

INVESTING in Ohio's FUTURE

The Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Grant

The Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Grant will provide nearly \$250,000,000 to help Ohio communities make necessary investments in water and wastewater infrastructure. Projects receiving funds will improve access to clean drinking water and wastewater infrastructure.

The program is being administered by the Ohio Department of Development (Development) in partnership with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA).

Eligible Applicants

Public entities within a political subdivision with the authority to own and operate public water and sewer systems and non-profit, non-community public water systems may submit an application. Political subdivision means a county, township, municipal corporation, or other body corporate and politic responsible for governmental activities in a geographic area smaller than that of the state.

County engineers are to provide a prioritized list of projects for Development's consideration. County engineers can go to investinginohiosfuture.ohio.gov to provide Development their prioritized list. To be eligible for funding, an application will need to be completed whether a project is or is not on the prioritized list.

Eligible Projects

There are two types of eligible projects, design or construction.

Design projects should be submitted after an eligible applicant has completed the preliminary planning phase of a project. Eligible design projects can receive a maximum award of \$250,000.

Eligible construction projects can receive a maximum grant amount of \$5 million. At the discretion of the Director of Development, additional grant funding may be awarded for an individual project due to lack of matching funds and other inhibiting factors. Maximum project awards in these circumstances shall not exceed \$10 million and are solely at the discretion of the Director.

Examples of infrastructure construction projects could include, but are not limited to:

- Sewer/wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) improvements/expansion
- New/replacement sanitary sewer lines
- Excess sanitary sewer infiltration/inflow correction
- Improvements to public drinking water treatment facilities
- Drinking water line improvements or extensions
- Repair, replacement, and construction of drinking water storage towers

Total project awards are determined at the discretion of Development.

Eligible Costs

For construction projects, eligible costs include:

- Water or sewer/wastewater facility improvements
- Covering tap-in fees for households connecting to a centralized sewer system
- Professional fees (cannot exceed 10% of total request)
- Administrative costs (cannot exceed 10% of total request)
- Other (detailed description of other costs must be provided)

Design projects can apply for funds in the following categories:

- Design Costs
- Administrative costs (cannot exceed 10% of total request)
- Other (detailed description of other costs must be provided)

Administrative costs are for costs related to submitting reimbursement requests and submitting reporting information as requested by Development. Administrative costs must adhere to all uniform cost guidance.

Applicants are encouraged to ensure that projects use strong labor standards, including project labor agreements and community benefit agreements that offer wages at or above the prevailing rate. Local hiring is also strongly encouraged.

Ineligible Costs

Construction projects cannot charge costs associated with planning or design. Design projects cannot charge for construction related costs. Costs incurred prior to the grant period are ineligible but may be counted toward matching funds. The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) aligns program eligibility with that of the State Revolving Fund programs, and as such, some other costs may be determined to be ineligible (ex.: excessive pavement replacing, land acquisition, indoor plumbing, etc...).

Matching Funds

Utilizing matching funds is strongly encouraged. Projects that demonstrate matching funds will receive additional points towards the project score. If a project cannot demonstrate match funds, the eligible applicant must describe why match funds cannot be obtained and how the project will be successful without additional resources. Matching fund sources can include local ARPA funding, other local, state, or federal grant dollars, or other sources. In addition, the on-going operation and maintenance costs associated with construction of new infrastructure can be submitted as match contribution.

Application Evaluation Criteria

Each design and construction project application will be reviewed based on information received and will include scoring in key priority areas identified in the table below. The scoring process will be used as a tool to assist in final project award decisions by the Development.

Scoring Criteria	Construction Project Maximum Points Available:	Design Project Maximum Points Available
Project Information, including details about the project and if the project is included on the County Engineers priority list and at what priority level	10	15
Economically Disadvantaged Community, is the project within a community whose Median Household Income is less than the State average, unemployment rate is greater than the State average or has high water/sewer fees.	15	24
Providing access to public water/sewer, does the project extend service to people who currently are not served by a public water or centralized sewer system	12	15
Regionalization, does the project serve multiple communities or connect two or more community systems	10	9
Addressing water quality and/or public health concerns, does the project eliminate failing home sewage treatment systems, eliminate sewage back-ups etc.	15	12
Achieving environmental compliance with current compliance-related orders	8	10
Project Readiness, how quickly can the project begin construction	15	
Project Match is funding available to help support project costs. If a community is economically disadvantaged, project match will be awarded	5	5
Supporting Documentation	10	10
Total Points:	100	100

Application Process

Applications will be reviewed in the order received. Development anticipates eligible applicants should receive a decision within 45 business days of application submission. In order to access the application, individuals will be required to login using an existing OH|ID or create a new OH|ID, which provides users with secure access to state of Ohio services and programs. For more information on creating an OH|ID, please click [here](#).

