
2024 Small Water System Infrastructure Funding Guide



INTRODUCTION

Recognizing that acquiring funding for needed infrastructure projects is time consuming, complex, and sometimes overwhelming, the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality and the North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association have partnered to provide you with the 2024 Small Water System Infrastructure Funding Guide.

The guide is designed to assist you in understanding the various funding opportunities available for water system projects within the state of North Dakota. It provides detailed information on various funding sources, money saving programs, eligibility criteria, application processes, and key contacts. The information provided in this guide will help you navigate the funding landscape to secure the necessary resources for your future water system projects.

Drinking water is a vital resource, and maintaining its quality and availability is paramount for the health and well-being of our state's residents. We are committed to making sure that our water systems are robust, efficient, and sustainable. Together, we can ensure that every resident of North Dakota has access to safe, affordable, and reliable water services.

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North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality
4021 Normandy Street
Bismarck, ND 58503
701-328-5211
www.deq.nd.gov/mf

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North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association
2718 Gateway Ave #201
Bismarck, ND 58503
701-258-9249 or 800-349-6851
www.ndrw.org

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Apply for Funding Using ND WebGrants

Funding for Infrastructure in North Dakota (FIND)

The Funding Infrastructure in North Dakota (FIND) program allows for political subdivisions to submit one application, for eligible infrastructure projects, to be reviewed by the Department of Water Resources (DWR), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Public Finance Authority (PFA) and Bank of North Dakota (BND). Below is a list of funding programs utilizing FIND and application deadlines.

Department of Water Resources Cost-Share: The Department of Water Resources' Cost-Share Program provides financial assistance to support local sponsors in development of sustainable water-related infrastructure projects.

Clean Water State Revolving Fund: The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), jointly managed by DEQ and PFA, provides loans to political subdivisions for water quality infrastructure projects including wastewater treatment, sewer rehabilitation, stormwater, and nonpoint source activities such as landfill leachate collection and treatment.

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund: The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), jointly managed by DEQ and PFA, provides loans to public water systems for infrastructure projects to achieve or maintain compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act, or to address public health issues. Projects include drinking water sources, treatment, distribution, and storage.

Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund: The Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund (IRLF), administered by BND, provides loans to political subdivisions for eligible essential infrastructure projects. Details on projects considered eligible essential infrastructure projects, as well as loan parameters, can be found in North Dakota Century Code 6-09-49.

Capital Financing Program: The Capital Financing Program (CFP), administered by PFA, provides loans to political subdivisions for any purpose for which the political subdivision has the legal authority to borrow money. Financing is available in any dollar amount as long as the ability to repay can be demonstrated. The interest rates payable by a political subdivision are market rates which are set through a competitive bid process when the PFA issues and sells its bonds to fund a loan.

Learn about using WebGrants and applying through FIND here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=zizClK0I56U.

An application for state funding is required in all cases and can be submitted by the local sponsor through North Dakota's WebGrants portal. Sponsors seeking funding for water projects should choose the "**Funding for Infrastructure in North Dakota**" (FIND) option/opportunity. To apply for funding through FIND, applicants must first establish a North Dakota login and account. **Please Note - before you begin your application, make sure you have all required supplemental information ready/completed that is necessary to submit your application.**

Establish a North Dakota Login at www.apps.nd.gov/itd/ldap/registration.htm.

If applicants already have a North Dakota Login, they can access the WebGrants FIND portal and apply at www.grants.nd.gov/index.do.



For more information, contact:

Kylee Merkel
1200 Memorial Hwy
PO Box 5509
Bismarck, ND 58506-5509
701-328-5713
kmerkel@nd.gov

North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality — Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program

The overall purpose of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Program is to assist public water systems (PWSs) in financing the costs of drinking water infrastructure needed to achieve or maintain compliance with the SDWA, and to protect public health. PWSs eligible for DWSRF assistance include community water systems, both publicly- and privately-owned, and nonprofit noncommunity water systems. Federally owned PWSs are not eligible to receive DWSRF assistance. Community water systems are PWSs which serve at least 15 service connections used by year-round residents or regularly serve at least 25 year-round residents. Noncommunity water systems are PWSs that primarily provide service to other than year-round residents. Examples of nonprofit noncommunity water systems that are eligible for DWSRF assistance include schools and publicly owned campgrounds, parks, and rest areas.

DWSRF Eligible Projects:

Although there are some exclusions, there is considerable flexibility in the types of projects and project-related costs that are eligible for DWSRF assistance. A DWSRF program may provide assistance only for expenditures of a type or category which will facilitate compliance or otherwise significantly further health protection under the SDWA. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to:

- Treatment (new facilities and upgrades, rehabilitation, or replacement of existing facilities)
- Transmission and distribution (including service line replacements)
- Source
- Storage
- Consolidation of water systems
- Creation of new water systems to address existing public health problems or eliminate individual systems with technical, managerial, and financial difficulties
- Security measures to protect infrastructure and prevent vandalism or purposeful contamination

For more information, contact:

Department of Environmental Quality

Shannon Fisher, P.E.

4201 Normandy Street

Bismarck, ND 58503-1324

701-328-5211

smfisher@nd.gov

www.deq.nd.gov/MF/DWSRF



North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality — Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Program was established by Title VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (FWPCA) a.k.a. the Clean Water Act (CWA), as amended in 1987. The CWSRF Program is a financial assistance program for water pollution control projects. Under the CWA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awards annual capitalization grants to each state to capitalize a state revolving fund, which the state can then use to provide financing for statewide eligible projects. The SRF grants are used to make below-market interest rate loans to political subdivisions for the purpose of financing authorized projects, to establish reserve funds, and for other purposes allowed under the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water Acts. The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality and the Public Finance Authority jointly administer the SRF.

