



Water Quality Combined Funding Program (WQC)

Sarah Zehner – Stormwater Funding Coordinator

Website Updates

- We've updated our [Water Quality Grants and Loans home page](#)
- Improved navigation to Applicant and Recipient resources
- Has WQC Offer Lists, EAGL map, Outcomes StoryMaps! Really cool stuff!

Water Quality Combined Funding Program

Our Water Quality Combined Funding is an integrated funding program for projects that improve and protect water quality throughout the state. Projects include: wastewater, stormwater, nonpoint source activities, and on-site sewage systems. We use an **annual single-application** process to award funding from multiple sources all at once, through a competitive ranking process. Projects are scored and ranked based on how much they will benefit water quality and how ready the project is to go to the next step. We create funding packages to meet applicant's needs with the best available funding from several different grants and loans.

[Visit our applicant page](#) to view our applicant workshops that explain how to apply.



Apply

Received a grant/loan?

View project requirements and resources by project type



Stormwater



Wastewater



Nonpoint



Onsite Sewage

Additional resource pages



Clean Water State Revolving Fund



Environmental & Cultural Resource review

About Ecology Grants and Loans ▾

Share

Display grants and loans data as:

Project locations Dollars per area

Project center point



Tip: Click on project center point for more information

Filter data

Apply Filters

Clear Filters

Ecology Program

All programs

Funding Program

All funding programs

Theme

- Nonpoint Source Pollution
- Onsite Sewage Systems
- Stormwater Activity
- Stormwater Facility
- Wastewater

Subtheme

All subthemes

Status

All statuses

Date Range

All years

Funding Source

All funding sources

Funding Amount

All amounts

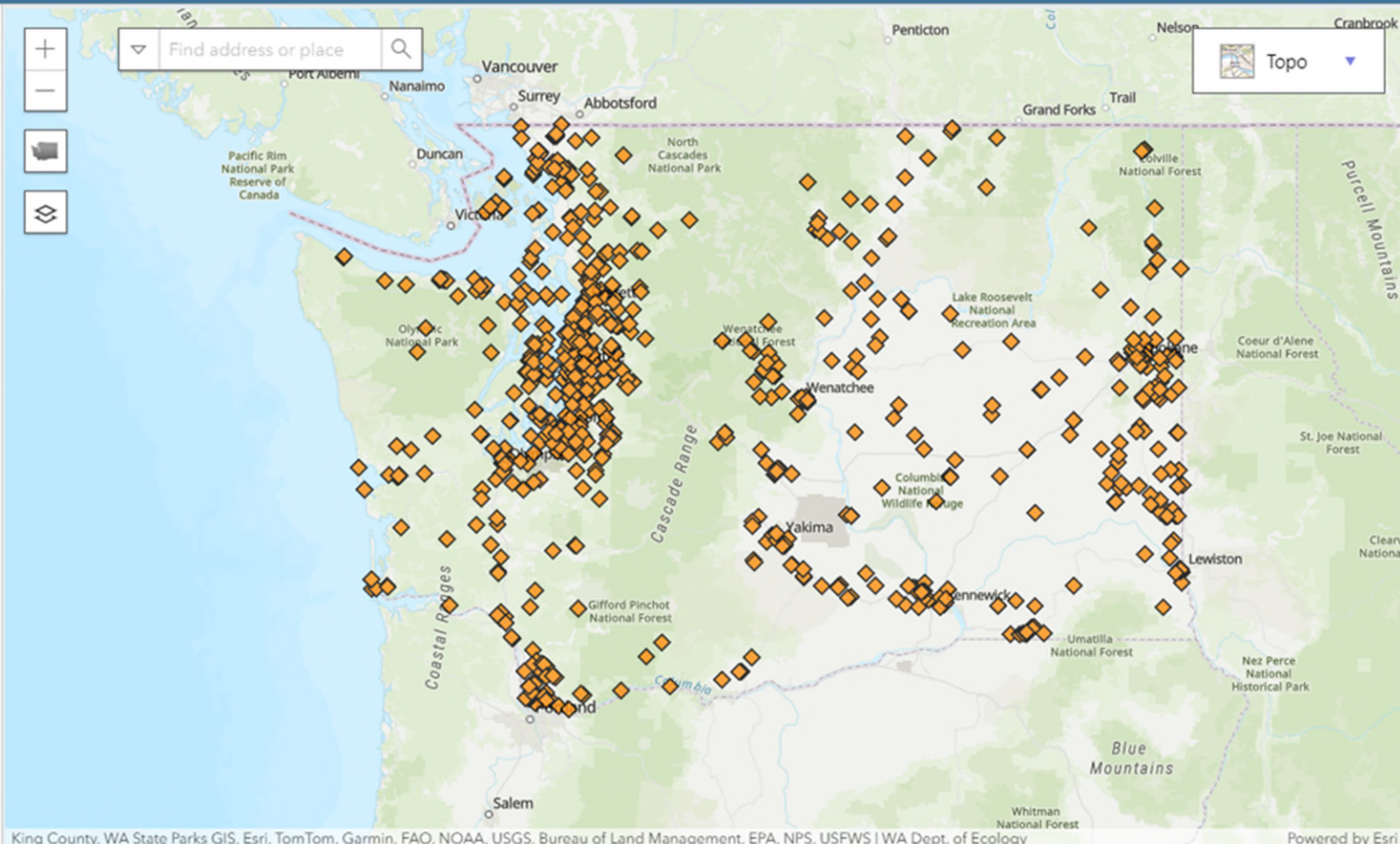
Recipient

All recipients

Location

All areas

Show less ▲



King County, WA State Parks GIS, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, USFWS | WA Dept. of Ecology Powered by Esri

