

E-Bulletin Newsletter



To provide affordable financial assistance to communities within Wisconsin for water infrastructure projects that protect and improve public health and water quality for current and future generations.



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The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

On Monday, November 15, 2021, President Biden hosted a bipartisan bill signing ceremony for his Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The BIL delivers more than \$55 billion to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to improve our nation's drinking water, wastewater, and storm water infrastructure. This is a "once-in-a-life-time" opportunity bringing additional federal funds over five years for the EPA, DNR, and communities within Wisconsin. The BIL is expected to bring an additional \$855 million to Wisconsin's state revolving programs over the next five years.

The BIL language is over 2,700 pages. Many people here in DNR, and in agencies like ours across the nation, are digging into the details. The DNR is working on getting specifics about what this means for Wisconsin, what it means for the department, and what it means for the Environmental Loans Programs. We may not be able to answer specific questions right away but the DNR will share updates with you as information becomes available. At this time, here is what we have from EPA Headquarters:

- [Fact Sheet: EPA & The Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal \(BID\)](#)

We ask for your patience

Please understand that a funding opportunity of this scale is hard to process and execute while making sure the work is done right. It may take us several months to develop new programs, policies, and procedures that are required. As the DNR moves forward, we will share updates with you as information becomes available.

Update: LSL Amendment & Forms

On November 19th, over 120 people attended the online workshop to ask questions about the lead service line amendment to the SFY 2022 SDWLP Intended Use Plan; view [slides](#). The criteria used to evaluate applicants is being revised via the [LSL amendment](#), which is open for public comment until November 30th; email comments to Rebecca.Scott@wisconsin.gov.

The LSL Application and draft Priority Evaluation & Ranking Form for the 2022 construction season are available on our [Private LSL Replacement Program](#) page. We anticipate the PERF to be finalized in early December.

Reminder: Final Disbursement Requests for 2021 LSL projects **must** be received by December 31st. Avoid delaying your disbursements with early submittals, which allow time to resolve any questions or issues that may arise.

Upcoming Deadlines

November 25

DOA & DNR offices closed.

December 8

Final loan closing date in 2021.

December 10

Disbursement Request Form due at DNR.

December 22

Last disbursement date in 2021.

No loan closings will occur on 12/22/21.

December 24 & 31

DOA & DNR offices closed.

January 18, 2022

2022 Private LSL Replacement Program PERF and Application deadline.

January 31, 2022

Last recommended date for opening bids on SFY 2022 SDWLP projects.

DNR, Environmental Loans Section—CF/2, 101 S. Webster Street, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921
dnr.wi.gov/aid/eif.html | CWFPP phone: 608-358-3330 | SDWLP phone: 608-445-5964 | [staff directory webpage](#)



Program implementation details are outlined in chs. [NR 162](#) and [NR 166](#), Wis. Adm. Code. [Legal notice](#): This document is intended solely as guidance and does not contain any mandatory requirements except where requirements found in statute or administrative rule are referenced. Any regulatory decisions made by the Department of Natural Resources in any matter addressed by this guidance will be made by applying the governing statutes and administrative rules to the relevant facts. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. This publication is available in alternative format upon request, call 608-267-9481 for more information.

SFY 2022 CWFPP Funding List Available Online

The DNR received 53 eligible Clean Water Fund Program applications by the Principal Forgiveness deadline, requesting \$262,877,405 for State Fiscal Year 2022 funding. These projects are identified in priority score order on the [SFY 2022 CWFPP Funding List](#). The funding list shows the estimated allocation of loan and PF dollars, and total requested costs for each project.

Principal Forgiveness Funds

PF is additional subsidy, provided by the federal government, to finance the highest-priority projects in municipalities with the greatest financial need. The priority score ordering is used for the allocation of PF funds that reduce the size of a project's loan. The allocation methodology is explained in the annual Intended Use Plan.

New for SFY 2022: Applicants do not have to be eligible for general PF to receive CWFPP Priority PF for energy efficiency. Municipalities who submit a CWFPP application *after* the September 30th PF deadline can still receive a loan and be considered for Energy Efficiency Priority PF if funds are still available. Review eligibility requirements on our [CWFPP Priority PF](#) page.

Loan Closing Dates & Schedules

As a reminder, for both PF & non-PF CWFPP applications, the loan closing must be within eight (8) months following the date of the application acceptance notification, which is sent by the DNR loan project manager. Work with your assigned DNR loan project manager (*see Funding List*) to establish your closing date and schedule.

2022 Disbursement Schedule and Calendar

The disbursements visual aid was created to help clarify the request deadlines and corresponding payment dates for the Clean Water Fund Program and the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program. The disbursement schedule with 12-month calendar is available online:

- 2022 [PUB-CF-061](#)
- 2021 [PUB-CF-061a](#)



Final 2021 Requests for Disbursement

For information about the process, please review our [Disbursement Request](#) webpage.

