



Department of Environmental Protection

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July 1, 2022

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Project Evaluation Forms for 2023 State Revolving Fund Projects

Dear Interested Parties:

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) is pleased to announce that the solicitation period for new drinking water and clean water projects seeking financing through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program is now open. MassDEP's Division of Municipal Services will accept Project Evaluation Forms (PEFs) for construction projects and asset management planning for the 2023 round of financing **until 12:00 PM, August 12, 2022**.

Drinking Water Construction Projects (DWSRF):

There are no significant changes to the DWSRF PEFs for 2023. The rating criteria remain the same. Please be aware of the following priorities for construction proposals:

- **PFAS remediation** - Projects that reduce the concentration of Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water to below the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 20 parts per trillion or, if feasible, to levels approaching the MassDEP Minimum Reporting Level of 2 parts per trillion (ng/l). PFAS mitigation projects are eligible to receive additional subsidy in the form of a 0% interest rate loan. The additional subsidy is contingent on the availability of funds and approval of the Trust Board of Trustees. <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massdep-fact-sheet-pfas-in-drinking-water-questions-and-answers-for-consumers>.
- **Lead reduction** - Projects that address lead in drinking water including full lead service lines replacements, lead removal, corrosion control capital improvements and water main rehabilitation projects.

Clean Water Construction Projects (CWSRF):

The ranking system for the CWSRF has been revised to mirror the DWSRF's 5-Tier System. Incoming CWSRF construction PEFs will be classified into one of 5 tiers, each having a set point base value, to identify the most significant proposals to improve and protect water quality and public health in the Commonwealth. The Tier System links SRF financing with primary factors that address or avert threats to public health or the environment, or address compliance and enforcement components, and with secondary factors such as affordability, population, energy savings, sustainable development, watershed management enhancement. Best management

This information is available in alternate format. Contact Glynis Bugg at 617-348-4040.

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practices are also given importance under the revised system. The CWSRF Tier System is designed such that even if a project qualifies for the maximum amount of secondary factor points, the project cannot be elevated to a higher tier.

Please be aware of the following priorities for 2023 CWSRF construction proposals:

- Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO) projects that eliminate or abate CSO discharges are eligible for financing under the CWSRF.
- Stormwater Management Planning projects that help communities to comply with NPDES MS4 permits are eligible for financing under the CWSRF.
- Projects that incorporate green elements and innovative technologies that result in reduced energy consumption, resource conservation, production of renewable energy or climate resiliency are also eligible for financing.

Asset Management Planning (AMP) Program

The Trust will make available funding to subsidize 60% of the project cost, up to \$150,000, for existing water infrastructure to plan and implement Asset Management Planning programs. Cybersecurity risk assessments will be funded through the AMP Grant program as these activities are critical to service continuity. Activities are limited to planning and assessment only. <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/asset-management-planning-grant-program>

Interested parties may submit PEFs for construction projects and AMP programs to MassDEP online at the following web site: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/state-revolving-fund-applications-forms>. MassDEP's website also contains the Project Evaluation Form Guidance and Instructions. The online PEF submission will allow you to upload your supporting documentation files. If this presents a difficulty, please email the SRF Data Support Team at srfmadep@mass.gov for assistance.

Open Solicitation

A Project Evaluation Form will not be necessary to apply for the following projects:

- **Planning Projects** - To better meet the needs of our communities, MassDEP will maintain an open project solicitation during calendar year 2023 for Clean Water and Drinking Water SRF planning projects. Upon publication of the Final 2023 Intended Use Plans (IUPs), MassDEP will start accepting loan applications on a rolling basis.
- **PFAS Design Projects** – To assist public water suppliers (PWS) impacted with PFAS concentrations in their systems, funding will be available to finance the design phase of projects. Upon publication of the Final 2023 DWSRF IUP, MassDEP will accept, on a rolling basis, loan applications for the design phase of PFAS remediation projects.
- **LSL planning loans with 100% loan forgiveness** - To assist PWS with complying with the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRRs) that require a complete and transparent LSL inventory by the deadline of October 16, 2024, MassDEP will accept [LSL planning loan applications](#) starting on July 1, 2022, on a rolling basis, while funding is available. Application. Eligible activities for these planning programs include:

- **LSL Inventory** - Completing a comprehensive LSL inventory for both public and private service lines that will be made publicly available as detailed by MassDEP. LSL inventory projects locate, map, and inventory the water distribution and customer service lines to create a comprehensive LSL inventory. This project could include inspecting physical service lines, compiling paper records, initiating a consumer LSL identification program, and must include submitting the complete inventory to MassDEP in a digital format specified by MassDEP or in an alternate format approved by MassDEP that can be readily compiled into the MassDEP system.
- **LSL Replacement Program** - Preparing an LSL replacement program for the PWS that complies with LCRRs. PWS' lead service line removal plans need to incorporate the MassDEP goal of protecting public health by planning to remove all lead service lines in 5 years.

To be eligible for 100% loan forgiveness, PWS must begin planning activities within six months of project approval and complete all activities within two years in accordance with the Financing Agreement. MassDEP reserves the right to monitor project proposal costs and cap project costs based on the availability of funds. Loan forgiveness for this program will only occur when the project has been closed out. *Please note that participating PWS may be in receipt of federal funds and be responsible for the reporting requirements associated with those funds.* Please view the Financing Agreement Terms and Conditions for further information: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/borrower-documents-reports-and-publications>.

Communities with a current Housing Choice designation will receive a discount on their SRF interest rate of up to 0.50% from the standard rate of 2% (<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/housing-choice-loan-program>).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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