The interest rates on SRF loans are set by the Department of Environmental Quality in consultation with the Public Finance Authority. The interest rates are fixed for a term up to 30 years or the useful life of the project, whichever is less. Contact the Department of Environmental Quality for current rate information.

CWSRF Eligible Projects:

CWSRFs have replaced the old Construction Grants Program as the major funding source for upgrading community wastewater systems. Under the CWSRF, however, project eligibilities have been expanded and federal requirements reduced. The following types of projects are eligible for CWSRF funding:

- Centralized wastewater treatment (treatment works)
- Energy conservation
- Water conservation
- Water meters (non-treatment works)
- Water reuse (project specific determination)
- Stormwater (non-treatment works)
- Landfill (non-treatment works)



For more information, contact:

Department of Environmental Quality

Elizabeth Tokach Duran, P.E.

4201 Normandy Street

Bismarck, ND 58503-1324

701-328-5211

etokachduran@nd.gov

www.deq.nd.gov/MF/CWSRF

North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality — Planning Assistance Reimbursement Grant

Planning Assistance Reimbursement (PAR) grants are grants to assist communities with preparing an engineering report. The report must meet the level of detail for an SRF facility plan and must include the information described in the PAR grant application. The application also includes a description of the information that must be provided based on the kind of report (wastewater collection, wastewater treatment, storm water, water distribution, or water treatment) that is being prepared. The application form can be found in SRF Tracker. The grant will reimburse 80% of the costs of the study up to \$15,000. Wastewater studies that require televising may be eligible for reimbursement greater than \$15,000 but are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Eligible televising and cleaning can be reimbursed up to an approved amount.

Eligibility

Applicants must be:

- A political subdivision with a population of 2,500 people or less (A larger population may be considered on a case-by-case basis)
- Eligible to borrow from the SRF program
- In compliance with existing SRF covenants including 110% coverage and debt service reserve

Applicants that have received a PAR grant or USDA-Rural Development Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities and Households (SEARCH) grant within the past ten years are ineligible for a PAR grant for the previously studied system. If the applicant is more than four years behind on their financial reports, they may not be eligible to apply for a PAR grant and may be deferred until financials are caught up.

Application and Rebate Agreement

Contact the SRF program prior to completing the application. To apply for a PAR grant, the grant recipient's representative must go to SRF Tracker website which is available on their website, www.deq.nd.gov/Publications/MF/SRFProgramProjectManual.pdf?v=2.

Report

A PAR report must be submitted by the date listed in the Reporting Requirements and include the information described in the Engineer Certification of Services document. The report must also be stamped and signed by a Professional Engineer licensed in the state of North Dakota. Once the report is complete, it must be uploaded to SRF Tracker.

Financials

The PFA must have the applicant's most current 3 years of audit reports on file before the applicant can get reimbursed. If the political subdivision has \$2 million or less in revenues and has not received more than \$750,000 of federal funds during the fiscal year, they may submit the State Auditor's "Annual Financial Report in Lieu of an Audit".

Payment Request

Once the PAR report is approved and the applicant's financials are accepted, an approval letter will be uploaded to SRF Tracker. Following the approval, the recipient must complete the payment request form which can be downloaded from SRF Tracker.

For more information, contact:

Department of Environmental Quality

4201 Normandy Street
Bismarck, ND 58503-1324
701-328-5211
ndsrf@nd.gov
www.deq.nd.gov



North Dakota Public Finance Authority — Capital Financing Program and Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Fund Programs

Under its Capital Financing Program (CFP), the Authority makes loans to political subdivisions for the purpose of financing projects or improvements for which political subdivisions are legally authorized to borrow money through the issuance of municipal securities. Subject to credit requirements and certain program requirements, financing is available in any dollar amount.

The interest rates payable by a political subdivision are market rates which are set through a competitive bid process when the Authority issues and sells its bonds to fund a loan. The interest rates paid by the Authority on its bonds are the same rates a political subdivision will pay on its municipal securities sold to the Authority.

The CFP has been assigned a rating of “AA-” by Standard & Poor’s Ratings Group.

Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Programs

The North Dakota Public Finance Authority and the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality jointly administer the programs. For more information, please see the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund program sections in this booklet.

Disaster Relief

This program provides disaster assistance to political subdivisions affected by disasters and weather-related events until federal and state money is available or to assist in cash flowing local match requirements. Any North Dakota political subdivision that is within a county that has received a Presidential Public Disaster Declaration, or a gubernatorial executive order or proclamation of a state disaster or emergency is eligible to apply.

The political subdivision must submit a Capital Financing Program Disaster Financing application to the Public Financing Authority. The political subdivision must show the ability to repay the financing either from Federal or State government disaster payments or from tax receipts.



For more information, contact:

Public Finance Authority

1200 Memorial Highway

PO Box 5509

Bismarck, ND 58506-5509

701-328-7100

ndpfa@nd.gov

www.pfa.nd.gov

Bank of North Dakota — Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund

The BND Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund provides loans to political subdivisions, the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District and the Lake Agassiz Water Authority for repair, replacement, and new infrastructure projects. Applications are accepted on a continuing basis. To qualify for these funds, the community must access other state and federal government funding options first. This loan may be used to provide gap funding if the full project cost cannot be met through other funding sources or if there are no other funding sources available. Bank of North Dakota will take into consideration timing and the opportunity to maximize funding sources.

Funds may be used for capital construction projects to construct new infrastructure or replace existing infrastructure, which provide the fixed installations necessary for the function of a political subdivision including:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Red River Valley Water Supply Project• Sewerlines and waterlines, liftstations & pumping• Storm water infrastructure, curb/gutter construction• Road & bridge infrastructure-paved/unpaved• Natural gas transmission infrastructure• Communications infrastructure• Water treatment plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wastewater treatment plants• Water storage systems-dams/tanks/towers• Airport infrastructure• Electricity transmission infrastructure• Emergency services facilities, excluding hospitals• Critical political subdivision buildings/infrastructure• Infrastructure to include water, sewer, roads and parking lots that are required to service recreation and community facilities, excluded the construction of the building recreational amenity
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Ineligible uses of proceeds include:

- Refinancing existing debt or other obligations
- Routine maintenance and repair projects
- Construction of a recreational building or amenity
- Mixed-use paths and recreational trails

Login using an existing North Dakota Login or register for a new North Dakota Login. Once logged in, start a new application in the Funding for Infrastructure in ND (FIND) “Funding Opportunity”.