Show 5 entries

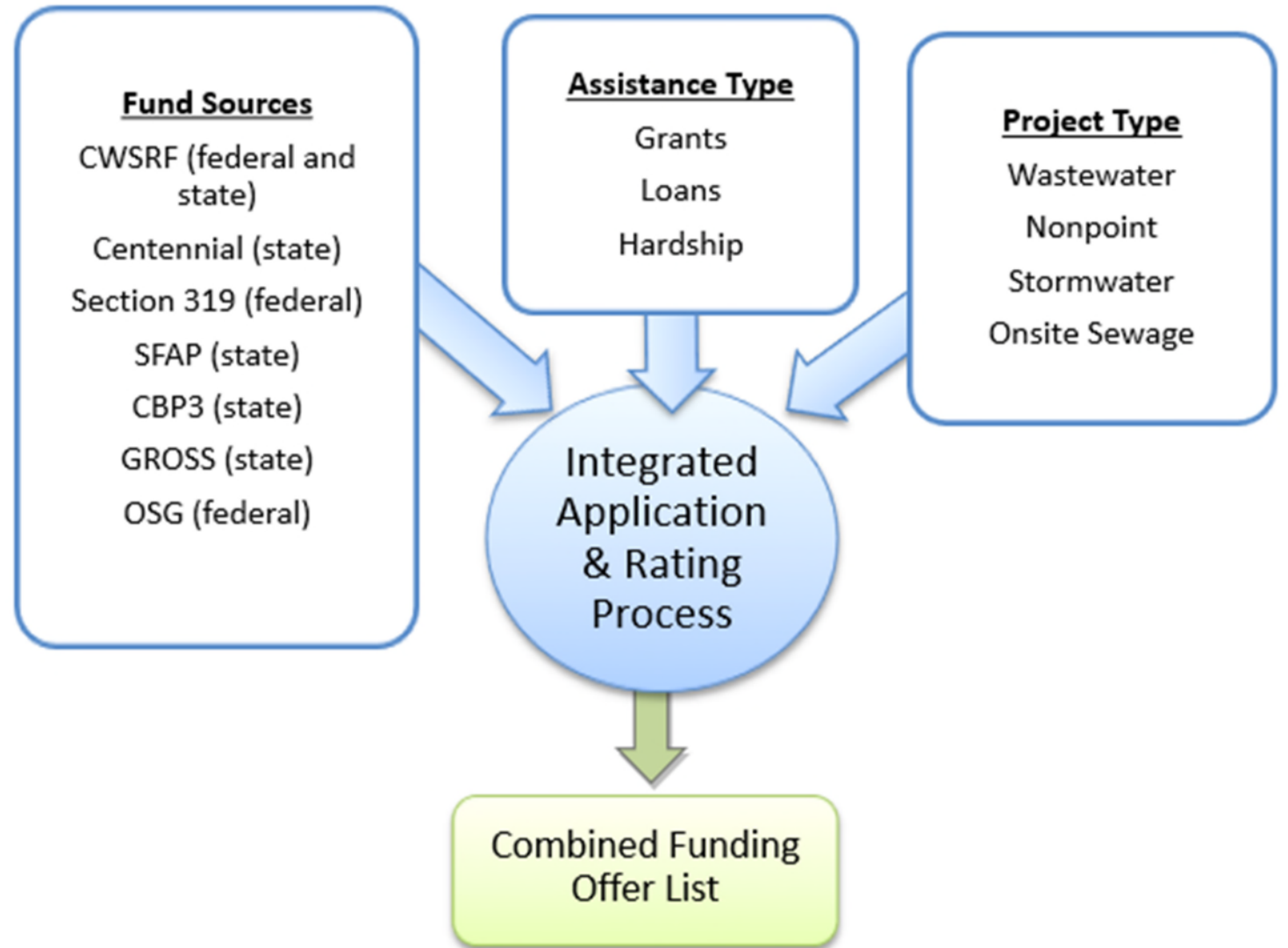
Download table (csv)

Search table:

Agreement Name	Agreement Number	Funding Amount	Zoom To	Details
Lincoln and Adams BMP Partnership	WQC-2022-LiCoCD-00042	\$422,729.00		View details
Spangle Trib & Upper Hangman Water Quality Improvement Project	OTGP-2020-STOI-00032	\$76,500.00		View details
100th St. SW Regional Stormwater Facility Study	WQC-2022-EverPW-00084	\$169,500.00		View details

Combined Funding Program

- Multiple water quality project types
- Multiple funding sources
- One application
 - Same scoring criteria
 - Specific tips and guidance for each project type
- One Offer List



