



## DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND UPDATE

Office of Drinking Water

# Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program Update

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Program Manager DWSRF Program

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#### What do we do?

• Planning

- Capacity Development
- Water System Planning
- Project Planning

Construction

Single Project

- System Upgrades and Resiliency
- Regulatory Compliance

Technical Assistance

The SRF program exists to help build and maintain quality water infrastructure and governance capacity to provide safe and reliable drinking water for the 8 million citizens of Washington State.

Agenda

• We Have Money!

- O Updates and Changes...
- We Have Technical Assistance!
- Contacts

# We Have Money (State and Federal)!



Funding Programs

- Planning and Engineering
- Construction and Lead Service Lines
- Emerging Contaminants (BIL and EC-SDC)
- Consolidation Feasibility
- Water System Rehabilitation and Consolidation
- Emergency
- Source Water Protection

#### Construction and LSL Applications



#### **Construction Loan**

Standard construction projects – new or replacement sources, storage, treatment, or water mains

Emerging Contaminant projects such as PFAS or manganese treatment

Standard consolidations

Lead Service Line Loan

Service line inventories

Lead and galvanized\* service line replacements.

\*galvanized line must be downstream of known lead component.

#### **Applications**

Accepted year-round (WALT)

- Must submit by 11:59 p.m. November 30, 2024, to be scored and ranked in 2024
- Submit each project separately for scoring
  - One application for treatment project
  - One application for storage project unless the storage tank is required as part of the treatment system
  - One application for source
  - One application for water mains
  - One application for lead service line replacement

#### **Eligible Applicants**



Group A Community – not-for-profit and for-profit

Group A Noncommunity – not-for-profit

Group A Tribal community serving residential connections

Group B systems becoming Group A Community

#### Lead Service Line Loans

Group A Community – not-for-profit and forprofit

Group A Noncommunity – not-for-profit

Group A Tribal community serving residential connections

Planning Document for Eligibility

- O Approved and current planning document. Contact your Regional Planner
  - Either a Water System Plan or Small Water System Management Program
  - Project in the application must be identified in the planning document.
- For LSL loan projects, include planning document in scope of work if you do not have a current and approved document.

## WAC 246-296-100 (2)

**DWSRF loan eligibility and applications requirements.** To be eligible for a DWSRF loan, an applicant shall:

- 2) Except when applying for a DWSRF loan that addresses lead service line identification or lead service line replacement, the applicant shall have a current department-approved WSP or SWSMP that:
  - a) Includes the proposed project; and
  - b) Addresses any difficulties with system capacity

Water Rights for Eligibility

- Water Right permit or certificate is required for the area to be served – contact Regional Ecology office. Water rights are required for:
  - Source projects (point of withdrawal)
  - Consolidations and Interties (point of use)
  - Infill projects increasing capacity within the service area (point of use)
- Area to be served must match service area map in the approved planning document.

How to be Eligible for a Loan

- Dedicated water fund to pay back the loan separate rates and assessment from other funding.
- If the water system has an audit, there should be no findings. Not all audit findings make an entity ineligible.
- Governing body must approve the submittal of the application for the specific project and loan amount – submit signed meeting minutes.
- Cash flow must be POSITIVE and show you can pay off the loan.
- Be a legal entity with the state of <u>Washington Secretary</u> of <u>State</u>.

How to be Eligible for a Loan

- Have control of the property obtain ownership, lease, or easement for the life of the infrastructure for a construction loan.
- Signed construction agreement with property owner for lead service line replacement or potholing.

Dedicated Emerging Contaminants Funding

• EPA WIIN Grant (separate from BIL EC funding)

- Targets Small and Disadvantaged Communities
- Flexibility with Planning Requirements
- Emerging Contaminants
  - PFAS (MCL and SAL)
  - Manganese
  - O HABs (Nitrates?)
- Water Sampling and Testing
- Short Term Mitigation (tied to a long term remediation project)
- Planning updates and project design (Grants and TA)
- Long Term Remediation

