

Project Ranking

The purpose of this system is to quantify the relative water quality and/or public health importance of individual entities located throughout the State. The Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Priority System does not consider the type of project being considered or try to rank one type of project over another type. The RLF Priority System considers the following criteria to evaluate the relative merits of each entity:

- 1) Population
- 2) Segmented or Phased Projects
- 3) Receiving Stream Use Classification
- 4) Receiving Stream Flow
- 5) Enforcement Factor
- 6) NPDES Permit Compliance
- 7) Septic Tank Failure
- 8) Septic Tank Suitability
- 9) Executed Memorandum of Agreement

These factors are multiplied together (or added in the case of executed memorandum of agreement) to determine each entity's priority points.

1) Population

The population factor is determined by dividing an entity's 2010 census population by the state population and multiplying by 1,000. If a 2010 census figure does not exist, the current population will be used.

2) Segmented or Phased Projects

All segmented or phased projects will be awarded a factor of 10.

3) Receiving Stream Use Classification

This factor is based upon the receiving stream classification in the Arkansas Water Quality Standards as contained in Regulation Number 2 (as amended) of October 28, 2002. The factors used are as follows:

Extraordinary Resource Waters-	8.00
Natural and Scenic Waterways-	8.00
Ecologically Sensitive Waterbodies	8.00
Trout Fishery	8.00
Primary Contact Recreation	4.00
Secondary Contact Recreation	2.00
No Discharge	1.00

The factor shall be awarded based upon the highest use classification of a given stream. Entities

that discharge into another sewer system will use the classification of that sewer system's stream.

4) Receiving Stream Flow

This factor is used as a quantitative indicator of receiving stream flow at seven day-ten year (7Q10) low flow conditions. The factors used are as follows:

0 cubic feet/second	8
Greater than 0, but less than 10 cubic feet/second	4
Greater than 10, but less than 100 cubic feet/second	2
Greater than 100 cubic feet/second	1

If an entity discharges into receiving waters in two different categories, the factor will be prorated based upon the quantity of each discharge and its receiving stream classification.

For unsewered entities, the largest stream within a one mile radius will be used in determining the stream classification. Entities that discharge into another sewer system will use the classification of that sewer system's stream.

5) Enforcement Factor

Entities with permits that are expired as of 3/31/2019 or are under a Consent Administrative Order (CAO) will have a factor of 10.

6) Septic Tank Failure

This factor is the percentage of septic tank failure as reported to the Department by the Arkansas Department of Health multiplied by 10. This factor applies only to unsewered entities.

7) Septic Tank Suitability

The soil suitability for septic tank use within an entity is determined from soil survey information obtained from the Soil Conservation Service and uses their classification system for septic tank use. Soils well suited for septic tanks are classified as SLIGHT and given a point value of 1; MODERATE soils are those in which septic systems sometimes fail and are given a point value of 2; and SEVERE soils unsuitable for septic systems have a value of 3. The soils within a one mile radius of the unsewered entity are used in the rating. The classification with the highest percentage in this area will have its point value used in the priority system. This factor applies only to unsewered entities.

8) Executed Memorandum of Agreement

Entities with executed MOA's from the WRD Section will have 5,000 points added to their score. Entities that have met with the WRD Section and have indicated they will enter the program, but have not executed a MOA will have 2,500 points added to their score.

The ranking for all entities is presented by rank.