Fund Sources

7 “Pots” of funding

- Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)
 - Now includes BIL
- Centennial Clean Water Grants (Centennial)
- Clean Water Act Section 319 Nonpoint Source Grant Program (Section 319)
- Stormwater Financial Assistance Program (SFAP)
- Stormwater Community-Based Public-Private Partnership Program (CBP3)
- Municipal Stormwater Grants of Regional or Statewide Significance (GROSS)
- Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants Program (OSG)

Eligible Applicants by Fund Source

Applicant	CWSRF/ OSG	Centennial	Section 319	SFAP	CBP3	GROSS
Conservation Districts	X	X	X			
Counties, cities/towns	X	X	X	X	X	X*
Federally recognized tribes	X	X	X			
Institutions of higher education	X	X	X			
Irrigation districts	X	X	X			
Local health jurisdictions	X	X	X			
Nonprofit organizations			X			
Port districts	X	X	X	X		
Quasi-municipal corporations	X	X	X			
Sewer districts	X	X	X			

Project Types

Wastewater facilities

Planning

Stormwater facilities

Design

Stormwater activities

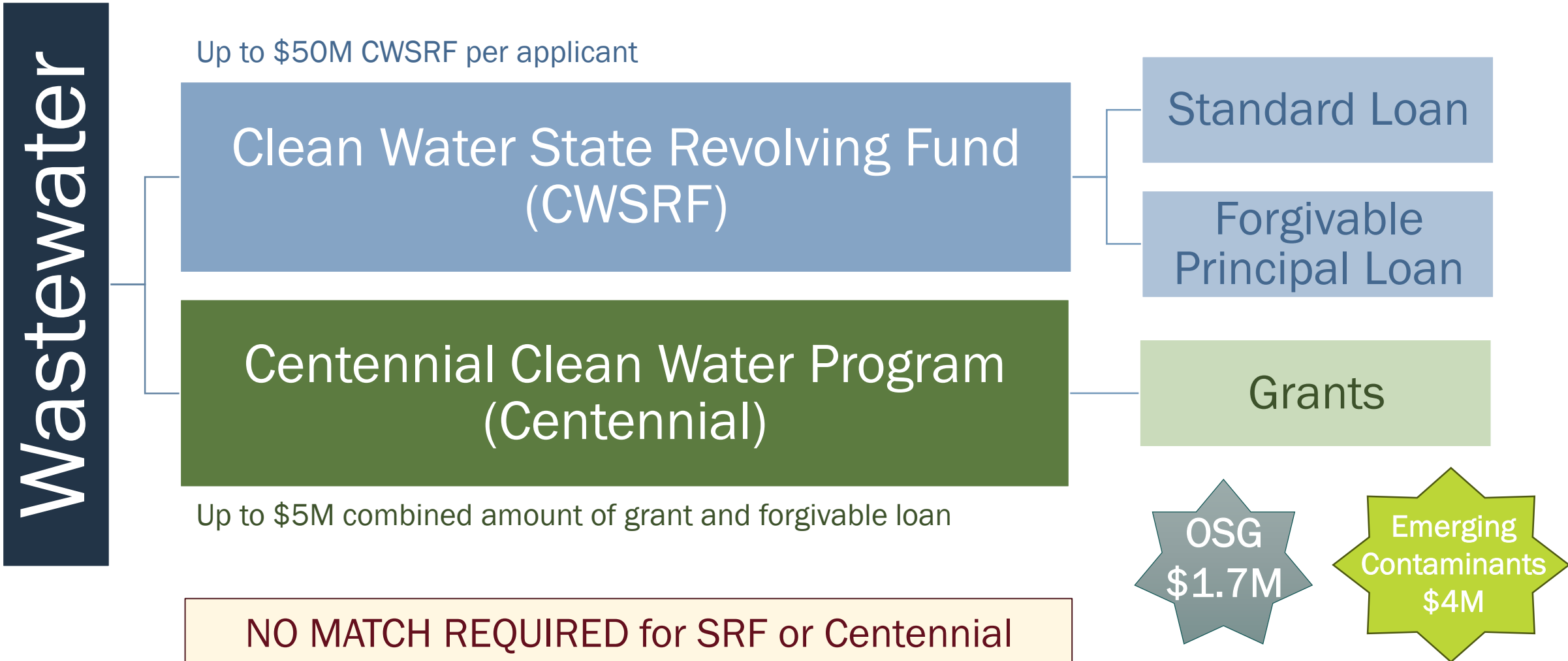
Construction

Nonpoint source activities

Implementation

Onsite sewage systems

Funding Sources for Wastewater Projects



Wastewater Facilities



Wastewater Treatment



Wastewater Conveyance



Infiltration and Inflow (I/I)



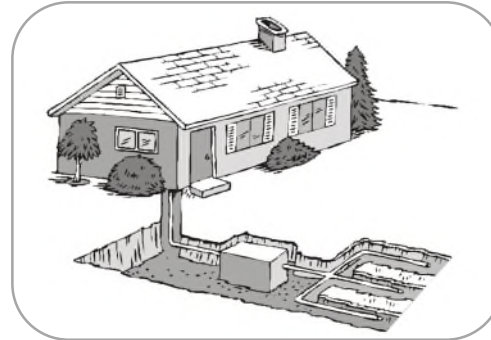
Reclaimed Water



Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO)



Large On-site Sewage Systems (LOSS)