## Other Funding Sources

- Planning and Engineering (Pre-Construction)
  - Project Design
  - WSP and SWSMP Development and Updates
  - Limited Source Exploration
  - Resiliency Planning
- Consolidation Feasibility
  - Up to \$50,000 grant
- Water System Rehabilitation and Consolidation (Invite Only)
  - To address struggling and failing systems (flexible)
- Emergency (intervening event required)
  - Urgency is not emergency
- Source Water Protection
  - Grant funding to reduce risk to source water
  - Up to \$30,000 grant

# Washington Loan Tracker (WALT)



#### WALT

- Applications accepted in WALT until 11:59 pm November 30, 2024.
- 2. Applicants must contact <u>DWSRF@doh.wa.gov</u> to get preregistered with WALT or you will not be able to access WALT successfully.
- 3. Register with <u>Secure Access Washington</u> (SAW) with the **same email address** as you gave for the WALT preregistration.
- 4. A complete application includes all attachments.
- 5. Submit the application.
- 6. Applicants will receive a confirmation email if the application is fully submitted. If you do not receive the e-mail within 24 hours, contact Scott Kugel at 360-480-7617.
- 7. NEW STAFF! Jason Cammarano Jason.Cammarano@doh.wa.gov

#### Washington Loan Tracking (WALT) External User Guide

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)





#### WALT Demonstration

# Ch-Ch-Changes



#### Changes

• Maximum award is **\$15 million per jurisdiction**.

- Oisadvantaged community (DAC) permanent rule effective September 1, 2024.
- Updated DAC criteria.
- Small Water System Management Programs must be approved after November 30, 2019.
- PFAS must exceed the new EPA maximum contaminant levels (MCL). Sample must be confirmed.

## Risk Category Changes

#### Risk Category 2

- PFAS must exceed the new EPA maximum contaminant levels (MCL). Sample must be confirmed.
- Water shortages across the state are now eligible. Must include a water shortage response plan in the scope of work. And must submit aquifer measurements with the application.

## Risk Category 4

Climate change response projects included.

Readiness to Proceed Scoring Changes

Bid Documents separate from Construction Documents.

- For water main replacements, construction documents are typically bid documents.
- All other projects require Project Report and Construction Documents approval and Bid Documents approval.
- Please allow **30 days for review** and comments of bid documents. From submittal to approval can be several months.
- Construction Documents approval is 2 points.
- Bid Documents approval is 5 points.

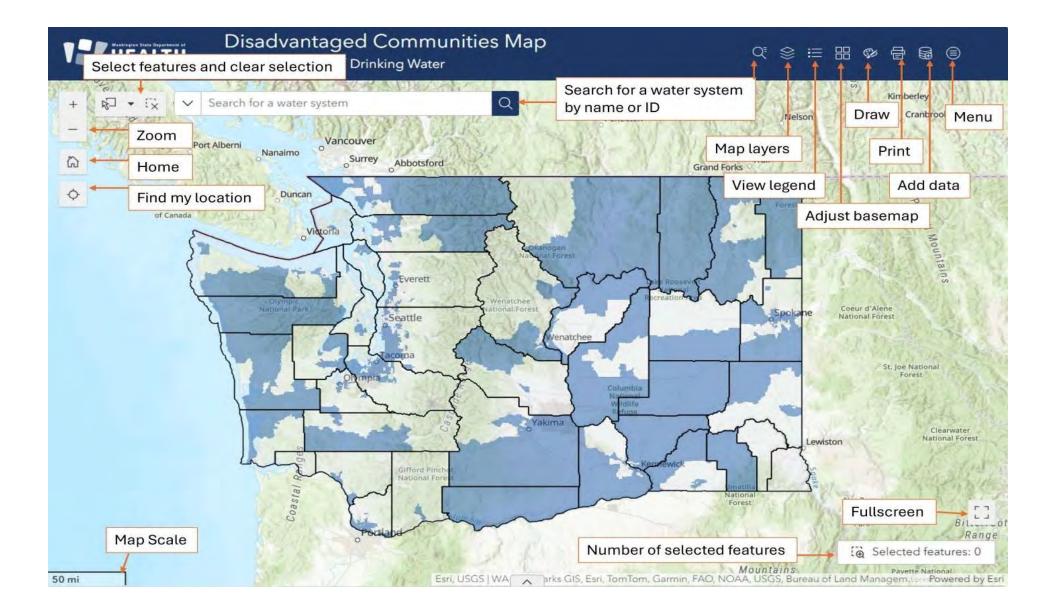
Readiness to Proceed Scoring Changes

- Four points given for completing a previous Lead Service Line Replacement Loan to complete the service line replacement project.
- Ten points given for completing a Consolidation Feasibility Study Grant for consolidation/restructuring projects.
- Two points given for completing a Lead Service Line Inventory Loan to complete the service line replacement project.