Requests for Disbursement are due:

Friday, December 10, 2021

Disbursements will be made on:

Wednesday, December 22, 2021

Final Disbursement Requests for [LSL projects](#) **must** be received by December 31, 2021.

Note: No loan closings will occur on December 22nd

899 ITAs Received for SFY 2023

The Department received the following numbers of Intent to Apply (ITAs) with Priority Evaluation & Ranking Formula (PERF) information by the deadline date for the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2023 funding cycle.

- 328 - Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP)
- 571 - Clean Water Fund Program (CWFPP):
 - 24 - Pilot Projects
 - 277 - Collection System Projects
 - 265 - Wastewater Treatment Plant Projects
 - 5 - Storm Water Management Projects

The municipality and consulting engineer will receive an email when the ITA is approved. They will receive a second email once the PERF score is finalized and the Project Priority List (PPL) is posted to our [Project Lists & Intended Use Plans](#) page. All projects with a valid ITA

submission will be placed, in priority score order, on the corresponding SFY 2023 PPL and are eligible to submit a financial assistance application. **We plan to publish the SFY 2023 PPLs in late winter/early spring of 2022.**

The municipality/authorized consultant can log in to the online system to see their project's priority score and any important comments or notes about the project.

Contact the appropriate [program coordinator](#) if you would like to pursue a PERF score objection or request a priority score reevaluation.

We thank you in advance for your patience as we plow through this workload.

SFY 2023 PPLs and Median Household Income Data

Median Household Income (MHI) data will not be included on the Project Priority List (PPL) for SFY 2023. Refer to our [MHI webpage](#) for a list of MHIs for cities, villages, towns, and Census Designated Places (CDPs). The page also has instructions to determine the MHI for other types of municipalities such as sanitary districts and

metropolitan sewerage districts. For these other municipality types, an applicant may request that the DNR calculate the MHI. In addition, if a project goes forward with submitting an application, the DNR will calculate the MHI and notify the applicant of the MHI determination prior to publication of the Funding List.

Municipal MHIs for SFY 2023 Projects Available Online

Wisconsin's Median Household Incomes (MHIs) for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2023 Clean Water Fund Program (CWFP) and Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP) projects are available online:

- [Find your municipality's MHI for SFY 2023 projects](#)

MHI & Its Relation to Funding

The CWFP and SDWLP both use MHIs in multiple determinations. For example, the SDWLP uses the MHI to determine whether a municipality is eligible for points in the financial need category of the priority scoring system (Priority Evaluation & Ranking Form). Learn more about median household incomes on our [MHI webpage](#).

Using MHIs for SFY 23 projects:

- Wisconsin State MHI = \$61,747
- 80.0% of State MHI for determinations = \$49,397

Interest rate subsidy

The programs provide subsidy to reduce loan [interest rates](#) below the market rate established by the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA).

- For example, if a municipality's population is greater than or equal to 10,000, their MHI is greater than or equal to 80.1% of Wisconsin's MHI, or both then they are eligible for the interest rate of 55% of the market rate for a CWFP or SDWLP project.

The MHI is a factor in determining whether a municipality qualifies for a lower interest rate subsidy.

- For example, if a municipality's population is less than 10,000 *and* the MHI is less than or equal to 80% of Wisconsin's MHI, then they are eligible for the lower interest rate of 33% of the market rate for a CWFP or SDWLP project.
- For example, if a municipality's population is less than 1,000 *and* the MHI is less than or equal to 65% of Wisconsin's MHI, then they are eligible for the even lower interest rate of 0% of the market rate for a CWFP project.

Additional subsidy

Some municipalities may also be eligible for additional subsidy in the form of [Principal Forgiveness \(PF\)](#). PF is comparable to a grant because it reduces the size of the loan, thus reducing annual principal and interest payments. The MHI is used in determining whether a municipality is eligible to receive PF, and, if so, for what percentage of its project costs.

The PF allocation methodologies, described in each of the annual Intended Use Plans, are structured to allocate PF funds to the highest priority projects in municipalities with the greatest financial need.

Staff Change: Bernie Robertson Retiring

Bernie Robertson, our South Central Region Construction Management Engineer, is retiring in December 2021. He is a great asset to the Environmental Loans Program and the communities he serves. While we will miss Bernie's jokes, work ethic, and institutional knowledge, we will also envy his ability to spend more time in warmer climates with family pursuing the activities he so enjoys.

We wish Bernie well as he enjoys retirement, exploring on his bicycle!

Bernie's existing active projects will be covered by other [CMEs](#) until the new CME is on board in early 2022. Funding questions about a project can be directed to its [Environmental Loans Project Manager](#).

