



South Carolina
Rural Infrastructure Authority
Creating water solutions.
Improving communities statewide.

Proposed Water and Sewer Grants Program


American Rescue Plan Act
House Ad Hoc Committee

January 20, 2022





ESTIMATING 5-YEAR CAPITAL INVESTMENT NEEDS



EPA Needs Surveys

\$1.9B

*Based on 20-year estimates
adjusted to 2021 dollars*

RIA Survey of Systems

\$1.8B

for 20% of utilities

COMPETITIVE WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM

OBJECTIVES:

TRANSFORMATIONAL IMPACT

COOPERATIVE SOLUTIONS

ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT

ACCOUNTABILITY

TRANSPARENCY

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Units of local government
- Special purpose districts
- Commissions of public works
- Joint municipal organizations

Units of local government may apply on behalf of non-profit water and sewer systems



ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Construction of water, wastewater and storm water infrastructure
- Planning studies that lay the groundwork for viability and future improvements

All projects must meet the broad eligibility criteria outlined in the American Rescue Plan Act





Construction of a new pump station to expand capacity to serve new and existing businesses and residents



Water Treatment Plant upgrades that modernize equipment to serve the entire system



Replacement and upgrade of aging water and sewer lines that will eliminate the need for repairs and frequent disruptions in service

MULTIPLE PROGRAMS OF ASSISTANCE

INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

- Capital improvement projects:
 - 60% Large Utilities
(Serve 30,000+ population)
 - 40% Small Utilities
(Serve less than 30,000 population)

REGIONAL SOLUTIONS GRANTS

- Capital improvements for multiple systems to implement regional partnership solutions including consolidation

PLANNING GRANTS

- Studies to evaluate system needs and identify capital projects to achieve viability
 - *Very Small Systems*
(Serve 3,300 population or less)

GRANT AMOUNTS

- Infrastructure Grants: \$10 million
- Regional Solutions: \$10 million
- Planning Grants: \$ 1 million

No minimum grant amounts

Maximum grant amounts could be modified with documentation of extenuating factors.



LOCAL INVESTMENT

- Infrastructure Grants
 - Large Utilities: 25%
 - Small Utilities: 15%
- Regional Solutions: 15%
- Planning Grants: no match

Local investment requirements could be modified with documentation of extenuating factors



VERY SMALL SYSTEMS

- Application and implementation assistance provided through COGs
 - Propose \$500,000 per COG
- Opportunity to access planning assistance for facility assessments, capital improvement plans and regional feasibility studies
 - \$1 million max grants – no local match



SELECTION PRIORITIES

1. Regional Solutions
2. Protection of Public Health and Water Quality
3. Resilience and Storm Protection
4. Modernization of Aging Infrastructure
5. Capacity Development and Economic Opportunities



ADDITIONAL CRITERIA

- Relative need and documentation
- Feasibility
- Impact
- Readiness to proceed and meet program deadlines
- Leveraging of additional funds
- Geographic distribution



APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

 RIA announces funding availability and conducts workshop

 Applicants submit applications to RIA

 RIA staff rank applications based on priorities

 RIA board reviews staff recommendations and makes award decisions

 RIA staff monitor project progress and distribute funds as work is completed

APPLICATION AND AWARD TIMELINE



Federal deadline for obligation of funds:

December 2024

Federal deadline for expenditure of funds:

December 2026



PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

- Outreach and Technical Assistance
- Application Review and Project Selection
- Monitoring of Projects for Timelines and Performance
- Reporting and Accountability

BUDGET

- RIA Administration
 - 1% of allocation
- RIA FTEs
 - 5 new
- DHEC
 - Additional Permitting Needs



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