

Appendix C

Project Priority System

State of Kansas
Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Division of Environment
Bureau of Water

State Fiscal Year 2020
Kansas Public Water Supply Loan
Fund Project Priority System

July 1, 2019

**Kansas Department of Health and
Environment Kansas Public Water
Supply Loan Fund Project Priority
System
FY 2020**

I. INTRODUCTION

The SDWA and Kansas Statutes establishing the public water supply loan fund require KDHE to develop a project priority system; including ranking criteria to determine which projects should receive loans. In preparing a priority list, the Secretary is required to exclude projects from applicants who have not adopted and implemented water conservation plans consistent with Kansas Water Office guidelines. KDHE is also required to ensure that at least 20% of loan fund monies are made available to communities of less than 5000 people.

II. PRIORITY RATING CRITERIA

The priority rating criteria are used to numerically rank projects for potential funding assistance from the Kansas Public Water Supply Loan Fund. State law and the SDWA both provide guidance on factors to be considered when ranking projects.

The SDWA requires priority be given to projects that address the most serious risks to human health, that are necessary to assure compliance with requirements of the SDWA (national primary drinking water regulations) and to assist public water supplies most in need, on a per household basis according to state affordability criteria.

Kansas statutes require KDHE to give consideration to projects consistent with the public water supply regionalization strategies developed in the Kansas Water Plan. Since no regionalization strategies have been proposed, the rating criteria cannot address this issue. However, the rating criteria do award points for system consolidation.

The Bureau of Water will consider the following factors in determining the numerical scores of each project:

- 1) Water quality issues, including compliance with maximum contaminant levels, treatment techniques, aesthetic factors, and unregulated contaminants.
- 2) Consolidation of systems;
- 3) Improvements to reliability;
- 4) State median and applicant household income levels;
- 5) Special categories; and
- 6) KDHE adjustment

III. IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL PROJECTS

Potential projects for inclusion on the project priority list may be identified by public water supply officials, by KDHE, through participation in national needs surveys, through routine inspection and special studies; or by federal, state, or local agencies.

Projects may also be identified by the Secretary of KDHE in accordance with section IV.4 as necessary for correction of an emergency condition.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

KDHE will use the following procedures in administering the priority system.

1. The Bureau of Water will prepare annually, a priority list of all projects to be included in the Intended Use Plan for possible funding during state fiscal year. The Project Priority List (PPL) will include the rank for each project.
2. The Bureau of Water will give public notice of the PPL and hold a minimum of one public hearing to receive comments. The Bureau of Water will provide information upon request, on the detailed calculation of the priority rank of a project.
3. If the PPL includes a funding line based on estimated money available, the highest ranking projects equal to the money available will be given the first opportunity to apply for funding. If there is no funding line in the PPL all projects will have an opportunity to apply for funding.
4. The Secretary of KDHE may amend the PPL and the Intended Use Plan to include a project requested by the Bureau of Water as needed to protect public health, or to meet emergency needs.
5. A project must be listed in the PPL prepared by KDHE to receive a loan; unless funded under the emergency provision of IV.4 or the bypass provision of IV.6.
6. If projects above the funding line (if there is a funding line) in the PPL fail to apply for or execute loans, those funds will be made available to the highest ranked projects ready to proceed that are below the funding line. This ability to bypass projects is necessary to assure available funds are obligated on a timely basis.
7. Kansas law requires 20% of available loan funds to be made available to public water suppliers that serve less than 5000 people. If available, projects serving less than 5000 people, totaling at least 30% of available loan funds, will be included above the funding line in the PPL to assure sufficient projects to meet the 20% requirement. Projects from public water suppliers serving less than 5000 population will be indicated on the Project Priority List and may be placed above the funding line (if a funding line exists) regardless of priority ranking, if necessary to meet the 20% requirement.