For more information, contact:

Bank of North Dakota
1200 Memorial Hwy
PO Box 5509
Bismarck, ND 58506-5509
701-328-5600 or 800-472-2166
bnd@nd.gov
www.bnd.nd.gov/infrastructure/bnd-infrastructure-loan-fund

Bank of North Dakota – Water Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund

The Water Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund provides loans for water supply, flood protection, or other water development and water management projects.

Projects will be reviewed by the ND Department of Water Resources and approved for use of the loan fund by the ND State Water Commission.

Projects which are not eligible for the state revolving fund under chapters 61-28.1 and 61-28.2 will be given priority for loans from the water infrastructure revolving loan fund.

The ND Department of Water Resources shall consider the following information when evaluating projects:

- A description of the nature and purpose of the proposed infrastructure project, including an explanation of the need for the project, the reasons why it is in the public interest, and the overall economic impact of the project.
- The estimated cost of the project and the amount of the loan sought and other proposed sources of funding.
- The extent to which completion of the project will benefit the state or regions within the state.

Proceeds may be used to finance projects for water supply, flood protection, or other water development and water management projects.

The maximum amount of a loan may not exceed the project costs, with the maximum loan limits to be determined by the ND State Water Commission.

Interest Rate and Fees: The interest rate established for this program has been set at the same interest rate as the revolving loan funds established under chapters 61-28.1 and 61-28.2. The borrower will be responsible for all closing costs associated with the loan.

BND may take all steps necessary and appropriate to preserve security. Amortized payments over a term to be determined by the ND Department of Water Resources and approved by the ND State Water Commission, not to exceed the useful life of the project. All applications for loans under this program must be made to the ND Department of Water Resources. Login using an existing North Dakota Login, or register for a new North Dakota Login. Once logged in, state a new application in the “Funding for Infrastructure in ND – FIND” funding opportunity.

Refinancing of existing debt or obligations will not be allowed.



For more information, contact:

Bank of North Dakota

1200 Memorial Hwy

PO Box 5509

Bismarck, ND 58506-5509

701-328-5600 or 800-472-2166

bnd@nd.gov

www.bnd.nd.gov/infrastructure/water-infrastructure-revolving-loan-fund

North Dakota Department of Water Resources — Cost-Share Program

About

The primary purpose of the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Cost-Share Program is to assist local project sponsors with financial support of water development projects – making them more affordable to local constituents. The decision-making body that reviews cost-share requests is the State Water Commission. The 10-member SWC consists of the Governor as chairman, the Agricultural Commissioner, and eight members appointed by the governor who represent the state's major water drainage basins. Decisions related to the Cost-Share Program are guided by the SWC's Cost-Share Policy, Procedure, and General Requirements.

Funding Support

North Dakota funds the majority of its water projects through the DWR. State funding that is provided through DWR primarily comes from the Resources Trust Fund (RTF). The RTF is funded with 20.5 percent of revenues from North Dakota's oil extraction tax. Funding available through the Cost-Share Program is appropriated by the North Dakota Legislature. In recent budget cycles, the Legislature has specified amounts of funding available for specific project purposes, including water supply, rural water, flood protection, general water, and state owned projects.

Loan Opportunities

In 2021, the Legislature and Governor's Office worked to advance legislation intended to support and create loan opportunities for a broad spectrum of infrastructure needs. This included the creation of the Water Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund (WIRLF), and continued support of the Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund (IRLF).

How To Apply

Project sponsors who are seeking cost-share grants through DWR, loans from the WIRLF or IRLF, or loans through the Department of Environmental Quality-administered Drinking/Clean Water State Revolving Fund Programs must apply through North Dakota's WebGrant's portal. For additional details on how to apply, go to www.dwr.nd.gov, click on Project Development, and then Cost-Share Program.



For more information, contact:

Department of Water Resources

1200 Memorial Highway

Bismarck, ND 58504

701-328-4989

dwrcostshare@nd.gov

www.dwr.nd.gov

Bureau of Reclamation — WaterSMART Grants

Through WaterSMART Grants, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) provides financial assistance to water managers for projects that seek to conserve and use water more efficiently, implement renewable energy, investigate and develop water marketing strategies, mitigate conflict risk in areas at a high risk of future water conflict, and accomplish other benefits that contribute to sustainability in the western United States. Cost-shared projects that can be completed within two or three years are selected annually through a competitive process.

Eligible applicants for all WaterSMART Grants funding opportunities include states; tribes; irrigation districts; water districts; state, regional, or local authorities whose members include one or more power delivery authority; and nonprofit conservation organizations that are acting in partnership with and with the agreement of an entity previously describe. To be eligible, applicants must be located in the Western United States or U.S. Territories. Entities located in Alaska and Hawaii are also eligible to apply.

Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

On-the-ground water management improvement projects, including projects that conserve water and address water supply reliability.

Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

Small water efficiency improvements that have been identified through previous planning efforts.

Drought Resiliency Projects

Funding for on-the-ground projects and modeling tools that will increase water reliability and improve water management.

Environmental Water Resources Project

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; and watershed management or restoration projects benefitting ecological values that have a nexus to water resources or water resources management.

Applied Science Grants

Projects to develop hydrologic information and water management tools, improve modeling and forecasting capabilities, and nature-based solutions.

Cooperative Watershed Management Program – Phase 1

Watershed group development, watershed restoration planning, and watershed management project design.