Bonus Points Scoring Changes

- OMore bonus points for consolidations and restructuring. Ten points for each water system eliminated or ownership change.
- Asset management training must be attended between September 1, 2021, and November 30, 2024.
- •<u>Asset inventory spreadsheet</u> updated by RCAC and up to 6 points available. Link on our webpage under Asset Management.

#### **Disadvantaged Communities**



Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Criteria

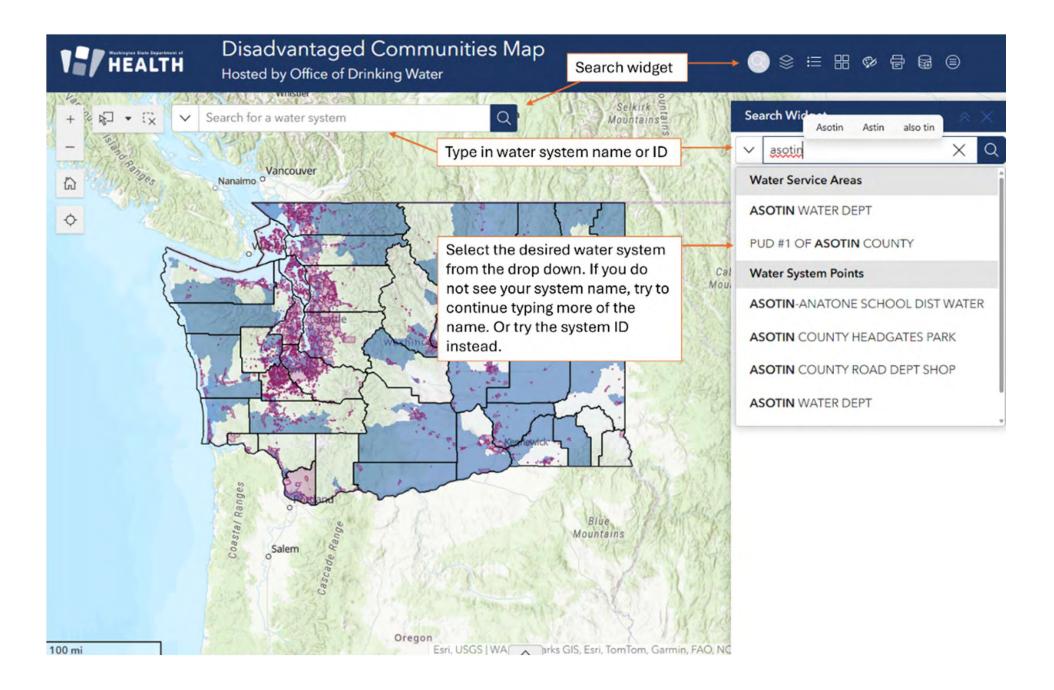
- See Appendix B of DRAFT Construction Guidelines for more details.
- Rates are at least 1.5% greater that area median household income (MHI)
- Community water system is owned or operated by a federallyrecognized tribe serving residential connections, or
- 50 percent of a project location is within census tract(s) that meet at least one of the following criteria:
  - Rank 7 or more on the federal funding friendly\* Environmental Health Disparities (EHD) or,
  - Ranking 7 or more for the federal funding friendly\* Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) or,
  - More than 30 percent of the population is below 185 percent of the federal poverty level.

Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Criteria

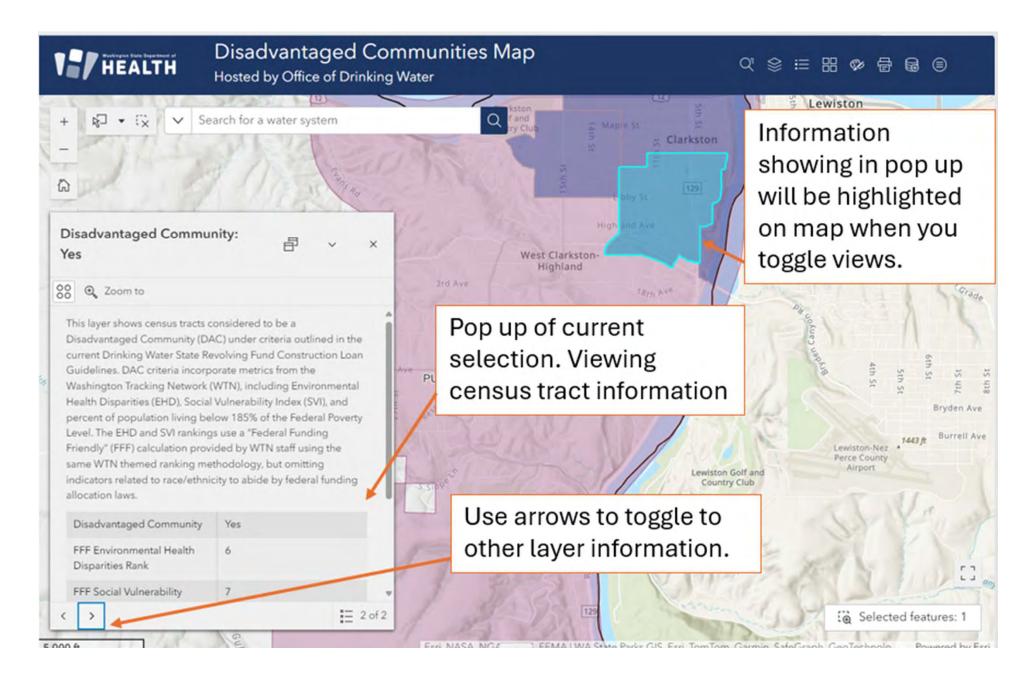
- Affordability Index will also be considered during the underwriting process in awarding subsidy.
  - Affordability Index compares water rates to the median household income (MHI).
  - An affordability index of one or greater will be considered for partial to full subsidy.
  - MHI is based on county data, unless there is a rate study with a different MHI.
  - Rate studies must be approved within the past 18 months, 12 months preferably, to be valid for underwriting.

Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Map

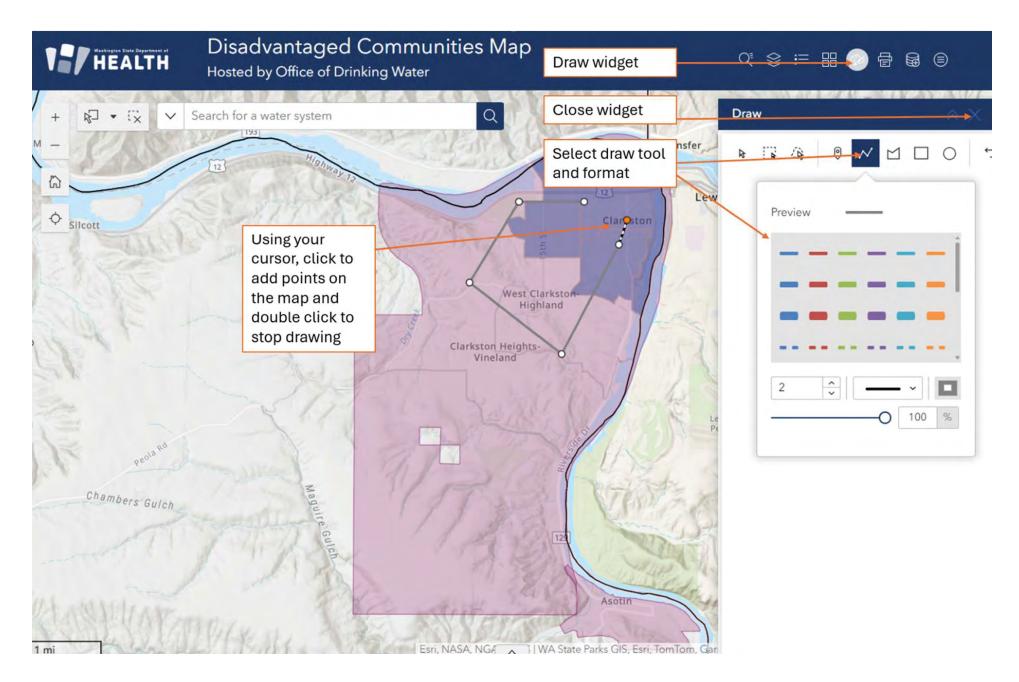
- An external map has been published later showing which census tracts meet the DAC criteria or are community water system owned and managed by federally-recognized tribes.
- Guidance has been published with the map to walk you through how to get the information you need.
- The census tracts that are identified as DAC are blue on the map.
- Disadvantaged Community Map Application (arcgis.com)



