaired or damaged by a natural hazard
- Developing and implementing projects to increase the resilience of publicly owned treatment works to a natural hazard or cybersecurity vulnerabilities, as applicable
- Enhancing energy efficiency or the use and generation of recovered or renewable energy in the management, treatment, or conveyance of wastewater or stormwater

Min/Max Total Project Cost: Not specified.

Cost Share Requirement:

Generally, a grant under the program shall not exceed 75% of the total cost of the proposed project, 25% non-Federal cost share. For applicants with populations of fewer than 10,000 or those which meet affordability criteria established by the state, the grant shall not exceed 90% of the total cost, 10% non-Federal cost share. The Administrator of the grant has discretion to grant 100% of the total cost of the proposed project.

Source(s) of Matching Funds: Not specified.

Time Frame for Completion: Not specified.

Program History:

Originally formulated as a separate bill in 2019, this program was incorporated as part of the BIL. Its application process, when opened, will focus on evidence for the natural hazard or cybersecurity risk to be mitigated through a project.



Environmental Protection Agency: Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Resilience and Sustainability Program

Overview:

The Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Resilience and Sustainability Program is a new funding opportunity created in the [BIL \(Sect. 50107\)](#). It has yet to be implemented, but the program is intended to aid the climate resilience efforts of drinking water systems that do not serve small or disadvantaged communities (and are therefore ineligible for assistance through the separate Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program).

Who Is Eligible?

Municipalities; or intermunicipal, interstate, or state agencies that serve communities with populations of 10,000 or more.

Half the grant funding awarded by EPA will be reserved for eligible systems serving 10,000 or more people but fewer than 100,000, while the remainder will be dedicated to eligible systems serving 100,000 or more people.

What Projects Are Eligible?

Both planning and capital projects will be funded under this program.

Funds are to be used to assist in the planning, design, construction, implementation, operation, or maintenance of a program or project that increases resilience to natural hazards and extreme weather events, or reduces cybersecurity vulnerabilities, through:

- Water conservation and water-use efficiency, including the use and generation of renewable energy in the conveyance or treatment of drinking water.
- Modification or relocation of existing drinking water system infrastructure at risk of being significantly impaired by natural hazards or extreme weather events.
- The design or construction of new or modified desalination facilities to serve existing communities.
- The enhancement of water supply through the use of watershed management and source water protection.
- Measures to increase resilience to natural hazards and extreme weather events or to reduce cybersecurity vulnerabilities.
- The conservation of water or the enhancement of a water supply through the implementation of water reuse measures;
- The formation of regional water partnerships to collaboratively address documented water shortages.

Min/Max Total Project Cost: Not specified.

Cost Share Requirement: Not specified.

Source(s) of Matching Funds: Not specified.

Time Frame for Completion: Not specified.

Program History:

Originally formulated as a separate bill in 2019, this program was incorporated as part of the BIL. Its application process, when opened, will focus on evidence for the natural hazard or cybersecurity risk to be mitigated through a project.



Community Wildfire Defense Grant Program: Development or Update to Community Wildfire Protection Plan (Western States and Territories)

Overview:

The [Community Wildfire Defense Grants](#) are intended to help at-risk communities and Tribes located within the wild urban interface (WUI) implement the three goals of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (Cohesive Strategy). At-risk communities and Tribes are identified as having high or very high wildfire hazard potential, are low-income, and/or have been recently impacted by a severe disaster. The three goals of the Cohesive Strategy are to: restore and maintain landscapes, create fire adapted communities, and improve wildfire response.

Projects should aim to restore and maintain landscapes across all jurisdictions to improve resiliency to fire related disturbances, in accordance with management objectives; create fire adapted communities where human populations and infrastructure can better withstand a wildfire without loss of life and property; improve wildfire response throughout all jurisdictions and participate in making and implementing safe, effective, efficient risk-based wildfire management decisions.

Who Is Eligible?

Local governments, tribes, non-profit organizations, State forestry agencies, and Alaska Native Corporations

What Projects Are Eligible?

The Community Wildfire Defense Grant Program funds planning projects.

Eligible lands include: private, local government, homeowner associations, State government, Tribal and Alaska Native Corporations which includes Trust Lands.

Eligible projects include planning projects, such as:

- Creating a Community Wildfire Protection Plan or the development of a wildfire section for a hazard mitigation plan;
- Updating an existing CWPP/hazard mitigation plan (5+ years old);
- Contracting support to assist a community with developing building codes, zoning ordinances or land use planning;
- Directing staff funding support to assist a community with developing building codes, zoning ordinances or land use planning;
- Running tabletop or functional exercises to test effectiveness of community wildfire planning;
- Planning and addressing public health and safety effects of smoke and mitigation from wildfire and projects that use prescribed fire;
- Directing staff support for community wildfire mitigation leadership/coordination;
- Training in the use of proven effective mitigation practices; and
- Directing staff support to assist in creation of a local or regional mitigation partnership.