Bureau of Reclamation — WaterSMART Grants

Planning and Project Design Grants

Collaborative planning and design projects to support water management improvements, include the following activities:

Water Strategy Grants: Planning projects to support water management solutions, such as water marketing, water conservation, drought resilience and ecological resilience.

Project Design Grants: Projects to develop the final design of on-the-ground water management construction and restoration projects.

Drought Contingency Planning: Projects to develop a new or update an existing Drought Contingency Plan.



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

For more information, contact:

Bureau of Reclamation - Dakotas Area Office

Sasha Dahl

304 East Broadway Ave.

Bismarck, ND 58501

605-301-2514 or 605-222-3504

smdahl@usbr.gov

www.usbr.gov/watersmart/index.html

Rural Water Financing Agency — Interim and Flex-Term Programs

The North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association (NDRWSA) has partnered with the Rural Water Financing Agency (RWFA) to offer municipal and political subdivision borrowers across the state of North Dakota financing options to assist with the overwhelming burden of financing capital projects. RWFA is a public agency designed to allow borrowers to finance their projects on a pooled basis. RWFA offers two financing programs detailed below:

Interim Program

- Provides construction financing to borrowers with a USDA or SRF Takeout
- Streamlined and efficient application and documentation
- Fixed rate for the term of construction
- All interest is capitalized until the end of construction

Flex Term Program

- AA- rated program offers borrowers access to tax-exempt markets at low rates
- No debt service reserve requirement
- Fixed rate terms from 1-30 years
- Variety of project types (construction, refinancing, cost-overruns, match funding, etc.)



For more information, contact:

North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association

2718 Gateway Avenue, Suite #201

Bismarck, ND 58503-0585

800-349-6951

info@ndrw.org

www.ruralwaterfinance.com

CoBank — Water Infrastructure Funding

CoBank is one of the largest private providers of credit to the U.S. rural economy. The bank delivers loans, leases and other financial services to agribusiness, rural infrastructure and Farm Credit customers in all 50 states.

Eligible Entities:

Not-for-profits, municipalities and districts are among the many water and waste disposal borrowers who typically put funds toward projects such as these:

Eligible Projects:

- Create, improve and expand the supply of safe drinking water and waste disposal
- Start a new construction project or expand an existing one
- Upgrade equipment or perform needed maintenance
- Purchase vehicles
- Drill wells or replace pipelines
- Repaint water towers
- Reserve for emergency purposes

Financial Solutions:

- Lines of Credit – Ideal for funding unexpected projects, emergencies, or short-term needs
- Term Project Financing – Borrow funds on a longer-term basis to assist with major system improvements
- Refinancing – Save money and reduce your payments by refinancing your current debt
- USDA – Interim Financing – Partner with an experienced lender for easy access to low-cost construction financing for your USDA RD project
- Municipal Notes and Bonds – Tax exempt and taxable financing options are available
- Cash Management – Manage incoming and outgoing payments and maximize use of idle funds
- Leasing – Flexible leasing options for vehicles, equipment, and qualified facilities



For more information, contact:

CoBank, ACB

Michael Griffiths, Senior Relationship Manager

6340 S. Fiddlers Green Circle

Greenwood Village, CO 80111

303-740-6479

Mgriffiths@cobank.com

www.cobank.com/corporate/industry/water

North Dakota Department of Commerce — Community Development Block Grant

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program provides financial assistance to eligible units of local governments (cities and counties) in the form of grants and loans for public facilities, housing rehabilitation, and economic development projects. The primary beneficiaries of these projects must be low and moderate-income individuals. Examples of projects funded by CDBG in the respective emphasis areas are:

- Housing - housing rehabilitation of low and moderate-income homeowner units and rental units within a particular area.
- Public facilities - water and sewer projects, removal of architectural barriers, fire halls, ambulances, etc.
- Economic development - cities and counties receive funds to loan/grant to businesses that create jobs for low-income persons.

Eligible projects must also be consistent with at least one of the program's national objectives:

- Benefit low and moderate-income persons.
- Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight.
- Activities designed to meet community development needs having a particular urgency.

Applicants may apply for either CDBG annual allocation funding or CDBG Governor's Fund funding. The Governor's Fund accepts **CDBG preapplications July 1 – June 15** every year. The dates for the annual allocation funding preapplications vary depending on when the funds are awarded by HUD. Updates on funding availability, and grant and funding requirements are published to the Department of Commerce's Division of Community Services (DCS) CDBG website at: www.commerce.nd.gov/community-services/community-development/community-development-block-grant-cdbg.



For more information, contact:

Department of Commerce

1600 E. Century Avenue, Suite 6

Bismarck, ND 58502

701-328-5300

dcs@nd.gov

[www.commerce.nd.gov/community-](http://www.commerce.nd.gov/community-services/community-development/)

[services/community-development/](http://www.commerce.nd.gov/community-services/community-development/)

[community-development-block-grant-cdbg](http://www.commerce.nd.gov/community-services/community-development/community-development-block-grant-cdbg)

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers — Section 594 Program

Purpose:

This program authorizes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to assist public entities, in the form of design and construction for water-related environmental infrastructure, and resource protection and development projects in North Dakota. These projects include wastewater treatment and related facilities. They also include combined sewer overflow, water supply, storage, treatment, and related facilities as well as environmental restoration and surface water resource protection and development.

Location:

The North Dakota Environmental Infrastructure Assistance program encompasses the entire state of North Dakota. Program responsibilities are shared between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District and the Omaha District.

Authority:

Section 111 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 amended the Ohio Section 594 program to include North Dakota. Congress authorized \$100 million for the program in North Dakota. In 2022 Congress increased the authorization by \$100 million for Section 594.

Funding:

The Section 594 program has received a total of \$96,227,920.86 funds through fiscal year 2023; \$103,772,079.14 remains on the authorization. Infrastructure assistance is provided on a 75% federal, 25% non-federal sponsor basis.