#### Select the census tract to determine if it meets DAC



#### Draw a boundary of the area served by the project.



## Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Scoring

DAC Criteria	Points
Meet 3 criteria or a federally- recognized tribal community	10
Meets 2 criteria	6
Meets 1 criteria	3

#### Loan Terms



#### WAC 246-296-050

DWSRF loan terms. (1) The department may approve a DWSRF loan for a project that will not serve a disadvantaged community:

- a) That partially or fully forgives the principal amount of the loan; or
- *b)* At an interest rate at or below market interest rates for a maximum of 20 years from project completion.

(2) The department may approve a DWSRF loan for a project that will serve a disadvantaged community:

- a) That partially or fully forgives the principal amount of the loan; or
- b) At an interest rate at or below market interest rates for up to 30 years, as long as the DWSRF loan does not exceed the useful life of the project.

#### Loan Terms

- Standard interest rate is 2.25% for 20 years plus 1% loan fee.
  - Loan fee due October 1 after signing the loan agreement.
- Reduced interest rate for those with affordability issues is 1.75% for up to 30 years, 1% loan fee.
- Loan principal forgiveness up to 100%
  - 1.75% interest rate on remaining loan portion for up to 30 years, no loan fee.
  - If you receive 100% loan principal forgiveness, you must make annual loan payments starting the year after signing the contract.
- Payments are due October 1.

Longer Loan Term

- To qualify for 30-year repayment period, design engineer must complete and sign the Engineering Certification in the loan contract.
- The certification form must state the infrastructure life span is 30 years or more.
- Length of the loan term CANNOT exceed the life of the infrastructure.

Loan Principal Forgiveness

- Underwriter determines who is eligible for subsidy (loan principal forgiveness)
- Applicant must pass underwriting
- If eligible for funding AND identified as DAC,
  - DWSRF leadership will determine how much, if any, subsidy is assigned to each DAC project.
- Subsidy may be
  - Up to 100 percent loan principal forgiveness OR
  - Partial loan principal forgiveness OR
  - Not offered

Loan Principal Forgiveness

#### OWSRF Base Funding

- 12% to 35% as loan principal forgiveness to DAC
- 14% as loan principal forgiveness to any eligible
  DWSRF applicant prioritize DAC

#### BIL Stimulus Funding

○ 49% as loan principal forgiveness to DAC

Loan Principal Forgiveness

- OBIL Emerging Contaminant funding is 100% loan principal forgiveness.
- We have \$17 million total to give to PFAS projects.
- 25% must go to DAC or small communities serving less than 25,000 people.

#### Subsidy

Affordability Index			
	Greater than 2.5%	1.5% to 2.5%, Tribal Community <sup>2</sup> , or Consolidation <sup>3</sup>	0% to 1.50%
Baseline Subsidy <sup>1</sup>	50%	35%	25%

<sup>1</sup>Water systems that meet several disadvantaged community criteria may be eligible for subsidy up to 75 percent of the project cost.

<sup>2</sup>Tribal Community is a federally recognized tribe that owns and operators a public water system serving residential connections. Tribal communities will receive a minimum of 35 percent subsidy. If a tribal community provides documentation supporting an affordability index greater than 2.5 percent or meets two or more of the WTN criteria, the tribal community may be eligible for additional subsidy.

