

Safe Drinking Water Loan Program

Learn about the Environmental Loans programs and find guidance at dnr.wi.gov/aid/eif.html

Affordable Financing for Drinking Water Projects

Since 1998, the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP) provides affordable financial assistance to municipalities for publicly-owned drinking water infrastructure projects that are needed to protect public health and achieve or maintain compliance with federal and state regulations relating to water supply, such as the SDWA.

- Implementation details: ss. 281.59 & 281.61, Wis. Stats., and ch. NR 166, Wis. Adm. Code.

Benefits & program features

- Fixed interest rate on 20-year loan term.
- Online system for notice of Intent to Apply (ITA) and Application submittals.
- Dedicated DNR project manager and construction management engineer.
- Coordination of funds with other funding agencies.



What kinds of funding are available?

The Wisconsin Environmental Improvement Fund (EIF) is a state revolving loan fund that combines federal capitalization grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) with state funds to provide funding to municipalities in the form of **subsidized (low interest) loans**. In recent years, additional subsidization of program loans in the form of **principal forgiveness (PF)** has been available to economically disadvantaged municipalities.

- **View current rates at** dnr.wi.gov/aid/documents/eif/guide/interest.html.

How may the funds be used?

The program funds are for reasonable and necessary costs directly related to the **planning, design, & construction** of eligible projects. Funds may be used to construct, improve, modify, purchase, replace, restore and upgrade drinking water systems and infrastructure (i.e. sourcing, treatment, storage and distribution).

Common projects: new wells, wellhouse rehabilitation, storage facilities, and watermain replacements.

- Examples of *general* project scope descriptions:
 - Build taller storage tank to eliminate low-pressure areas.
 - Replace undersized watermains along main street.

Who may apply?

Wisconsin cities, towns, villages, counties, sanitary districts and other qualifying municipalities.

How do we apply? When do we apply?

Application guidance and considerations are available on the How to Apply tab at dnr.wi.gov/aid/eif.html#tabx3.

Deadlines are set in the program's annual intended use plan, see dnr.wi.gov/aid/projectListsIUPs.html.

- **October 31** - SDWLP Intent to Apply (ITA) deadline for the *following* state fiscal year funding cycle.
- **June 30** - SDWLP Application deadline if competing for PF for the *upcoming* state fiscal year funding cycle.

Submit ITAs by 10/31/2025 deadline if seeking funding in state fiscal year (SFY) 2027. The SFY runs from July 1 of one calendar year through June 30 of the next and is designated by the calendar year in which it ends.

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