

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





COMPETITIVE WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM

OBJECTIVES:

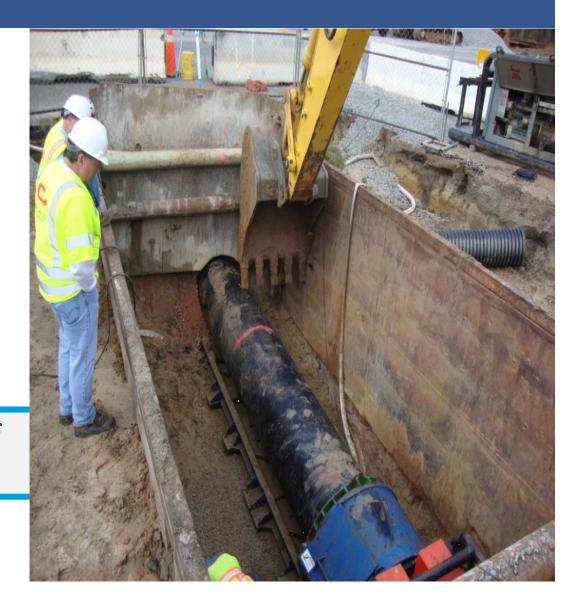
TRANSFORMATIONAL IMPACT
COOPERATIVE SOLUTIONS
ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT
ACCOUNTABILITY
TRANSPARENCY



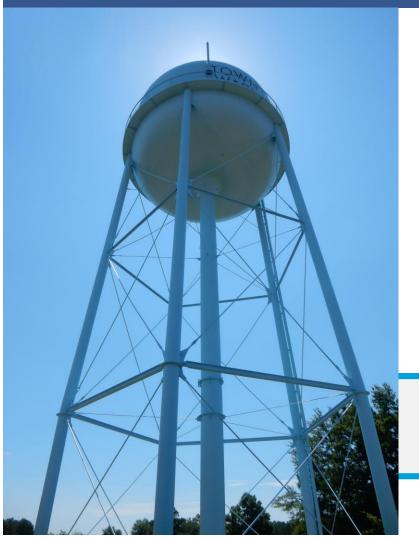
ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- 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:
\$ I million

No minimum grant amounts

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





LOCAL INVESTMENT

Infrastructure Grants

Large Utilities: 25%

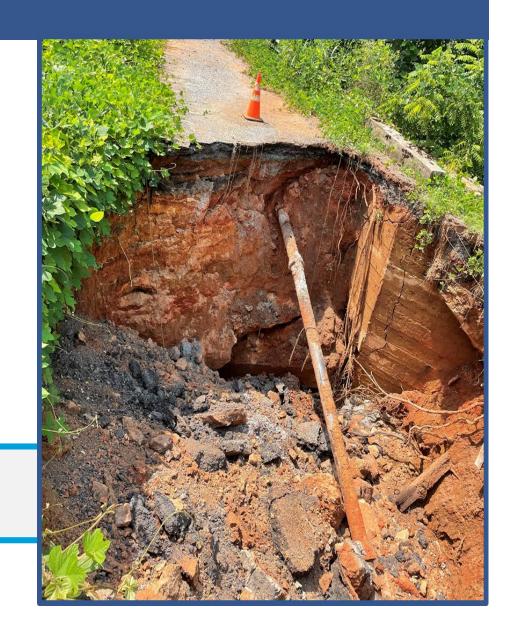
• Small Utilities: 15%

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

- I. Regional Solutions
- Protection of Public Health and Water Quality
- 3. Resilience and Storm Protection
- 4. Modernization of Aging Infrastructure
- 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

Round I

July 2022

Awards in October

Round 2

January 2023

Awards in April

Round 3

July 2023

Awards in October

Round 4

January 2024

Awards in April

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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