Upon submission of a complete application, the applicant will receive an email from Development confirming that the application has been received. Submission of a complete application does not ensure the applicant will be awarded. If funding remains available at the time the application is filed, Development staff, in coordination with the Ohio EPA staff will review the application to determine eligibility and scoring. If Development determines that an application is ineligible or the documentation attached does not meet the requirements the applicant will be notified via email that the application has not been accepted for funding.

Awards will be given for priority projects until funds are depleted.

Eligible applicants will be required to provide the following on each application:

- Applicant Contact Information (including indicating a primary contact)
- Project Name
- Project location (city/village)
- County(ies) to be served
- Project type
 - Design Grant
 - Design grant for public drinking water project
 - Design grant for wastewater infrastructure project
 - Design grant for combination public drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects
 - Construction Grant
 - Construction grant for a public drinking water infrastructure project
 - Construction grant for a wastewater infrastructure project
 - Construction grant for a combination drinking water and wastewater infrastructure project
- Project description
- Estimated population number to be served
- Is the project on the County Engineers prioritization list
- If yes, what is the prioritization level of the project (on a scale of 1-10)
- Median Household income for the area served is less than the statewide average Median Household Income (check if yes)
- Is the community unemployment rate greater than the current state unemployment rate (check if yes)
- What is your estimated monthly residential charge for water usage
- What is your estimated average monthly residential charge for wastewater
- Provide public water in an unserved area (check if yes)
- Provide sewer services in an unserved area (check if yes)
- Regionalizing or connecting two or more community systems (check if yes)
- Addressing significant water quality and/or public health concerns (check if yes)
- Achieve compliance with a current compliance-related order (check if yes)
- The area has a large number of failing home sewage treatment systems (check if yes)
- The area experiences sewage back-ups into basements (check if yes)
- The area experiences either sanitary sewer overflows or combined sewer overflows (check if yes)

- The area has contaminated drinking water wells (check if yes)
- The Public Water System has consistently not met treatment standards (check if yes)
- The project will address a high-risk for critical infrastructure failure (check if yes)
- For Construction projects (check all that apply):
 - Engineering/design plans are in development
 - Engineering/design plans are complete and approved
 - Project has received applicable permits from the Ohio EPA
 - Construction on the project can begin with 1-6 months
 - Construction on the project can begin with 6-12 months
 - Construction on the project can begin with 12-18 months
 - Construction on the project can begin with 18 months
- Total Project Costs
- Total Requested Amount
- Project budget and Match budget including sources
- Documentation (as applicable)
 - Engineering agreements
 - Project Map
 - Documentation of match funds
 - Engineering reports
 - Approved permits
 - Economically disadvantaged criteria verification
 - Other supporting documentation

Reimbursement Requests

Once a project has been identified by Development to receive a grant award, the Department will notify the eligible application of the process to receive grant funds. Applicants may submit for funding reimbursement as needed but must ensure grant funds greater than \$5,000 will not reside in the eligible applicants account for longer than 30 days. An Ohio Supplier ID is required for disbursement. If the eligible applicant does not currently have an Ohio Supplier ID, the business will be required to register for an Ohio Supplier ID at [Supplier.Ohio.gov](https://supplier.ohio.gov). Businesses will only be able to receive an award once a valid Ohio Supplier ID matching the FEIN/SSN provided in the application has been obtained and is verified by Development. Applicant businesses that need assistance obtaining an Ohio Supplier ID or need to make changes to an existing Ohio Supplier ID should visit: <https://supplier.ohio.gov/wps/portal/sp/suppliers/help-center>.

Maintenance of Records

Eligible applicants shall maintain records of all specific expenses for which the funds were used for a period of five (5) years from the final expenditure of received funds. These records shall include but not be limited to paid invoices, cancelled checks, payroll records and other documentation acquired when the permissible expense occurred. Upon request, the eligible applicant shall provide access to these records to the State of Ohio, its agencies, agents, directors, and/or any party who has contracted with the State for the exclusive purposes of evaluating or ensuring compliance. At their own expense, the business shall prepare photocopies of all of requested records to the State or any of the aforementioned parties upon written request of the State within a reasonable time of the request. Failure to abide by the requirement may result in a demand to repay.

Eligible Applicant Certification

Providing the signature of a duly authorized representative on an application, an applicant is certifying to Development and the state of Ohio that each of the certifications is true as of the date of signature and that each of the documents submitted are accurate and appropriate for the project requesting funds. By providing a signature on an application, the applicant also acknowledges that any person who knowingly makes a false statement to obtain an award of financial assistance may be required under Section 9.66(C) of the Revised Code to repay such financial assistance and shall be ineligible for any future economic development assistance from the State of Ohio, any state agency, or political subdivisions. Also, any person who provides a false statement to secure economic development assistance may be guilty of falsification, a misdemeanor of the first degree, pursuant to Section 2921.13(F)(1) of the Revised Code.

Public Records of Information

Public Records Information, documents, or other materials submitted to Development as part of an application are public records unless a statutory exception exists under Section 149.43 of the Revised Code or other relevant law that exempts the information, document, or other material from public release.