On-site Sewage Systems



Public Outreach and Education

Wastewater Facilities

Step 1- Planning

General sewer plans

Engineering reports

Value planning or
engineering studies

Rate studies

Environmental and
cultural resources review

Step 2- Design

Engineering plans
and specifications

Environmental and
cultural resources
review

Step 3- Construction

Construction

Construction
management

Step 4- Design & Construction

Combined facility design
and construction
projects

Total project cost up to
\$7M

5-years to complete
project

Design must be
complete within 1-year
of signing funding
agreement



Wastewater Small Community Project Priority List (SCPPL)

- Communities only apply once during project life, no need to reapply as steps are completed.
- Reduce barriers to accessing and using Ecology WW funds.
- Keep projects moving instead of long waits between steps.
- Meet anticipated WW infrastructure needs based on planning and design work currently funded.

Funding Sources for Stormwater Projects

Stormwater Financial Assistance Program (SFAP)

- Funds projects that manage run-off from existing development (retrofit) and enhanced activity programs.
- Cap of \$10M per year; Match 15%, Hardship match 5%

Stormwater Community-Based Public-Private Partnership (CBP3) Program

- Funds the pre-planning and planning of stormwater facilities and activities that will be implemented through the development of CBP3s, performance-based contracts, and other forms of alternative procurement.
- No match required

Municipal Stormwater Grants of Regional or Statewide Significance (GROSS)

- Funds projects that support implementation of the NPDES Municipal SW General Permits.
- Must benefit multiple permittees or statewide.
- Cap of \$300K; No match required

Funding Sources for Stormwater Projects

Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)

- Can fund treatment of water from any urban source, including new and re-development.
- May include forgivable principal for hardship communities or Green Project Reserve (GPR).
- Cap of \$50M CWSRF per applicant. May be used as match for state grants (grant/loan combo).

CWSRF Emerging Contaminants

- 100% forgivable loan funding authorized in BIL, so has full federal BABA requirements.
- Funds projects that address new or emerging substances that pose a risk to health or the environment.

Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants Program (OSG)

- Federal grant with full federal BABA requirements.
- Funds projects that address combined sewer overflows, sanitary sewer overflows, or stormwater management.

Stormwater Facilities

Step 1 Planning

Stormwater Quality
Plans

Mapping SW
Infrastructure

Project Prioritization

Conceptual Designs

Community Partner
Engagement

Step 2 Design

Engineering Plans
and Specifications

Environmental and
Cultural Resources
Review

Step 3 Construction

Construction

Construction
Management

Property or
Easement
Acquisition

Step 4 Design & Construction

Combined
Design and
Construction
Projects

Total Project
Cost up to
\$300K

Stormwater Activities

Source Control Program

- Includes development of:
 - Outreach materials
 - Data management systems
 - Staff training programs

Enhanced Maintenance Plan

- Uses data to develop an improved, data-driven maintenance program.
- Required to apply for SFAP grant for maintenance equipment and facilities.
- One-time capital investment to support implementation of the Ecology-accepted EMP.



Community-Based Public-Private Partnership (CBP3) Funding Program

Phase I: Capacity and Partnership Building (Apr-July 24)

- Outreach/education and technical assistance

Phase II: Grants to Cities and Counties (SFY26)

- Award grants to cities and counties for planning

Phase III: Pilot Project Implementation (Future)

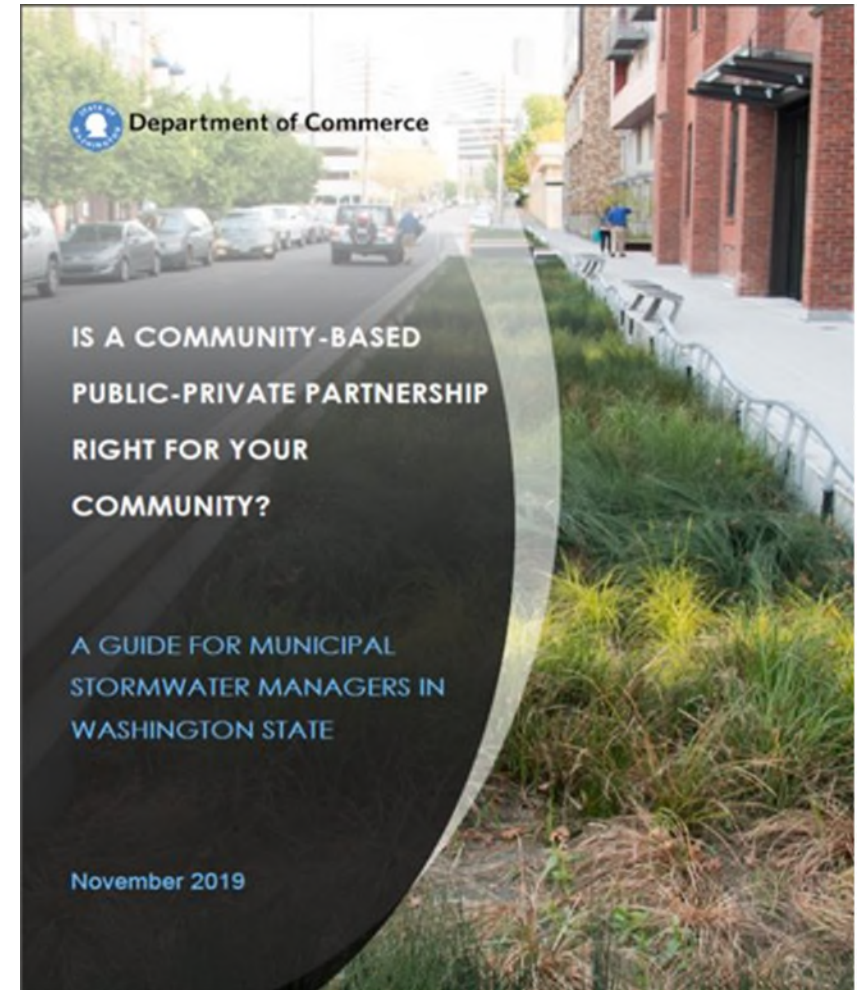
- Implementation of projects developed in Phase II
- Ongoing planning projects
- Dependent on inclusion in legislative budget

