

GRANT SUMMARY

BUSINESS OREGON: INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AUTHORITY (IFA)

SAFE DRINKING WATER LOAN PROGRAM

<i>Agency Name</i>	Business Oregon: Infrastructure Finance Authority
<i>Program Name</i>	Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund (SDWRLF)
<i>Application Deadline</i>	Not Stated
<i>Eligible Applicants</i>	Cities, Counties, County Service Districts, Tribal Councils, Ports, Airport Districts, Districts as defined in ORS 198.010
<i>Recipient Cost Share</i>	N/A
<i>Max. Funding Amount</i>	\$6 Million
<i>Funding Available</i>	Funding is provided yearly from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

SUMMARY

The Business Oregon - Infrastructure Finance Authority (IFA) Safe Drinking Water Programs fund drinking water system improvements needed to maintain compliance with the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. The Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund (SDWRLF) is designed for the collection, treatment, distribution and related infrastructure projects.

The Safe Drinking Water Fund is funded by yearly grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and matched with funds from the state Water/Wastewater Financing Program. The program is managed by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Drinking Water Services and the loans are managed by the Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority (IFA).

Funding is available for all sizes of water systems, although 15 percent of the funds are reserved for systems serving a population of fewer than 10,000.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Applicants:

Owners of water systems that provide service to at least 25 year-round residents or systems that have 15 or more connections (or a nonprofit with 25 or more regular users). Owners can be a nonprofit, private party or municipality, but systems cannot be federally owned or operated.

Eligible Projects:

A funded project must solve an existing or potential health hazard or noncompliance issue under federal/state water quality standards. The following are the main types of eligible activities:

- Engineering, design, upgrade, construction or installation of system improvements and equipment for water intake, filtration, treatment, storage, transmission
- Acquisitions of property or easements
- Planning, surveys, legal/technical support, and environmental review
- Investments to enhance the physical security of drinking water systems, as well as water sources

Ineligible Projects

- dams
- water rights
- ongoing operations
- primarily fire suppression
- projects that do not directly address (most severe) noncompliance/health risks
- future community growth beyond conventional population projections over the life of the project

KEY DATES

Safe Drinking Water LOI's to be considered in the next quarter (the state fiscal year 2017 Q2) are due by **December 15, 2016**.

FUNDING

SDWRLF loan amount: The program provides up to \$6 million per project (more with proper additional approval) with the possibility of subsidized interest rate and principal forgiveness for a Disadvantaged Community.

Terms: The standard loan term is 20 years or the useful life of project assets, whichever is less, and may be extended up to 30 years under SDWRLF for a Disadvantaged Community. Interest rates are 80 percent of state/local bond index rate.

APPLICATION AND EVALUATION

Step 1: Letter of Interest. An owner of a water system must submit a Letter of Interest.

- **For the SDWRLF,** Letters of Interest can be submitted at any time. The projects are rated and ranked for inclusion in the Intended Use Plan (IUP), which is provided each year to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

Step 2: Final Application. According to the available funds for the federal fiscal year, the rating and ranking scores create a separate priority list for SDWRLF that determines what projects are allowed to make final application to the IFA.

Note

Program information and procedures change frequently. For more in-depth information and to make sure that the proper steps are being taken to assess the viability of your project, please contact the Regional Coordinator for your area.