



Department of Health

Three Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908-5097

TTY: 711
www.health.ri.gov

February 17, 2025

Re: Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Project Priority List State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2026 Applications

Dear Public Water System Official:

With construction season approaching, we are opening the Project Priority List (PPL) for project applications. The PPL is funded through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). The DWSRF continues to have additional federal and state funding available due to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) to replace lead service lines, address emerging contaminants, and replace aging infrastructure. For those that may need it, there are also significant funds available for technical assistance – which is provided at no cost to the water supplier. *We encourage water systems to think broadly about needs, plan for multi-year investments, and work together with the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) to find opportunities to accelerate your project(s).*

Enclosed, please find a copy of the SFY26 PPL Application ([download online](#)). Please ensure that the anticipated project start dates are as accurate as possible since the information will be used by the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank (RIIB) to ensure timely disbursement of funds. *As a reminder, to remain eligible for funding, a PPL project application must be submitted annually for any project that has not started to receive funding from RIIB.*

Changes and highlights to this year's funding cycle:

- 1. Applying to be ranked on the PPL is NOT the same as applying for a loan.**
- 2. Having a project added to the PPL does NOT constitute engineering approval of the project.**
- 3. Projects must have a design engineer actively working on the proposed project to be ranked.** The design engineer must be identified in the PPL application.
- 4. Projects that have an anticipated construction start date more than 2 years after the PPL application deadline should not apply.**
- 5. PPL applications are due by March 21, 2025.**
- 6. PPL applications will only be accepted between February 17 and March 21; the PPL may be amended to add a project(s) that qualify as an emergency [[REG 12248 20211222153626.pdf](#)].**
- 7. This year we are introducing planning and design loans. [[DWSRF-Certificate-of-Approval.pdf](#)]:**
 - a. These loans are intended to assist communities that need to complete infrastructure projects but lack the reserves necessary to pay for engineering services up front.



State of Rhode Island

b. Requirements include:

- i. A detailed project description, project purpose, a list of project co-funding sources (if applicable), and information about the planned phasing of the project (if applicable) (e.g., whether the project is anticipated to have different phases of planning, have different phases of engineering reviews, or involve construction in multiple phases such as in different service areas of the public water system);
- ii. Environmental Review dependent on project type and scope;
- iii. A summary sheet listing a breakdown of project costs and portions for which financial assistance is being sought;
- iv. Sufficient evidence to show that the water system has the technical and managerial capabilities to maintain compliance with the 'Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Public Drinking Water'; and
- v. Certification of intent to comply with all applicable provisions of federal and/or state laws.

c. Eligible uses:

- i. Hire design/consulting engineer to complete feasibility studies, preliminary engineering, and/or final design;
- ii. Conduct treatment pilot studies or source exploration;
- iii. Complete environmental review; or
- iv. Qualifying administrative functions.

RIDOH will review each PPL application for eligibility and assign a priority score. The score is determined using the ranking system that RIDOH developed as required by the Environmental Protection Agency. Eligible projects and their respective information will be listed in order of priority, highest to lowest. After any public comments are addressed, the list will be finalized. Projects on the PPL will then be eligible for DWSRF funding through RIIB once all RIDOH requirements are met.

Public water systems wishing to discuss project specific details of the DWSRF Program are encouraged to contact RIDOH DWSRF Project Managers at RIDOH.EngineeringDWQ@health.ri.gov.

Borrowers with specific questions regarding the financial aspects of the DWSRF are encouraged to contact Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank (RIIB); email Aaron Qureshi at aqureshi@riib.org or call 401-808-6619.

Center for Drinking Water Quality
Rhode Island Department of Health

Enclosed: [SFY26 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Project Priority List Application](#), [RI DWSRF: Learn about Loans to Invest in Drinking Water Infrastructure](#)



State of Rhode Island