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CBP3 Planner

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(546)669-4701



[CBP3 Guidebook for WA State](#)

Municipal Stormwater Grants of Regional or Statewide Significance (GROSS)

Eligible applicants

- ☐ Phase I or Phase II NPDES Municipal Stormwater General Permittees

Eligible projects

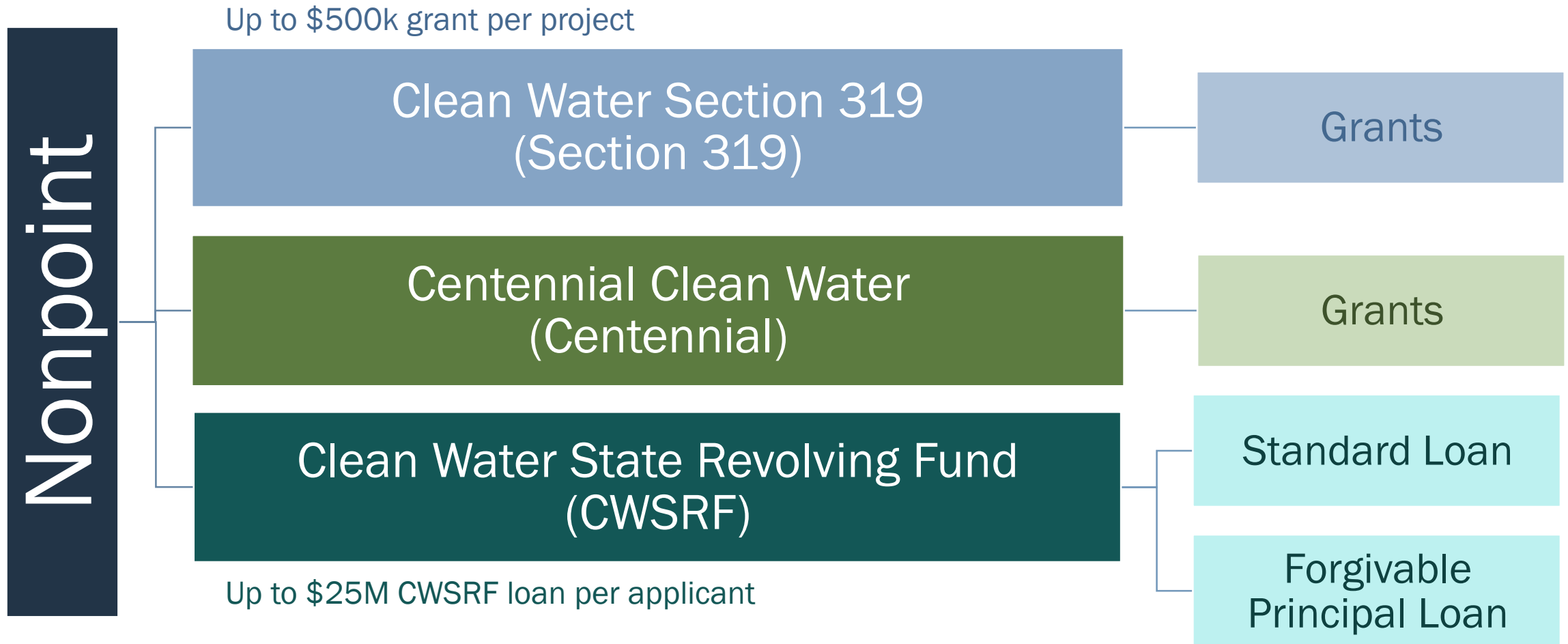
- Support implementation of permit requirements
- Directly benefit multiple permittees or demonstrate a clear regional or statewide significance or value

Funding provisions

- Max funding award of \$300,000 per project
- No minimum grant award
- No match
- Up to \$1 million dollars available

NPDES = National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Municipal Stormwater General Permits

Funding Sources for Nonpoint Projects



NO MATCH REQUIRED for Section 319 or Centennial

Nonpoint Source Pollution: Restoration

- Riparian buffers
- Lakes
- Wetlands
- Stream
 - Grading and bank stabilization
 - Installation of large woody debris
 - Channel re-establishment/re-meander



