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NOTIFICATION OF PROJECT SOLICITATION PERIOD

Project Evaluation Forms for 2027 SRF Intended Use Plan Projects Available

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) is pleased to announce that the solicitation period for new drinking water and clean water projects seeking funding through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program is now open for the calendar year 2027 Intended Use Plan (IUP) financing cycle. Project Evaluation Forms (PEFs) for construction projects will be accepted **until 12:00 PM, July 24, 2026**. Please note that the Asset Management Planning Grant Program is paused for the 2027 IUP cycle.

To be considered for SRF financing for a construction project, an applicant must complete a project evaluation form (PEF) during the annual project solicitation period. The PEF requires the applicant to provide information that enables MassDEP to evaluate and rank the projects using an established rating system which assigns points based on various criteria. PEFs should be filled out in and submitted through MassDEP's eSRF portal. A link to the eSRF portal, as well as portal login and PEF instructions can be found online at State Revolving Fund Applications & Forms. If you encounter technical difficulties, please email the SRF Data Support Team at srfmadep@mass.gov for assistance.

Drinking Water Construction Projects (DWSRF):

There are no significant changes to the DWSRF PEF for 2027. The DWSRF Policy on Eligible Costs can be found online here. The ranking system criteria remain the same and can be found online here. Please be aware of the following priority for financing drinking water construction projects:

- PFAS mitigation projects that reduce the concentration of Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water to below the Massachusetts Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 20 parts per trillion for the sum of six PFAS substances (PFAS6). *NOTE: Under DEP's Tiered Classification System for project scoring, to be considered a Tier V project (the highest scoring tier) the concentrations for the sum of the PFAS6 of the finished water tap of combined sources must be greater than or equal to 10 ppt. The PFAS concentrations must be reduced, if feasible, to levels approaching the MassDEP Minimum Reporting Level of 2 parts per trillion (ng/L).*

Clean Water Construction Projects (CWSRF):

There are no significant changes to the CWSRF PEF for 2027. The CWSRF Policy on Eligible Costs can be found online here. The ranking system criteria remain the same and can be found online here. Please be aware of the following priorities for financing clean water construction projects:

- Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO) or Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO) projects that eliminate or abate discharges
- Projects that reduce nutrient enrichment and meet certain criteria are eligible for 0% interest rate financing. More information can be found online here Nutrient Enrichment Reduction Loans (0% Interest)
- PFAS remediation to mitigate releases to the environment that are impacting public drinking water sources

DWSRF and CWSRF projects that incorporate green elements and innovative technologies that result in reduced energy consumption, resource conservation, production of renewable energy and resiliency receive added points in the ranking system. Massachusetts is encouraging resiliency and adaptation in the design and construction of infrastructure through its Massachusetts Integrated State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan. The Massachusetts Climate Change Clearinghouse tool provides a preliminary exposure rating for projects based on best available statewide data, recommended resilience design criteria, and technical guidance.

Rolling SRF Applications for 2027:

MassDEP accepts applications on a rolling basis (no PEF required), subject to the availability of funding, for the following programs:

- *Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants (OSG) Program* - With a focus on rural communities (populations of 10,000 or less) or disadvantaged communities, the OSG program is intended to address infrastructure needs for combined sewer overflows (CSO), sanitary sewer overflows (SSO), stormwater management and subsurface water drainage. Eligible communities may apply for a grant of up to $250,000 to implement planning and/or design activities. MassDEP may cap project costs based on the scope of the project and the availability of funds. All federal fund grant recipients must comply with the Uniform Grant Guidance, including the procurement provisions.
- *Lead Service Lines (LSL) Planning Loans* – The LSL Planning Loan Program supports activities that assist public water suppliers (PWS) to complete service line inventories and to develop LSL replacement programs, in support of compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI). Applications for LSL planning loans are currently being accepted on a rolling basis. Zero percent (0%) interest rate financing and loan forgiveness is available while funding lasts. More information on the program and how to apply can be found online here.
- *LSL Construction Loans* - Public Water Suppliers may submit applications for construction projects that support compliance with LCRI and all SRF program

requirements. Priority for financing will be given to systems with documented lead levels, particularly those exceeding the 90th percentile, and PWS serving disadvantaged communities or small systems. Applications for LSL construction loans are currently being accepted on a rolling basis. Zero percent (0%) interest rate financing and loan forgiveness is available while funding lasts. More information on the program and how to apply can be found online here.

- *Planning Projects* – Eligible borrowers may submit a planning loan application for either CWSRF or DWSRF. Examples of planning projects include, but are not limited to: Integrated Water Resource Management Plan, Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan, Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan, Project Evaluation Report, Long-term Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Strategy, Stormwater Management Plan, Engineering Reports, Infiltration and Inflow Study, Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Survey. Applications for planning loans are accepted on a rolling basis while funding is available. More information on the program and how to apply can be found online here.
- *Community Management Septic Program* – SRF loans are available to fund the Community Septic Management Programs. Communities that implement a Septic Management Program that offers an interest rate reduction to homeowners based on Area Median income threshold may be eligible for 0% loans, subject to review and an affirmative vote by the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust's Board of Trustees.

Readiness to Proceed – Very Important Deadlines

Readiness to proceed is an important criterion for SRF financial assistance. Compliance with SRF project deadlines is critical to the effective use of limited funding and the efficient administration of the SRF program. Applicants are reminded that their projects should be sufficiently advanced to enable them to successfully meet the following deadlines if the project is offered financing in the final IUP:

1. Borrowers must secure a local appropriation of the total cost of the project by **June 30, 2027**.
2. Borrowers must submit a complete loan application with biddable plans and specifications by **October 1, 2027**.
3. All projects, including those eligible to receive principal forgiveness, **must** have a fully executed construction contract by **June 30, 2028**.
4. Once a Project Approval Certificate is issued, the borrower has 6 months to initiate the project.

Proposals that do not meet these deadlines may be removed from the IUP and replaced by a lower ranked project which is ready to proceed.

Available funding and multi-year projects

As indicated in the 2026 Final IUPs, SRF financing capacity is constrained by a number of factors. Applicants should be aware that MassDEP and the Clean Water Trust will review available funding and determine if multi-year project approval for new 2027 IUP projects is possible. Applicants are encouraged to explore possible funding options that may be used to supplement SRF funding.

SRF Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Update

Effective April 7, 2025, the EPA has suspended certain requirements related to the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program. Specifically, the EPA suspended requirements for funding recipients to negotiate DBE goals, as well as certain reporting and record keeping requirements. In response to this change, SRF does not require funding recipients to adhere to previously established DBE participation goals. However, SRF funding recipients are advised that they must continue to agree to adhere to the "six good faith efforts" whenever procuring construction, equipment, services, and supplies. The specific six good faith efforts can be found at: 40 CFR 33.301. SRF funding recipients are reminded to retain appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with the six good faith efforts.

MassDEP looks forward to your participation in the State Revolving Fund program.