

North Dakota

Disadvantaged Community Criteria

Section 1452(d) of the SDWA defines a disadvantaged community as “the service area of a public water system that meets affordability criteria established after public review and comment by the State in which the public water system is located”. EPA expects states to evaluate and revise, as needed, their existing DWSRF disadvantaged community definition. The criteria used by the North Dakota DWSRF program are:

- The average annual residential water user charge as a percent of the local or service area annual median household income
- Percent of households with an income less than 200 percent of the poverty threshold
- Percent unemployment
- Percent of residents with less than a high school education

Each criterion is scored by assigning points based on the range of values established in the Affordability section of the priority ranking system found in Appendix C. Projects may receive up to 20 points. Projects receiving 5 or more points are considered disadvantaged communities.

A water system that is undertaking a project in a portion of its service area may submit a census tract area for consideration as a disadvantaged community. If the water system receives additional subsidization, the water system must demonstrate that only the residential users in the census tract area will benefit from the additional subsidization. Loan forgiveness will only be used to finance new construction. DWSRF loan and loan forgiveness can be bundled together with funding from other sources to form funding packages for projects. The combined loan forgiveness and grant in a bundled funding package must be less than or equal to 90 percent of project costs.