Projects should further the priority, goal, strategy, and/or priority landscape in the most recent State Forest Action Plans as well as relevant regional cohesive wildland fire management strategy documents.

Min/Max Total Project Cost: \$250K max

Cost Share Requirement: Not less than 10% non-federal cost share

Source(s) of Matching Funds: Cash, donated or third-party in-kind services, materials, or any combination thereof. Underserved communities may request a waiver of match.

Time Frame for Completion: 5 years

Priority Scoring/Incentives:

Applicants with high or very high wildfire hazard potential, low-income communities, or communities impacted by a severe disaster receive priority scoring.



Community Wildfire Defense Grant Program: Project Implementation of Community Wildfire Protection Plan (Western States and Territories)

Overview:

The [Community Wildfire Defense Grants](#) are intended to help at-risk communities and Tribes located within the wild urban interface (WUI) implement the three goals of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (Cohesive Strategy). At-risk communities and tribes are identified as having high or very high wildfire hazard potential, are low-income, and/or have been recently impacted by a severe disaster. The three goals of the Cohesive Strategy are to: restore and maintain landscapes, create fire adapted communities, and improve wildfire response.

Supported projects aim to restore and maintain landscapes across all jurisdictions to improve resiliency to fire related disturbances, in accordance with management objectives; create fire adapted communities where human populations and infrastructure can better withstand a wildfire without loss of life and property; improve wildfire response throughout all jurisdictions and participate in making and implementing safe, effective, efficient risk-based wildfire management decisions.

Who Is Eligible?

Local governments, tribes, non-profit organizations, State forestry agencies, and Alaska Native Corporations

What Projects Are Eligible?

The Community Wildfire Defense Grant Program funds capital projects.

Eligible lands include: private, local government, homeowner associations, state government, tribal and Alaska Native Corporations, which includes Trust Lands.

Eligible project types include:

- *Prevention/Education/Outreach Projects*: Firewise USA or similar programs outreach to community and property owners; fire education presentation; property inspections and/or assessments; training to conduct property inspections and/or assessments; implementation of WUI structure/parcel/Community Fire Hazard Mitigation Methodology (HMM) for community hazard reduction; adoption, implementation, enforcement, and training of NFPA, ICC or similar codes.
- *Hazardous Fuels Reduction/Restoration Projects*: Clear defensible space around homes, businesses, and other structures; development, creation and/or maintenance of fuel breaks and fire breaks; fuels reduction beyond defensible space adjacent to at-risk communities; removal of standing woody vegetation; prescribed fire equipment, supplies, and implementation; vegetation management including rights-of-ways for roads; maintenance of fuels projects; monitoring components of projects for effectiveness; prescribed fire training; design and installation of dry hydrants and cisterns; purchase of mechanical equipment; and purchase of equipment for brush/fuel disposal.

Projects should further the priority, goal, strategy, and/or priority landscape in the most recent State Forest Action Plans, as well as relevant regional cohesive wildland fire management strategy documents.

Min/Max Project Cost: \$10M max

Cost Share Requirement: Not less than 25% non-federal cost share

Source(s) of Matching Funds: Cash, donated or third-party in-kind services, materials, or any combination thereof. Underserved communities may request a waiver of match.

Time Frame for Completion: 5 years

Priority Scoring/Incentives:

Applicants with high or very high wildfire hazard potential, low-income communities, or communities impacted by a severe disaster receive priority scoring.



FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants: FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant program

Overview:

FEMA's [Flood Mitigation Assistance](#) (FMA) grant program is a competitive program that awards funding to states, local communities, federally recognized tribes and territories for projects that reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings insured by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The goal of this program is to strengthen national preparedness and resilience against flood events.

Who Is Eligible?

Local governments, including cities, townships, counties, special district governments, and tribal governments (referred to as *subapplicants* in grant materials) apply to the FEMA FMA program through their state, territory, or federally recognized tribal governments (referred to as *applicants* in grant materials).

FEMA requires eligible local governments to develop and adopt a Hazard Mitigation Plan as a condition for receiving funding, and to be participating in the National Flood Insurance Program.

What Projects Are Eligible?

The FEMA FMA program funds capital and planning projects.

The program funds projects under three key areas:

- [Individual Flood Mitigation Activities](#): These projects mitigate the risk of flooding to individual National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) insured buildings (e.g., property acquisition, structure elevation, structure retrofitting, etc.). Additional priority

scoring criteria are awarded for projects that consider climate change and other future conditions, and incorporate nature-based solutions.