<sup>3</sup>Any consolidation project is eligible for 35 percent subsidy. If the community being consolidated is a DAC, additional subsidy may apply to the project for subsidy up to 60 percent of the project cost.

## Subsidy

Disadvantaged Community WTN Criteria Met	Additional Subsidy
Meets 3 WTN criteria	25%
Meets 2 WTN criteria	10%
Meets 1 WTN criteria	No additional subsidy

# Rule Updates and Project Selection



## WAC 246-296-130 (2)

#### Project priority rating and ranking criteria.

- 2) Additional points based on the type of project being proposed, if the project:
  - a) Is ready to proceed to construction;
  - b) Completes projects previously funded by DWSRF grants or loans;
  - c) Is to *consolidate or* restructure a public water system;
  - d) Creates a sustainable regional public health benefit;
  - *e)* Is a water main replacement project that coincides with other infrastructure projects;
  - f) Qualifies as a green project; or
  - g) Has an affordability index equal to or greater than one percent.

#### Timeline

- WAC 246-296 permanent rule was published July 31, 2024.
- WAC 246-296 changes go into affect September 1, 2024.
- Guidelines located at <u>www.doh.wa.gov/dwsrf</u>.
- Guideline comment period closed September 16, 2024.
- Guidelines effective October 1, 2024.
- Construction and Lead Service Line application cycle closes November 30, 2024.

## Timeline continued

• Applications scored – December 2024.

- Priority Project List published to webpage and sent to the Public Works Board and the Legislature by February 1, 2025.
- First offer letters with subsidy emailed out in late March 2025.
- Final offer letters with subsidy emailed out in April 2025.

Timeline continued

Intended Use Plan (IUP) published to our webpage May 1, 2025.

• Comment period for IUP ends June 1, 2025.

 Funding agreements start going out after July 1, 2025.

Notice to Proceed must be issued within 18 months of signing the loan contract.

Complete the project within 4 years of signing the loan contract.

## We Have Technical Assistance!

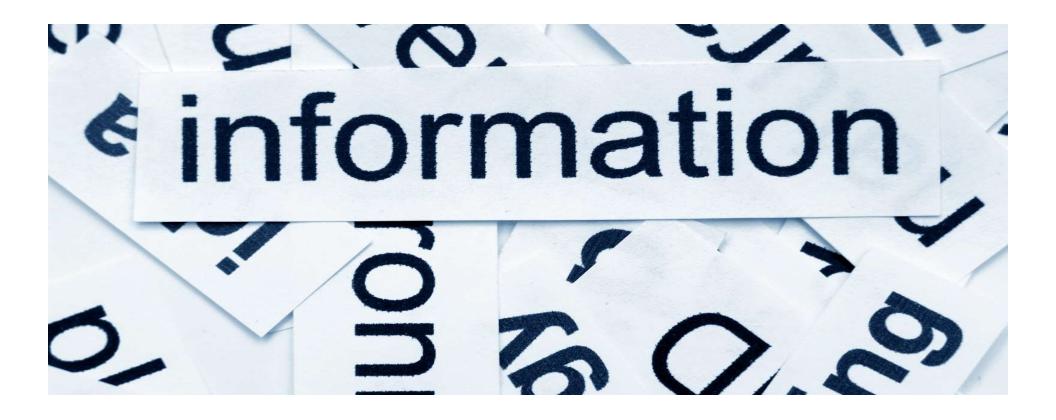
#### Technical Assistance Request Form (arcgis.com)



# Technical Assistance Activities

- Overarching Technical Assistance (ODW/SRF)
  - Work with Regional Statt (Contacts to follow)
  - Three Current Contracts (SCI, RCAC, ERWOW)
  - Request assistance through the <u>Technical Assistance</u> <u>Request Form (arcgis.com)</u>
- Topic Specific Technical Assistance
  - Planning and Engineering (General and EC)
  - Procurement Assistance (in process)
  - Lead Service Line
- Collaborative Technical Assistance Efforts
  - IACC Request for Assistance/Tech Teams
  - SYNC
- Forthcoming Efforts
  - Cybersecurity
  - Environmental Justice / Conflict Resolution