For more information, contact:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

St. Paul District

Programs and Project Management

332 Minnesota St., Suite E1500

St. Paul, MN 55101

651-290-5755

www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Home/Projects/Article/571008/environmental-infrastructure-assistance-section-594-north-dakota

Garrison Diversion Conservancy District / North Dakota Department of Water Resources — Municipal Rural and Industrial Water Supply Program

The federal Municipal, Rural and Industrial (MR&I) Water Supply Program was authorized by Congress through the 1986 Garrison Diversion Unit Reformulation Act, and it is jointly administered by the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (GDGD), and the North Dakota Department of Water Resources (NDDWR). This program has \$400 million authorized in federal funding to help water systems deliver quality water to homes, businesses and farms across North Dakota.

Eligible MR&I Projects

Water supply projects and associated costs are eligible for financial assistance from program funds. Many aspects of the design and construction of water supply projects can be funded, including:

1. New ground water wells including mechanical and electrical components.
2. Pipelines from water sources to public water systems and principal supply works for systems.
3. Booster pumping plants for supply lines.
4. Intake works and pumping plants for new surface water sources.
5. New or enlarged storage facilities.
6. New rural water systems or enlargements or expansions of existing rural water systems.
7. New regional water systems or enlargements or extensions of existing regional water systems.
8. New water treatment plants.
9. Modifications to and upgrades of existing water treatment plants.

Program funds may be used for engineering and legal costs, costs incurred in conducting environmental reviews or cultural resources investigations, right-of-way costs, excluding the purchase of easements, and costs associated with the planning, design, and construction of eligible projects listed. Program funds are not available for costs associated with operation, maintenance, and replacement of water supply or treatment systems or with the preparation of preliminary engineering reports.

How to Apply for MR&I Funding

An applicant must submit an application for program funds to the NDDWR and GDGD, www.dwr.nd.gov/pdfs/sfn_60796_mri_cost_share.pdf.

The application must include the following:

1. Information explaining the need for the proposal, including its objectives and benefits.
2. The area to be served by the project.
3. A preliminary engineering report.
4. The approximate cost of the project.
5. The amount of funding sought from program funds and the amount the applicant intends to contribute to carry out the project.
6. The results of the efforts made to secure funds from sources other than the MR&I program.
7. The current rate schedule for the water supply and treatment systems.
8. Other information the applicant believes pertinent or that the Chief Engineer requests.

For more information, contact:



Garrison Diversion Conservancy District
401 US-281
Carrington, ND 58421
701-652-3194
kimberlyc@gdcd.org
www.garrisondiversion.org



Department of Water Resources
1200 Memorial Highway
Bismarck, ND 58504
701-328-4989
dwrkostshare@nd.gov
www.dwr.nd.gov

Garrison Diversion Conservancy District — The Water Supply Assistance Grant Program

The Water Supply Assistance Grant Program was approved by the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District in 2021. The program will provide funding assistance to offset the costs of new customer hookups to a rural water system or district. The grant program will also aid water systems or districts with extraordinary Operation, Maintenance & Repair (OM&R) projects that will impact the delivery of water to users, introduce health and safety issues, or bring potential harm to other infrastructure if not repaired.

The program guidelines have been updated and application deadlines are now May 1 and August 1. Additional program details can be found within the Program Guidelines and Program Application documents found below. Please contact Garrison Diversion at 701-652-3194 with additional questions relating to the Water Supply Assistance Grant Program.

For More Information, Contact:



Garrison Diversion Conservancy District

401 US-281

Carrington, ND 58421

701-652-3194

kimberlyc@gdcd.org

www.garrisondiversion.org/uploads/19/GDCDWaterSupplyGrantRuralWater4.22.pdf

www.garrisondiversion.org/uploads/19/GDCDWaterSupplyGrantMunicipalities4.22.pdf

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency — Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), as amended through the 2018 America's Water Infrastructure Act, authorizes the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish the *Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program*. It authorizes EPA to award grants to assist underserved, small, and disadvantaged communities for the purpose of increasing drinking water facility resilience to natural hazards.

Types of Projects that can be funded through this Grant Program

Funding through this grant program must be used for the planning, design, construction, implementation, operation, or maintenance of a program or project that increases resilience of public water systems to natural hazards. Examples of projects include:

- Conservation of water or the enhancement of water use efficiency
- Modification or relocation of existing drinking water system infrastructure significantly impaired by natural hazards
- Design or construction of desalination facilities to serve existing communities
- Enhancement of water supply through watershed management and source water protection
- Enhancement of energy efficiency or the use and generation of renewable energy in the conveyance or treatment of drinking water
- Measures to increase the resilience of the drinking water system to natural hazards, including planning for analytical considerations and climate change

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants for this competitive grant program are **public water systems**, **water systems located on areas governed by Tribes**, and **a State, on behalf of an underserved community**. Each applicant must serve a community that is **underserved** (a community that does not have access to household drinking water or wastewater services or is served by a public water system that violates the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations) and **small** (contains a population of less than 10,000 people) or **disadvantaged** (the service area of a public water system that meets affordability criteria established by its respective State). Under the definition of «State» in Section 1401(13)(A) of the SDWA, in addition to the several States, the following territories are eligible to apply for this funding opportunity (on behalf of underserved communities) : the District of Columbia, Guam, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. For-profit organizations and nonprofit organizations are not eligible to apply.

Timeline

The solicitation for the grant is posted on www.grants.gov.

How to Apply

The grant program is a competitive program. Applications must be submitted exclusively through www.grants.gov.



For more information, contact:

EPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water

1200 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.

