



Memo

To: Jurisdictions with Water Needs

From: Colleen Hannon, Region 10 Grant Navigator

Date: 9.15.23

Re: Funding Opportunities for Water Projects

Colleagues:

Here is an update on our funding searches this week.

1. EPA-OW-OGWDW-23-01, Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program

The link is <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?opId=350091>

I know that several jurisdictions have mentioned to me risks to water tanks associated with wildland fire and lack of redundancy of power sources. Other risks may include flooding and even drought is included. Please consider this pot of money if you are ready to apply for projects related to water system security. The last paragraph lists the eligible project elements. This looks like a good match for many of you.

The focus is:

EPA is soliciting applications from eligible entities for projects in underserved communities that are disadvantaged or **serve a population of less than 10,000 individuals to increase drinking water system resilience to natural hazards** as described in Assistance Listing 66.448. For the purposes of this grant program, the term “resilience,” as defined in (SDWA section 1433(h) and incorporated by reference in SDWA section 1459A, means the ability of a community water system or an asset of a community water system, for example the equipment, buildings, land, people, and other components needed to deliver safe and clean water, to adapt to or withstand the effects of a natural hazard without interruption to the corresponding function, or if the function is interrupted, to rapidly return to a normal operating condition. For the purposes of this grant program, **the term “natural hazard” means a natural event, such as an earthquake, tornado, flood, hurricane, wildfire, drought, freezing or hydrologic change** that threatens the functioning of a community water system, as defined in Section 1433(h) of the SDWA and incorporated by reference in section 1459A. When considering these natural disaster threats, a public water system may take into account risks associated with climate change to ensure that resilience-building activities address future conditions such as increasing or decreasing temperatures, changes in precipitation, and, where applicable, sea-level rise. The goal of the first National Priority Area is to **increase drinking water system resilience by implementing smaller-scale resilience projects informed by drinking water system plans.** The goal of the second National Priority Area is to improve drinking water system resilience through large-scale infrastructure improvements and/or optimization of mitigation measures at a drinking water system.



Eligible activities for funding include planning, design, construction, implementation, operation, or maintenance of a program or project that increases drinking water system resilience to natural hazards

As prescribed by the statutory requirements, funding 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 through:

- Conservation of water or the enhancement of water use efficiency (e.g., conducting water audits, installing water metering, and water reuse).
- Modification or relocation of existing drinking water system infrastructure significantly impaired by natural hazards, or infrastructure that is at risk of being significantly impaired by natural hazards, including risks to drinking water infrastructure from flooding (e.g., elevation of electrical panels at a lift station to prevent flooding damage, physical hardening, elevation of treatment plants, and reinforcement of water towers to prevent tornado damage).
- Design or construction of desalination facilities to serve existing communities.
- Enhancement of water supply through watershed management and source water protection (e.g., developing and implementing watershed plans, conducting source water assessments, and public education).
- Enhancement of energy efficiency or the use and generation of renewable energy in the conveyance or treatment of drinking water (e.g., energy use monitoring and energy audits, technology upgrades, and the installation of solar, wind, or geothermal systems to generate power).
- Measures to increase the resilience of the drinking water system to natural hazards, including planning for analytical considerations and climate change (e.g., infrastructure improvements, 6 larger capacity water storage tanks, relocation or deepening of wells, updating climate change risk and resilience assessments, and improving emergency response plans based on the findings of a risk and resilience assessment pursuant to Section 1433 of SDWA, as amended by the America's Water Infrastructure Act, conducting exercises to assess resilience and refinement of plans, and conducting or participating in training to take advantage of available tools and resources to enhance resilience).

The deadline is November 6th. And I believe there is a possible waiver from EPA of the 10% match. And, if not, remember the DOLA LOMA fund for matching dollars.

2. There is a webinar on September 26th on how to compete for EPA grants. Here are the details:

September 26, 2023, 2:00pm-3:30pm Eastern Time (via MS Teams)

This webinar is intended to help grant applicants learn how to find and successfully apply for competitive EPA grants. EPA will also provide an overview of the competition process from application through evaluation and selection.

Registration: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=uuQPpMer_kiHkrQ4iZnkAMT7PSxqWZ5Ck71x6mW8NjxUMUFWU44N0pCWUFITURCNjVOSFc0WDICQ4u

It appears to be a slow week for the release of new NOFOs. My next memo will focus on Disaster Resiliency. Please let us know if you are pursuing any federal dollars at this time.