V. PROJECT RATING PROCEDURE

Projects identified in accordance with Section IV, other than projects identified in accordance with section IV.4, will be ranked by the rating system set forth below. The highest point total denotes the highest priority for funding. A separate ranking will be prepared for each project. Projects will receive points, up to the stated maximum, for each applicable category.

1. Water quality issues:

Acute MCL or treatment technique violation corrected	Up to 35 points
Chronic MCL or treatment technique violation corrected	Up to 30 points
Impending MCL violation corrected	Up to 20 points
Unregulated contaminant correction	Up to 15 points
Compliance with existing administrative order	Up to 10 points
Secondary MCL correction	Up to 10 points

2. Consolidation of two or more water systems 10 points each

3. Reliability improvement:

Second source for single source systems	Up to 15 points
Low water pressure (less than 20 psi)	Up to 15 points
Water restrictions in last 3 years	Up to 10 points
Plant rehabilitation	Up to 10 points
Storage (less than 24 hours)	Up to 10 points
Excessive water loss	Up to 10 points
Distribution system looping	Up to 10 points

4. Beneficiaries income:

LT 80% of State Median Household Income (SMHI)	3 points
GT 80% of SMHI but LT SMHI	1 point

5. Special categories:

Upgrade to meet future regulations	Up to 15 points
Plant expansion	Up to 15 points
Water treatment waste discharges	Up to 15 points
Extend distribution system to unserved area	Up to 15 points

6. KDHE point adjustment Up to 35 points

System implements an Asset Management Program	Up to 10 points
---	-----------------

BACKGROUND

The following background is provided to explain the factors KDHE will consider when awarding points under the project rating criteria. For some criteria, water quality issues for example, KDHE will award points up to a maximum value. For other rating criteria, consolidation for example, the points to be awarded are set in the criterion.

1. Water Quality Issues

This group considers a project's ability to correct violations of drinking water standards. Acute MCL and treatment technique violations are those violations which may have an immediate public health impact, or which require public notices to be given under the acute MCL violation provision of the public notification regulations. Only nitrate MCL violations and acute coliform MCL violations are covered by this provision at the present time. Violations of surface water treatment requirements will be included as an acute violation. Chronic MCL violations are those MCL violations which have health impacts over a longer period of time. Projects to provide treatment for an impending violation will also be considered in this category. Generally, an impending violation would be scored if an identifiable plume of contamination was threatening a water source. Secondary MCL violations are violations which cause aesthetic impacts. Existence of an administrative order to correct an MCL violation will also be considered in this category. KDHE will also consider projects providing treatment for unregulated contaminants which may have health impacts under this category. Extensions of distribution systems to areas with documented water quality problems may also receive points under this section.

2. Consolidation

Kansas law requires the department to encourage regional cooperative projects. Up to 10 points will be added for each system to be served by a project. (Two systems, maximum of 20 points)

3. Reliability Issues

Projects which add supplemental sources of water to systems with single sources are important to assure the reliability of a system and will receive points under this category. KDHE will consider the level of water restriction imposed when awarding points under this category. Restrictions on domestic consumption are viewed as more significant than outdoor restrictions. KDHE will also consider efforts made by an applicant to locate and reduce water losses and promote water conservation. Projects which rehabilitate treatment plants, add storage to meet peak needs, and loop dead end lines are also considered to improve reliability. KDHE will give greater weight to projects which correct low pressure problems, when the problems are documented by field measurements.

4. Beneficiaries Income

This section allows additional points to be awarded based on the applicant's median household income and the state median household income. Data found on the U.S. Census Bureau web site, will be used for this purpose.

5. Special Categories

Projects can receive additional ranking points if they meet any of these special categories.

6. KDHE point adjustment

This category allows KDHE to award a maximum of 35 discretionary points when circumstances exist which are not adequately accommodated by the categories described above. These circumstances can include, but are not limited to extra points for systems that utilize asset management programs, complete KanCap board member training classes, or add treatment for unregulated contaminants that are covered by an EPA health advisory.