Mail Code 4606M

Washington, D.C. 20460

Resiliencygrant@epa.gov

www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/drinking-water-system-infrastructure-resilience-and-sustainability

North Dakota Department of Emergency Services — Hazard Mitigation Grant

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) is a federally operated program providing grants post-disaster giving up to 75 percent of mitigation project funding. All applicants must be FEMA-approved, but funding can be used for public and private projects. Local governments must apply on the individual's behalf.

FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program provides funding to state, local, tribal and territorial governments so they can develop hazard mitigation plans and rebuild in a way that reduces, or mitigates, future disaster losses in their communities. This grant funding is available after a presidentially declared disaster.

In this program, homeowners and businesses cannot apply for a grant. However, a local community may apply for funding on their behalf.

All state, local, tribal and territorial governments must develop and adopt hazard mitigation plans to receive funding for hazard mitigation project application.



For more information, contact:

Department of Emergency Services

Todd Joersz

Division of Homeland Security

PO Box 5511

Bismarck, ND 58504

800-773-3259

tjoersz@nd.gov

www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/hazard-mitigation

National Rural Water Association — Rural Water Loan Fund

The Rural Water Loan Fund (RWLF) is a funding program specifically designed to meet the unique needs of small water and wastewater utilities. The RWLF provides low-cost loans for short-term repair costs, small capital projects, or pre-development costs associated with larger projects. The RWLF was established through a grant from the USDA Rural Utility Service, and repaid funds used to replenish the fund and make new loans.

Eligible Projects

- Pre-development (planning) costs for infrastructure projects
- Replacement equipment, system upgrades, maintenance and small capital projects
- Energy efficiency projects to lower costs and improve system sustainability
- Disaster recovery or other emergency loans are available

Key Points

- Reasonable, below market interest rate (currently 3%) and a maximum repayment period of 10 years
- Straightforward application process and quick turnaround time (just a few days if documents are in order)
- Loan amounts may not exceed \$200,000 or 75% of the total project cost, whichever is less
- Emergency loans are 90-day no interest, with immediate turn around on applications
- NRWA charges no administrative or processing fees
- Systems must be public entities (municipalities, counties, special purpose districts, Native American Tribes, nonprofit corporations and cooperatives) serving up to 10,000 persons, or in rural areas with no population limits

How Can I Apply?

Information can be emailed, if available electronically, to the email address below. Applications and supporting documents can also be sent by mail. Applicants may also contact NDRWSA for assistance in preparing and submitting the required documents.



For more information, contact:

Rural Water Loan Fund

2915 S. 13th Street

Duncan, OK 73533

580-252-0629

nrwarwf@nrwa.org

www.nrwa.org/members/products-services-portfolio/rural-water-loan-fund

National Rural Water Association is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

The material is based upon work supported by the Rural Utilities Service, United State Department of Agriculture.

North Dakota Department of Health & Human Services — North Dakota Rent and Housing Stability

NDRH Housing Stability can help qualifying North Dakota renters with past-due utility bills such as:

- Electric
- Natural gas
- Other heating sources
- Water
- Sewer
- Garbage services

It can pay for heating costs not covered by Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) if a household participates in both programs.

How to receive payments as a Utility Provider:

STEP 1: Register as a Vendor/Supplier with the North Dakota Office of Management and Budget (OMB) at www.bit.ly/2yK2Zba.

- ALREADY REGISTERED? Current OMB Approved Suppliers should log into the OMB portal to make sure their account is active.
- *Inactive accounts may need to complete an updated W-9.*

STEP 2: Provide Supplier ID number to NDRH Housing Stability Team

- After you have been approved and have a Supplier ID number from OMB, email the number to the ND Rent Help team at dhserb@nd.gov or call 701-328-1907.
- **NOTE to heating utility companies:** Your LIHEAP provider number is **not** the same as the OMB supplier number.

STEP 3 Payment

- DHS will provide payment to utility suppliers based on past-due bills submitted by the renter to the ND Rent Help Team.



For more information, contact:

**Economic Assistance Policy Division
NDRH Housing Stabilization Program**

600 E. Boulevard Avenue, Dept 325

Bismarck, ND 58505-0250

701-328-1907

dhserb@nd.gov

www.hhs.nd.gov/human-services/providers/utility-providers

North Dakota Office of Management and Budget — State Surplus Property and Cooperative Purchasing

State Surplus Property is operated by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The purpose of State Surplus Property is to reutilize, recycle and redistribute federal and state surplus property. State Surplus Property can also sell property for political subdivisions.

State Surplus Property provides the following services:

- Distribution of state, federal and law enforcement surplus property to North Dakota government entities and eligible nonprofits
- Sale of state surplus property to the public
- Recycling of electronic waste through the state term recycling contract
- Disposal of unsalable state property in a safe, responsible manner

Government entities are encouraged to surplus their electronics while the property is in a serviceable and desirable condition. Many political subdivisions, including schools, rely on State Surplus Property to provide them current and serviceable computers for no fee or at a nominal fee.

Taxpayer money is also saved by transferring property to eligible entities and disposing of electronic waste (e-waste) in a safe and responsible manner.



For more information, contact:

State Surplus Property Warehouse Location
1278 Hemlock Street
Bismarck, ND
701-328-9665
surplus@nd.gov
www.omb.nd.gov/surplus

Cooperative Purchasing with State Procurement Office

Government entities can purchase goods and services from the (OMB) State Contract. OMB State Procurement Office establishes contracts for goods and services commonly used by government entities. Partnering with the OMB State Procurement Office can reduce administrative time and save money. In addition, you can be confident knowing that your purchases have met the standards of ethical and accountable public procurement.

Who Is Eligible?

Cities, counties, townships, public school districts, State Board of Higher Education institutions, governmental boards and commissions, tribal agencies or public transit authorities are eligible. Nonprofit organizations established by public entities should contact the State Procurement Office to determine if they are eligible.

How Does it Work?