Nonpoint Source Pollution: Agricultural BMPs

- Conservation-based cropping systems
 - Direct seed high residue retention
- Livestock feeding and off-stream watering BMPs
- Livestock exclusion



Nonpoint Source Pollution: Land Acquisition

- Property purchase and conservation easements for:
 - Riparian areas
 - Watershed protection
 - Wetland preservation and protection
 - Drinking source water protection



Onsite Sewage Systems

- CWSRF loan and Centennial grant
- Large Onsite Sewage Systems (LOSS)
- Planning and Surveys
 - Data collection
 - Hot spot detection
 - Outreach and education
- Composting Toilet Systems
- Local Loan Program
 - Provide loans to local governments to establish a loan program
 - Repair and replacement for individual homeowners



- Regional Loan Program
 - Statewide partnership between local governments, DOH, Ecology, and a financial institution partner

CWSRF is big program

- Standard Loan
 - Low interest loans funded through the annual Federal EPA Cap grant
 - Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding (SFY23-27)
 - Emerging Contaminants funding
 - Loan repayments (principal and interest)
- Forgivable Principal Loan
 - Available for:
 - Hardship
 - Green project reserve (GPR)
 - Only provided if applicant is willing to accept loan
 - Must be awarded along with a standard CWSRF loan



Interest Rates

Loan Term	Interest Rate for Most Projects	Interest Rate for OSS/NP Projects
5 Years	1.0%	0.7%
20 Years	2.0%	1.4%
30 Years	2.7%	2.0%

Are you going to increase or lower interest rates?

The FED:



Hardship

Eligibility for grant, forgivable loan, reduced interest rates, reduced match

- **CWSRF Preconstruction Hardship – SW and WW**
 - <25,000 population
 - MHI of service area <80% of state MHI
 - Eligibility in appendix M of guidelines
- **CWSRF Construction Hardship – WW only**
 - <25,000 population of service area
 - Factors include:
 - Cost of the project
 - Existing costs
 - Median household Income
 - Impact to rate payers
 - Sewer rate >2% MHI
- **SFAP Hardship – SW only**
 - Same criteria as Preconstruction Hardship
 - May be eligible for reduced match



Green Project Reserve (GPR)

- Must be willing to accept a CWSRF loan
- Must meet EPA's criteria for:
 - Green Infrastructure
 - Energy Efficiency
 - Water Efficiency
 - Environmentally Innovative
- May receive 25% forgivable loan along with standard loan



Federal Funding Requirements

OSG, Emerging Contaminants, and CWSRF Equivalency

- Full federal requirements
 - Federal cross-cutters
 - BABA
 - Federal procurement
 - Single audit
- Equivalency = Ecology's 20% match to the annual Federal EPA Cap grant