- [Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects](#): These projects address localized flood risk for the purpose of reducing National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) flood claim payments. Applications can include combinations of, but are not limited to:
 - Floodwater storage and diversion (bioretention ponds, detention ponds, bioswales, surface grading, outfalls, etc.)
 - Stormwater management (upsizing/expanding storm sewers, Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4), culverts, catch basins, increased green infrastructure and pervious surfaces, etc.)
 - Floodplain, wetland, marsh, riverine, and coastal restoration and protection (restoring natural ecosystem functions, bulkheads, pump stations)
 - Other combination of green, gray Infrastructure and [nature-based solutions](#)
 - Localized flood control projects with co-benefits to other hazards, social, and environmental benefits
- [Capability & Capacity Building \(C&CB\) Activities](#): These activities support hazard mitigation plans, technical assistance, and project scoping.

Projects should be cost-effective, as demonstrated by a benefit-cost ratio of 1.0 or higher using a FEMA-approved Benefit-Cost Analysis methodology.

Min/Max Total Project Cost:

- Individual Flood Mitigation Activities: FEMA may rank subapplications lower where the average elevation federal cost share is greater than \$250K for all single dwelling units or the average acquisition federal cost share is greater than \$750K for all single dwelling units
- Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects: \$50M max federal cost share per subapplication.
- Capability & Capacity-Building Activities:
 - Project Scoping - \$900K max per subapplication
 - Additional Capability and Capacity Building Activities (partnership development, enhancing local floodplain management; Severe Repetitive Loss/Repetitive Loss Strategy Plan Development; etc.) - \$300K max per subapplication

Cost Share Requirement:

Generally, the cost share for this program is 75% federal and 25% non-federal. This means federal funding is available for up to 75% of eligible costs, and the remaining 25% of eligible costs must be derived from non-federal sources.

As a result of the BIL funding, FEMA may contribute a higher federal cost share for qualifying projects, ranging from 90-100%. Qualification for this lower applicant cost share depends on factors including:

- Location within a census tract with a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) not less than 0.5001.
- Designation as a Severe Repetitive Loss or Repetitive Loss defined property.

Additional details are available in the [Individual Flood Mitigation Activities](#), [Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects](#), and [Capability & Capacity Building \(C&CB\) Activities](#) fact sheets.

Source(s) of Matching Funds: Non-federal contributions can be of cash, third-party in-kind services, materials, or any combination thereof.

Time Frame for Completion: 36 months from the start date (typically; extension requests are also possible).

Application Competitiveness:

For the fiscal year 2021 grant cycle, FEMA conducted two rounds of selections and received 194 subapplications from 25 states, requesting \$534M in federal cost share funding. In the end FEMA selected 61 projects from 19 states, a 31% selection rate.



FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants: FEMA Safeguarding Tomorrow Through Ongoing Risk Mitigation (STORM) Act

Overview:

The [Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation](#) (STORM) Act became law on January 1, 2021. The STORM Act to provide capitalization grants to establish revolving loan funds that provide hazard mitigation assistance for local governments to reduce risks from natural hazards and disasters. The Act amends the Robert T. Stafford Disaster and Emergency Assistance Act. On August 29, 2022, FEMA announced the funding opportunity to provide no less than \$50M through the new STORM Act's new Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) program. The low interest loans will allow jurisdictions to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters, foster greater community resilience, and reduce disaster suffering. Guidelines for this funding are currently under development, as of late 2022. An Intended Use Plan is required for any participating state entities receiving a capitalization grant for a revolving loan fund. The STORM Act allows FEMA to award capitalization grants for eligible entities to make funding decisions and award loans directly to local communities.

Who Is Eligible?

States, federally recognized tribes, Puerto Rico, and District of Columbia would apply for a grant, which they would then use to create revolving loan funds that local communities could apply for. Tribes must have received a major disaster declaration during the five-year period ending on Jan. 1, 2021 to be a participating entity.

What Projects Are Eligible?

The STORM act is expected to fund capital projects. Eligible project types include:

- Mitigation projects and activities to increase resilience and mitigate the impacts of events such as drought, extreme heat, severe storms, wildfires, floods, and earthquakes.
- Projects that prioritize low-impact development, wildland-urban interface management, conservation areas, reconnection of floodplain and open space projects.
- Building code adoption and enforcement in accordance with state, tribal, territorial, or District of Columbia Intended Use Plans for their fund.

- Zoning and land-use planning.

Min/Max Total Project Cost:

Currently undefined (\$100M is earmarked to be allocated over 5 years)

Cost Share Requirement:

The participating state, territorial, or tribal government deposits an amount that is 10% of the capitalization grant to an established entity loan fund.

- The entity loan fund provides assistance to local governments to expedite eligible mitigation activities in their communities with greater flexibility and autonomy.
- The lender entity is responsible for monitoring project progress and loan repayment for local communities.
- As local governments repay loans, these funds can be utilized for new loans.

Source(s) of Matching Funds: Currently undefined

Time Frame for Completion: Currently undefined

Program History:

As a new program there are significant unknown and undefined elements. Throughout the fall 2022, FEMA is facilitating stakeholder engagement focused on the development and implementation of the STORM Act.

NOTE: The information reflected in this summary was gathering during winter 2022/spring 2023, and will likely change over time, as program guidelines are updated.