The OMB website has a full list of state contracts, vendors, pricing and ordering information. Orders can be placed directly with the vendor. Visit www.omb.nd.gov/cooperativepurchasing for more information about cooperative purchasing.



For more information, contact:

Office of Management and Budget
600 East Boulevard Avenue Dept. 012
Bismarck, ND 58505
701-328-2740
infospo@nd.gov
www.omb.nd.gov/cooperativepurchasing

North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives — Community Capital Loan

The Rural Development Finance Corporation Community (RDFC) Capital Fund was created with the goal of assisting local development organizations and political subdivisions to leverage additional capital to finance business and community economic development activities.

Any local development group or political subdivision located in North Dakota communities 10,000* or under in population or projects that have a rural or cooperative focus may apply to the Community Capital Loan Fund for programs that demonstrate the capacity to use the capital productively and consistent with the RDFC mission.

**Communities contiguous to communities with a population greater than 10,000 are ineligible for RDFC financing.*

Examples of how the funds may be used:

- Microloans
- Revolving loan funds
- Community loans
- Residential property development
- Infrastructure
- Industrial park development
- Essential services

The funds can be used as matching funds when applying for State, Federal or other sources of funding.

RDFC funds must be matched dollar-for-dollar.



For more information, contact:

RDFC - NDAREC

Chris Gessele, cgessele@ndarec.com

Brian Gion, bgion@ndarec.com

Mary Helvig, mhelvig@ndarec.com

3201 Nygren Drive NW

PO Box 727

Mandan, ND 58554

701-663-6501

www.ndarec.com/rdfcforms

Agribank — North Dakota Rural Community Grant

The Rural Community Grant Fund supports local communities in western North Dakota impacted by mineral development in the Bakken region. AgriBank partners with AgCountry Farm Credit Services and Farm Credit Services of Mandan to provide the program.

What is the purpose of the Rural Community Grant Fund?

Grants up to \$50,000 are available within the Rural Community Grant Fund to facilitate infrastructure improvement and/or development initiatives encompassing housing projects, health, safety and environmental programs, medical facilities, educational programs, and more. AgriBank funds the Rural Community Grant Fund annually based on income earned on mineral interests within western North Dakota, as designated by our board of directors. AgriBank acquired mineral interests in western North Dakota as a result of loan activity following the Great Depression.

Who qualifies?

Funds are available for projects in the western portion of North Dakota. Organizations that qualify as a 501(c)(3) entity under the IRS code receive preference. Requests for funding from governmental authorities also receive consideration, but not at the federal, state or county levels. Other organizations may apply, but requests by or for the personal benefit of an individual will not qualify. Requests from religious groups for a religious purpose do not qualify, but such groups may apply for funding of a community medical or housing project. The Rural Community Grant Fund does not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, race, color, religion, creed, age, marital status, disability, or national origin. The fund administrators will review grant applications two times per year and all applicants are notified after each review process.

How to apply?

Applications are available at www.webportalapp.com/sp/login/rcgf_submission. Grant applications are reviewed two times per year. Applications must be received electronically and submitted by **April 30 or October 31** of each year.

What is the grant approval process?

The fund administrators will review grant applications two times per year and all applicants are notified after each review process.

For more information, contact:

AgriBank

30 East 7th Street

Suite 1600

St. Paul, MN 55101

651-282-8800

www.agribank.com/ask-a-question



Communities Unlimited — Water and Wastewater Lending

The fund is a national service of Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) but is managed through the Southern RCAP regional office, Communities Unlimited.

Purpose:

The purpose of the CU Loan Fund is to help small, rural communities and tribal nations:

- Meet compliance requirements for public drinking water and wastewater regulations
- Improve public health and system security
- Extend service to new customers or improve service to existing customers
- Create opportunities for economic development

Products:

The CU Loan Fund offers flexible products to meet your community's needs, including:

- Interim financing
- Construction loans and system improvements
- Equipment loans
- Grant matching fund

Eligibility:

Nonprofit corporations or local government entities may borrow if they:

- Serve a significant number of low-income customers
- Have a population of less than 20,000
- Have the ability to repay the loan with system revenues or provide evidence of permanent take-out financing
- Will accept no-cost technical assistance if it will improve the system's ability to repay the loan

COMMUNITIESUnlimited

For more information, contact:

Communities Unlimited, Inc.

3 East Colt Square Drive

Fayetteville, AR 72703

479-443-2700

www.communitiesu.org/lending/#water-loans

U.S. Department of Agriculture — Rural Development Loans and Grants

What does this program do?

This program provides funding for clean and reliable drinking water systems, sanitary sewage disposal, sanitary solid waste disposal, and storm water drainage to communities in eligible rural areas.

Who may apply?

This program assists qualified applicants who are not otherwise able to obtain commercial credit at reasonable rates and terms. Eligible applicants include:

- Public bodies
- Non-profit organizations
- Indian tribes

What is an eligible area?

Areas that may be served include:

- Rural communities with populations of 10,000 or less
- Tribal lands in rural areas

What kinds of funding are available?

- Long-term, low-interest loans
- If funds are available, a grant may be combined with a loan if necessary to keep user costs reasonable.

How may the funds be used?

Funds may be used to construct, enlarge, extend or otherwise improve:

- Rural water facilities
- Sanitary sewage facilities
- Solid waste disposal facilities
- Storm wastewater disposal facilities

Soft costs such as:

- Legal and engineering fees
- Land acquisition, water and land rights, permits and equipment
- Interest incurred during construction
- Other costs determined to be necessary for completion of the project

What is the loan term and rate?

Up to 40-year payback period, based on the useful life of the facilities financed and state statute. Fixed interest rates based on the median household income of the area to be served. Contact us for details and current interest rates applicable for your project.

Are there additional requirements?

- Borrowers must have the legal authority to own, construct, operate and maintain the proposed facility or service.
- Projects must be financially sustainable.
- Partnerships with other federal, state, local, private and nonprofit entities that offer financial assistance are encouraged.