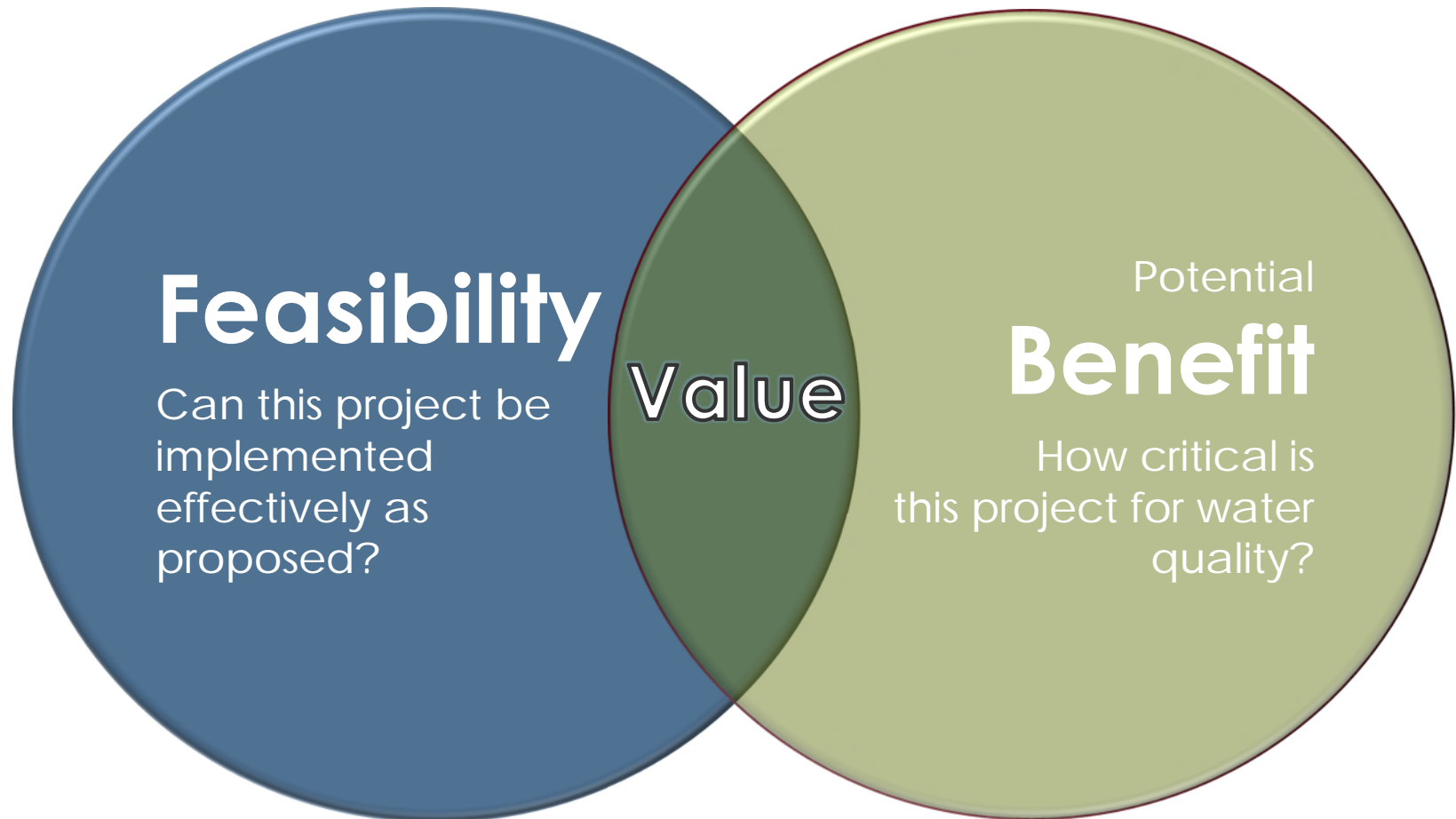
Non-Equivalency CWSRF Projects

- Majority of CWSRF projects
- Funds are 'state' and not 'federal'
- Relieved of the above federal requirements
- Still require SERP, Davis Bacon, American Iron and Steel, etc



Ineligible Projects

- Non-clean water projects (e.g., roads, bridges, drinking water systems)
- Water quantity
- Project solely for flood control
- Operation, maintenance, and repair costs
 - SFAP enhanced maintenance one time investment
- Exclusively industrial projects, except:
 - Publicly-owned industrial WW treatment facilities that reduce the burden on a municipal WW treatment facility (CWSRF only)
 - Publicly-owned industrial stormwater facility (SFAP only)



Feasibility

Can this project be implemented effectively as proposed?

Value

Potential

Benefit

How critical is this project for water quality?

Project Feasibility

*“How will this work be done?”
“Is Ecology confident that this can be constructed?”*

Planning
Understand your watershed, project, and community
60

Scope/Team
75/65



Schedule
100



Budget/Match
135/15

450 points total



Water Quality
500

Water Quality and Public Health Improvements

“Assuming we can build it, should we?”

“What is the final result?”

Funding Source Estimates for SFY26

Fund Source	Fund Type	Source	SFY26 Estimate
Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) (includes BIL funds)	Standard Loans	Federal and State	\$73.3M
CWSRF (includes BIL funds)	Forgivable Loans	Federal and State	\$26.7M
CWSRF Emerging Contaminants (BIL funds)	Forgivable Loan	Federal	\$3.7M
Stormwater Financial Assistance Program (SFAP)	Grant	State	\$40M
Clean Water Centennial Program (Centennial)	Grant	State	\$40M
Clean Water Act Section 319 (319)	Grant	Federal	\$1.7M
Sewer Overflow & Stormwater Reuse Grants (OSG)	Grant	Federal	\$1.7M
Stormwater Community-Based Public-Private Partnership (CBP3)	Grant	State	\$3M
Municipal Stormwater Grants of Regional or Statewide Significance (GROSS)	Grant	State	\$1M
Total Available			\$191.1M

Important Dates



March - July

August - October

Workshops: 8/13 - 8/15/24
Submittal: 8/13 - 10/15/24

October - December

Evaluation, Rating and Ranking:
10/15-12/23/24

January - February

Draft List Published 1/31/25
Public Comment: 2/1-3/3/25

June-July

Final List Published: 7/1/25

July - January

Must be signed by 1/31/26
Costs may be eligible as of 7/1/25

Next 1-5 years

Work starts no later than April 2026
Work continues through

*June 2028 (activities) or June 2030 (facilities)



Funding Guidelines

- 300 pages!?!? Do I have to read all that!?
 - No. Start with the “How to Use This Document” on page 1.
 - Focus on the info that pertains to your project type.
 - Chapter 4 will help you prepare your application.



State Fiscal Year 2026 Funding Guidelines Water Quality Combined Funding Program

Centennial Clean Water Program

Clean Water Act Section 319 Program

Clean Water State Revolving Fund

Stormwater Financial Assistance Program

Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants Program

Stormwater Community-Based Public-Private Partnership Program

Municipal Stormwater Grants of Regional or Statewide Significance

Water Quality Program

Washington State Department of Ecology
Olympia, Washington

August 2024, Publication 24-10-048

Funding Packages

- Ecology will figure out which fund sources and how much can be offered to your project.
- Some projects may be offered a mix of different sources in a single “funding package”



**Remember,
Ecology
simplifies it
for you!**

Sign up for WQ Grant and Loan Email Notification



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ECOLOGY
State of Washington

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Questions?



