

# Funding Opportunities for Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste Improvements

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# Village Safe Water (VSW) Program

- Eligible communities:
  - Second class cities
  - First class cities or home rule municipalities with population less than 1,000
  - Native or Traditional Village Councils with population less than 1,000

# Village Safe Water (VSW) Program

Adak

Aleutians East Borough

Kotlik

Kake

Manokotak

Hughes

Northwest Arctic Borough

Bethel

# Village Safe Water (VSW) Program

- Eligible communities:
  - Second class cities
  - First class cities or home rule municipalities with population less than 1,000
  - Native or Traditional Village Councils with population less than 1,000
- VSW and Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) support

# Capital Improvement Project (CIP)

- Grants for planning, design, and construction for water, wastewater, and solid waste improvement projects
- Funding through Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and USDA Rural Development (USDA RD) with State match
- Administered by VSW
- Application period opens mid-April
- May apply for 1 planning and 1 construction project per year
- Projects scored in May, funding made available in Fall

# Capital Improvement Project (CIP)

- Must demonstrate capacity to operate and maintain utility
  - Operations and Maintenance Best Practice Scores
    - Total score of 60
    - 2 points each in Tax Liabilities and Worker's Compensation
  - No minimum score for Planning projects

# Capital Improvement Project (CIP)

Category	Best Practice	Points		
Technical	Operator Certification	Utility has more than one operator certified to the level of the water system	10	
		Primary operator is certified to the level of the water system and the backup operator holds some level of certification in water treatment or distribution	7	
		Primary operator is certified to the level of the water system and the backup operator holds no certification or there is no backup operator	5	
		Utility has one or more operators certified at some level in water treatment or distribution	3	
		Utility has no certified operators	0	
	Preventive Maintenance Plan	Utility has a written PM plan; PM is performed on schedule; records of completion are submitted on a quarterly basis and have been verified	25	
		Utility has a written PM plan; performance of PM and record keeping are not consistent	15	
		Utility has no PM plan or performs no PM	0	
	Compliance	Utility had no Monitoring and Reporting violations during the past year	10	
		Utility had up to five Monitoring and Reporting violation during the past year	5	
		Utility had more than five Monitoring and Reporting violation during the last year	0	
	<b>Total Technical Points</b>		<b>45</b>	
Managerial	Utility Management Training	A person who holds a position of responsibility for management of the utility has completed a DCRA approved Utility Management course or other utility management training course within the last five years	5	
	Meetings of the Governing Body	The utility owner's governing body meets routinely consistent with the local ordinance/bylaw requirements and receives a current report from the operator	5	
		The utility owner's governing body meets routinely consistent with the local ordinance/bylaw requirements	2	
		The utility owner's governing body does not meet	0	
<b>Total Managerial Points</b>		<b>10</b>		
Financial	Budget	Utility owner and the Utility have each adopted a realistic budget and budget amendments are adopted as needed; Accurate monthly budget reports are prepared and submitted to the governing body	15	
		Either the Utility or the Utility owner has adopted and implemented a budget, the other has not	13	
		Either the Utility or the Utility owner has adopted a budget, but it is not being implemented	10	
		Utility owner and the Utility have not adopted a budget	0	
	Revenue	Utility is collecting revenue sufficient to cover the Utility's operating expenses and to contribute to a repair and replacement account	20	
		Utility is collecting revenue sufficient to cover expenses	15	
		Utility has a fee schedule and a collection policy that is followed	5	
		Utility has no fee structure or collection policy	0	
	Worker's Compensation Insurance	Utility has had a workers' compensation policy for all employees for the past two years and has a current policy in place	5	
		Utility has a current workers' compensation policy in place for all employees	2	
		Utility has no workers' compensation policy	0	
	Payroll Liability Compliance	Utility has no past due tax liabilities and is current with all tax obligations	5	
Utility owes back taxes, but has a signed payment agreement, is current on that agreement, and is up-to-date with all other tax obligations		2		
Utility is not current with its tax obligations and/or does not have a signed repayment agreement for back taxes owed		0		
<b>Total Financial Points</b>		<b>45</b>		
<b>Total Points Possible</b>		<b>100</b>		

# Technical Assistance Programs

- DEC Remote Maintenance Worker (RMW) Program
  - Regionally based support team
  - DEC and regional health corporations
  - Onsite assistance and training for operators
- DCCED Rural Utility Business Advisor (RUBA) Program
  - Regionally based
  - Provide financial and managerial technical assistance and training for rural utilities



# Sanitation Deficiency System (SDS)

- Funding through Indian Health Service (IHS) and EPA
- Projects entered into SDS database in spring, funding available late winter
- *Now is the time to*
  - Contact your assigned engineer and regional health corporation
  - Identify needed projects
  - Develop a strategy for pursuing funding

# Infrastructure Protection Funding (IPF)

- One time legislative appropriation of \$4M in 2018
- Projects to address critical needs for a water, wastewater or solid waste facility
- Grants of \$15,000 - \$150,000
- Quarterly application reviews
  - Next deadline **April 30, 2020**
- VSW eligible communities with a Best Practices score of 30+

# State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loans

Petersburg

Unalaska

Palmer

NSB

Sitka

Homer

Anchorage

KGB

MSB

Wrangell

Soldotna

Kodiak

Kenai

Fairbanks

Juneau

Valdez

FNSB

Seward

Wasilla

# State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loans

- Planning, Design, Construction, and Energy Efficiency projects for water, wastewater, solid waste, and water quality improvements
- All municipalities are eligible
- Terms of up to 30 years
- No limit on loan amount
- Finance rates below market rate (presently ~2%)
- Some subsidy available for Disadvantaged Communities
- Funding through EPA with State match, plus repayments

# State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loans

- Must demonstrate financial capacity
- Federal funding conditions that apply to all loans
  - Environmental Review
  - American Iron and Steel
  - Davis-Bacon Wages

# State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loans

- Project questionnaires can be submitted online anytime
- Quarterly review of new projects
- Annual Intended Use Plan with quarterly updates
- Next submission deadline **February 28, 2020**
- Projects with highest ranking given priority and access to available subsidy

# SRF Microloan Program

- VSW eligible communities only
- Loans of up to \$500,000
- Potential for 50-90% loan forgiveness
  - Based on Best Practices Score and affordability of user rates
- Minimum Best Practice Score of 50 to *apply*
- Additional Best Practices thresholds to demonstrate financial capacity to repay
- Follows same quarterly schedule for review as SRF loans

# SRF Programs in the Works

- Programmatic Financing (ProFi)
- Loans to individual homeowners for onsite wastewater or septic system repairs or replacements
- Loans for replacement of wood burning stoves in Fairbanks to improve air quality and reduce impacts to water quality
- Sponsorship of water quality improvement projects coupled with SRF loan funded projects
- Do you see a need we can help address?



# Questions?

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