U.S. Department of Agriculture — Rural Development Loans and Grants

How do we get started?

Visit RD Apply – www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rd-apply

- Applications are accepted year round and must be filed electronically using RD Apply. The RD Apply Customer Help Guide is available to help you get started and work through the application process
- Program resources are available online (i.e., forms, guidance, certifications, etc.).

Additional USDA Funding Options

Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities and Households Grant (SEARCH)

This program helps small, financially distressed rural communities with predevelopment feasibility studies, design and technical assistance on proposed water and waste disposal projects. Learn more at www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-environmental-programs/search-special-evaluation-assistance-rural-communities-and-households-grant.

Water and Wastewater Disposal Predevelopment Planning Grant (PPG)

This program helps eligible low-income communities plan and develop applications for proposed USDA Rural Development water or waste disposal projects. Learn more at <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-environmental-programs/water-waste-disposal-loan-grant-program>.

Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant (ECWAG)

This program helps eligible communities prepare, or recover from, an emergency that threatens the availability of safe, reliable drinking water. Learn more at www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-environmental-programs/emergency-community-water-assistance-grants.



For more information, contact:

Rural Development North Dakota
United States Department of Agriculture
Ranetta Starr
Community Programs Director
701-890-3076
Ranetta.Starr@usda.gov
www.rd.usda.gov/nd

North Dakota Workforce Safety & Insurance — Ergonomic Initiative Grant Program

WSI's Ergonomic Initiative Grant Program provides employers resources, including financial assistance, to address ergonomic issues. The purpose of the program is to reduce or eliminate cumulative-type injuries at the workplace. What typically begins as minor aches or pains, if ignored, has potential to develop into costly claims. The Ergonomic Initiative Grant Program consists of two parts; the Ergonomic Initiative Program and the Ergonomic Grant Program. The initiative program needs to be completed before an employer can be eligible for grant program.

WSI provides financial assistance for provider services under this program. WSI pays 75% of the provider fees and the employer pays 25%. The provider's work and services will vary depending on the needs of the employer. Factors that determine the work and services include the number of employees, number of job classifications, type of work performed, and claims trends history (frequency and severity).

The provider's visit may include:

- An ergonomic assessment to identify potential or existing problems
- Ergonomic recommendations and interventions
- Assistance with selecting appropriate ergonomic equipment
- Ergonomic education and training

Ergonomic Grant Program

WSI provides financial assistance for an employer to purchase ergonomic equipment. The provider must recommend the equipment in the ergonomic assessment which is completed in the initiative program.

Financial Assistance Eligibility Chart

Stmium	Max Award
\$250 - \$5,000	\$5,000
\$5,001 - \$20,000	\$10,000
\$20,001 - \$50,000	\$15,000
\$50,001 - \$150,000	\$20,000
\$150,001 - \$300,000	\$30,000
\$300,001 and above	\$50,000

Who Can Apply?

The **Ergonomic Initiative Program** is available to any employer:

- Who has an active WSI policy with employees or has selected optional coverage on the account.

WSI encourages employers to participate in this program to ensure ergonomic concerns are being addressed.

The **Ergonomic Grant Program** is available to any employer:

- Is in good standing with WSI for a minimum of one year
- Completed the Ergonomic Initiative Program

How to Apply

Visit their website to apply.



For more information, contact:

Workforce Safety & Insurance

Randy Wegge, Ergonomics Coordinator

1600 E. Century Ave, Ste 1

Bismarck, ND 58503

701-328-6006

ndwsi@nd.gov or rwegge@nd.gov

www.workforcesafety.com/safety/grants/ergonomic-initiative-grant

North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality — Operator Expense Reimbursement Grant

The Water Operator Expense Reimbursement Grant's objective is to refund expenses to operators working for small water systems serving 3,300 people or less. Funding is available to help operators become certified and remain certified without placing a hardship on the small system.

Allowable Expenses:

Registration Fee*

Mileage (one round trip per event)

Miscellaneous: books, manuals, study materials (purchased from or approved by the Department)

Per Diem

Meals

\$9.00 breakfast (must leave before 7 a.m.)

\$14.00 noon (gone between 11 a.m. & 1 p.m.)

\$22.00 evening (must leave before 5 p.m. & return after 7 p.m.)

- receipts are not needed for meals**
- employee must be in travel status at least 4 hours for meal reimbursement

Lodging*

Up to \$100 Maximum per day.

Whenever possible, state rates should be obtained for lodging. If not possible, a maximum of \$100/day will be reimbursed for lodging. A receipt is required for lodging reimbursement. An itemized receipt from the lodging facility is preferable. A reimbursement form must be submitted for each event.

Submit a separate form if the operator and public water system are requesting split payment for the same event. Do not combine events on the same form.

Mileage is limited to one vehicle per system and one roundtrip per event at the current federal mileage rate of \$0.67/mile. Carpooling must be implemented by each system.

Operator reimbursement form link: www.deq.nd.gov/Forms/MF/Operator_Reimbursement_Form.pdf.

*Receipts are required for registration fees, miscellaneous expenses, and lodging.

If meals are included as part of the registration package, they **cannot be claimed as part of the per diem.

A signed IRS W-9 Form must be submitted with each request for reimbursement at www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf.



For more information, contact:

Department of Environmental Quality

Division of Municipal Facilities

4201 Normandy Street

Bismarck, ND 58503-1324

LeeAnn Tillotson, Rule Manager

701-328-5293

ltillots@nd.gov

www.deq.nd.gov/MF/DWP/OPReimb.aspx

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North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality
4021 Normandy Street
Bismarck, ND 58503
701-328-5211
www.deq.nd.gov/mf

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North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association
2718 Gateway Ave #201
Bismarck, ND 58503
701-258-9249 or 800-349-6851
www.ndrw.org

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