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Other Ecology Funding

Shelly McMurry



Puget Sound Nutrient Reduction (PSNR) Grant

- Financial assistance
 - Municipalities that discharge into the Puget Sound
 - Meet the requirements of the Puget Sound Nutrient General Permit (PSNGP).
- \$9 million in eligible funds
 - 43 municipalities operating 58 wastewater treatment plants.
 - \$1 million was set aside for technical assistance and support to small and moderate treatment plants.
 - Effective 7/1/2021 through 12/31/2025.
- Wastewater projects we have seen so far are:
 - Sampling for nutrient testing, monitoring, and analysis
 - Facility upgrades and modifications
 - Equipment purchases such as SCADA systems, sensors, tanks and mixers, in-house lab equipment, probes, etc
 - Assistance with PSNGP optimization, planning, reporting, and implementation, WWTP optimization strategies, and nutrient reduction evaluations.



More Ecology Funding Opportunities

- [Find a grant or loan - Washington State Department of Ecology](#)

Air & Climate

- [Clean diesel grants](#)
- [Local partner core operations grants](#)
- [Local partner particulate matter grants](#)
- [Prevent nonattainment grants](#)
- [Tribal carbon offset assistance program grants](#)
- [Tribal consultation grants](#)
- [Volkswagen enforcement action grants](#)
- [Wood smoke reduction grants](#)
- [Wood stove education and enforcement grants](#)

Spills & Cleanup

- [Affordable housing cleanup grants](#)
- [Affordable housing planning grants](#)
- [Area-wide groundwater investigation grants](#)
- [Equipment cache grants for spill response](#)
- [Independent remedial action grants](#)
- [Integrated planning grants](#)
- [Oil spill restoration funding](#)
- [Oversight remedial action grants and loans](#)
- [Safe drinking water action grants](#)

Waste & Toxics

- [Community litter cleanup program grants](#)
- [Local solid waste financial assistance program grants](#)
- [Public participation grants](#)
- [Ramp litter cleanup program grants](#)
- [Waste reduction and recycling education grants](#)

Water & Shorelines

- [Aquatic invasive plants management grants program](#)
- [Coastal Protection Fund – Terry Husseman account \(THA\) grants](#)
- [Columbia River Basin water management grant](#)
- [Drought response grants](#)
- [Flood control assistance account program \(FCAAP\)](#)
- [Floodplains by Design grant program](#)
- [Freshwater algae control grant program](#)
- [Puget Sound NEP stormwater strategic initiative grants](#)
- [Puget Sound nutrient reduction grants program](#)
- [Shoreline Master Program competitive grant pilot program](#)
- [Shoreline Master Program periodic review grants](#)
- [Shoreline Planning Competitive grants](#)
- [Stormwater capacity grants](#)
- [Stormwater grants of regional or statewide significance](#)
- [Streamflow restoration competitive grants](#)
- [Water banking pilot grants](#)
- [Water quality combined funding](#)
- [Watershed plan implementation and flow achievement grants](#)
- [Wetlands conservation grants](#)
- [Yakima Basin Integrated Planning Grants](#)

Who Can apply?

- Public bodies
 - Local governments
 - Tribes (federally recognized)
 - Special Purpose Districts (ports, conservation, etc)
- Non-profits (319 Funding Only)



AIS Requirement

“No SRF funds shall be used for a project for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a public water system or treatment works unless all of the iron and steel products used in the project are produced in the United States.”



AIS Products

What products are covered under AIS?

- Is the product a listed product?
- Is the product primarily of iron or steel?
- Is the product permanently incorporated?



Any NO → Not an “Iron and steel product”

YES TO ALL THREE → This is an “Iron and steel product”

The product must be produced in the US or be covered by a waiver.

Buy America, Build America (BABA)

- Applies to all federal funding: OSG, EC, 319, CWSRF Equivalency projects, and Centennial-match
 - It applies to specific materials, it gets complicated, EPA has guidance.
- In addition to American Iron and Steel Requirements
- The following products used in the project must be produced in the United States:
 - Iron and steel
 - Manufactured products
 - Construction materials
- No more waivers



Ecology is here to help and address applicability case-by-case.

Davis-Bacon Documentation

- Confirm the correct Davis-Bacon Wage Determination is in the bid package.
- Confirm the required Davis-Bacon language is included in the advertisement for bids.
- Check payrolls weekly & confirm with pay applications
- Do not payout pay application requests if Davis Bacon documentation is not in order.
- Confirm consultants have performed interviews and are capturing subcontractor's who may not be onsite frequently.



Start early, always check, always confirm, throughout the entire project.

Small Community Project Priority List (SCPPL)

- Simplify the funding process
- Reduce barriers to accessing and using Ecology WQ funds
- Keep projects moving instead of long waits between steps
- Meet anticipated wastewater infrastructure needs, based on planning and design work currently funded



Who is eligible for SCPPL?

- Population served by the project is less than 25,000
- Likely to qualify for hardship subsidy
- Have an open funding agreement & project was previously rated/ranked
- Traditional design-bid-build projects





Additional SCPPL Guidance

- Fund one step at a time
- Not all projects are suitable for SCPPL
- Work with Ecology early and often

What SCPPPL doesn't change



- Step process- approvals needed from prior step to move forward (i.e. planning to design)
- Funding sources- use CWSRF loan/FP, Centennial Grants, other sources (BIL, OSG) as available
- Who/how we manage projects (e.g. regional project managers, financial managers)
- Environmental & cultural resources review requirements