# More Information





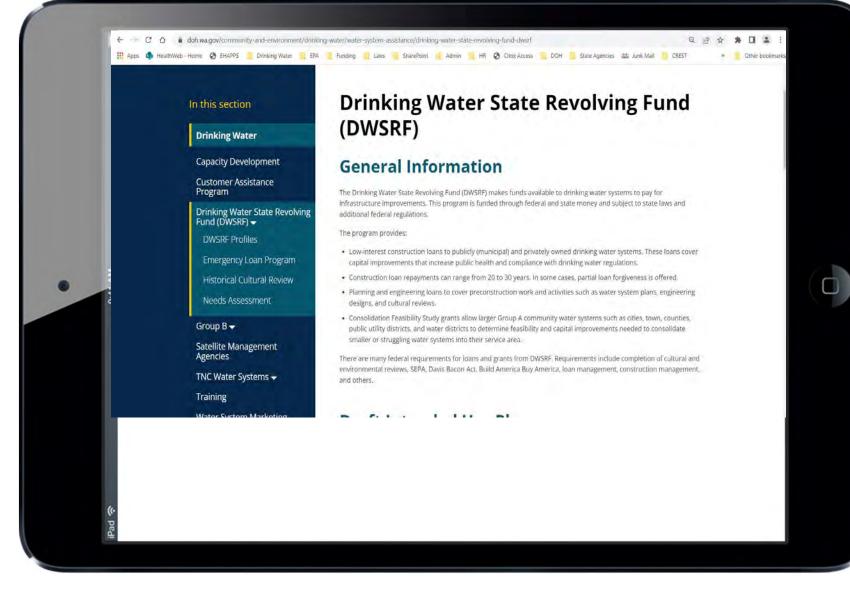
Several Webinars and a Q+A Session have been held over the past 3 months.

Webinar links are posted at <u>www.doh.wa.gov/dwsrf</u>.

Meetings held on Microsoft Teams

Session slides are posted online

# PLEASE CONTACT DWSRF STAFF WITH QUESTIONS!!



#### **DWSRF Staff Contacts**

Program Manager <u>Chris.Pettit@doh.wa.gov</u> or 564-233-1408

Scope of Work, Funding Cycles, and Technical Questions Jocelyne.Gray@doh.wa.gov or 564-669-4893

WALT Application and General Questions at <u>DWSRF@doh.wa.gov</u> or <u>Jason.Cammarano@doh.wa.gov</u>

Cultural, Historical, and Environmental Review <u>Scott.Kugel@doh.wa.gov</u> or 360-480-7617

Technical Assistance Coordination <u>Chelsea.Cannard@doh.wa.gov</u> or 564-233-1799

**DWSRF Financial Services Contacts** 

Underwriting and For-Profit Eligibility (Mike) <u>Michael.Copeland@doh.wa.gov</u> or 360-236-3083

Contract Manager <u>Eloise.Rudolph@doh.wa.gov</u> or 360-236-3124

Contract Manager <u>Brittany.Cody-Pinkney@doh.wa.gov</u> or 360-236-3047

Contract Manager <u>Rachel.Paris@doh.wa.gov</u>.

Invoicing and Payments (Steve) <u>Stephen.Lomnicki@doh.wa.gov</u> or 360-236-3166 or <u>DWSRFInvoicing@doh.wa.gov</u>

**Regional Planner Contacts** 

Eastern Regional Office

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Northwest Regional Office

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Southwest Regional Office

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Benjamin.Majors@doh.wa.gov or 360-236-3030

Retirements and Hirings

- Sara Herrera retired in May the WALT guru Jason Cammarano started 9/16/24
- Inquiries about funding go to <u>DWSRF@doh.wa.gov</u>
- Opennis Hewitt retired in July Contract Manager
- Rachel.Paris@doh.wa.gov was hired as a Contract Manager as of August 1. Copy <u>Michael.Copeland@doh.wa.gov</u> on emails to her for now.

Other Ongoings / Future Events

- LIHWAP Water Affordability Study and Advisory Committee
- Sth Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment
  - National EPA Assessment implemented by DWSRF
  - Survey Driven
  - Surveys to be developed and distributed early 2025
- OWSRF "road show" in at least 6 locations during calendar year 2025





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