

Appendix C

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

PRIORITY RANKING SYSTEM FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND (DWSRF) PROGRAM

DWSRF PROGRAM
DIVISION OF MUNICIPAL FACILITIES
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION
NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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The following criteria and point system is utilized by the DWSRF Program to rank eligible projects for potential financial assistance through the DWSRF Program:

- Water Quality (35 points maximum)
- Water Quantity (20 points maximum)
- Affordability (15 points maximum)
- Infrastructure Adequacy (15 points maximum)
- Consolidation or Regionalization of Water Supplies (10 points maximum)
- Operator Safety (5 points maximum)

Maximum Total Points = 100

DWSRF funds may be used to buy or refinance existing local debt obligations (publicly owned systems only) where the initial debt was incurred and the construction started after July 1, 1993. DWSRF assistance requests of this type, if eligible, will be ranked based on the original purpose and success of the constructed improvements.

Creation of New Systems - eligible projects are those that, upon completion, will create a community water system (CWS) to address existing and serious public health problems caused by unsafe drinking water from individual wells or surface water sources. Eligible projects are also those that create a new regional CWS by consolidating existing systems with technical, financial, or managerial difficulties. Projects to address existing public health problems associated with individual wells or surface water sources must be limited in scope to the specific geographic area affected by contamination. Projects that create new regional CWSs by consolidating existing systems must be limited in scope to the service area of the systems being consolidated. A project must be a cost-effective solution to addressing the problem. Applicants must ensure that sufficient public notice has been given to potentially affected parties and consider alternative solutions to addressing the problem. Capacity to serve future population growth cannot be a substantial portion of the project.

Water Quality (select all that apply, 35 points maximum) ^{1,2}	
A. Documented waterborne disease outbreaks within last 2 years.	20
B. Unresolved nitrate or nitrite maximum contaminant level (MCL) exceedance(s), OR acute microbiological MCL exceedance(s) within last 12 months.	15
C. Exceedance(s) of EPA-established unreasonable risk to health (URTH) level(s) within last 4 years for regulated chemicals or radionuclides (excludes nitrate and nitrite).	10
D. Disinfection treatment inadequate to satisfy one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Surface Water Treatment Rule (SWTR) • The Enhanced SWTR (ESWTR) • The Groundwater Disinfection Rule (GWDR) once finalized • Groundwater source(s) deemed by the PWSS to be under the direct influence of surface water • Multiple turbidity treatment technique requirement (TTR) violations within last 2 years (includes at least one event where the maximum allowed turbidity was exceeded) 	8
E. Multiple turbidity TTR violations within last 2 years (no events where the maximum allowed turbidity was exceeded), OR 3 or more non-acute microbiological MCL violations within last 12 months.	7
F. MCL or TTR exceedance(s) (no URTH level exceedances) within last 4 years (excludes microbiological contaminants, nitrate, nitrite, and turbidity).	6
G. Potential MCL or TTR compliance problems based on most recent 4-year period (excludes microbiological contaminants and turbidity).	
75% to 100% of MCL or TTR	5
50% to 74% of MCL or TTR	4
H. General water quality problems (see table on page 5).	
Significant general water quality problem	4
Moderate general water quality problem	3
Minor general water quality problem	2

Water Quantity (select all that apply, 20 points maximum) ^{2,3}	
A. Correction of a critical water supply problem involving the loss or imminent loss of a water supply in the near future.	20
B. Correction of an extreme water supply problem. Maximum water available <150 gallons per capita per day (gpcd) (community water systems only), OR continuous water shortages during all periods of operation (non-profit non-community water systems only).	10
C. Correction of a serious water supply problem. Maximum water available <200 gpcd (community water systems only), OR daily water shortages, or inability to meet peak daily water demand at a frequency of at least once per week during all periods of operation (non-profit non-community water systems only).	7

D. Correction of a moderate water supply problem. Maximum water available <250 gpcd (community water systems only), OR occasional daily water shortages, or occasional inability to meet peak daily water demands on a seasonal basis (non-profit non-community water systems only).	4
E. Correction of a minor water supply problem. Maximum water available <300 gpcd (community water systems only), OR sporadic water shortages or occasional inability to meet peak water demands (non-profit non-community water systems only).	2

Affordability (for the applicable subcategory, select one for each item, 15 points maximum)	
A. Community Water Systems	
Relative income index- ratio of local or service area annual median household income (AMHI) to the state nonmetropolitan AMHI (based on 2011-2015 ACS 5-Year Estimates)	
≤60%	8
61% to 70%	7
71% to 80%	5
81% to 90%	3
91% to 100%	1
Relative future water cost index- ratio of expected average annual residential water user charge resulting from the project, including costs recovered through special assessments, to the local AMHI (based on 2011-2015 ACS 5-Year Estimates)	
>2.5%	7
2.0% to 2.5%	6
1.5% to 1.9%	5
1.0% to 1.4%	3
0.5% to 0.9%	1
B. Non-profit Non-community Water Systems	
Relative income index- ratio of local or service area AMHI to the state non-metropolitan AMHI (based on 2011-2015 ACS 5-Year Estimates)	
≤60%	8
61% to 70%	7
71% to 80%	5
81% to 90%	3
91% to 100%	1
Relative future water cost index- ratio of expected annual water service expenditures resulting from the project to total annual operating expenses	
>20%	7
15% to 20%	6
10% to 14%	5
5% to 9%	3
2% to 4%	1

Infrastructure Adequacy (select all that apply, 15 points maximum)	
A. Correction of general disinfection treatment deficiencies - excludes improvements necessary to directly comply with the SWTR, the ESWTR, or the GWDR (once finalized).	3
B. Correction of well construction or operating deficiencies.	3
C. Correction of distribution system pressure problems (dynamic pressure <20 psi).	3
D. Replacement of deteriorated water mains.	3
E. Replacement of deteriorated finished water storage structures.	3
F. Replacement of distribution system piping/materials shown via DWP-approved testing to contribute unacceptable levels of lead or asbestos.	3
G. Water treatment plant operating at or above design capacity.	3
H. Water treatment plant operating at or beyond useful or design life.	3
I. Correction of specific design or operating deficiencies associated with water treatment plant unit processes (excludes disinfection treatment).	2
J. Correction of specific design or operating deficiencies associated with surface water intake facilities.	2
K. Correction of specific design or operating deficiencies associated with finished water storage facilities.	2
L. Correction of specific design or operating deficiencies associated with raw or finished water pumping facilities.	2
M. Correction of specific design or operating deficiencies associated with raw or finished water distribution system piping.	2
N. Correction of specific design or operating deficiencies associated with chemical feed installations (excludes disinfection).	2
O. Provision of a second well where only one functional well exists for systems relying solely on their own groundwater supplies.	2
P. Replacement of inoperative, obsolete, or inadequate instrumentation or controls.	2

Consolidation or Regionalization of Water Supplies (select all that apply, 10 points maximum)	
A. Correction of Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) compliance problem(s) or extreme to critical water supply problem(s) for one or more PWSs through consolidation with another PWS or regionalized service provided by another PWS.	4
B. Correction of contamination problems (regulated contaminants) or extreme water quantity problems (no water, imminent loss of water supply, or continuous/frequent daily water shortages) for individual residences or businesses through consolidation with another PWS or regionalized service provided by a PWS.	3
C. Correction of potential MCL or TTR compliance problems, general water quality problems, or moderate to serious water quantity problems for one or more PWSs through consolidation with another PWS or regionalized service provided by another PWS.	2
D. Correction of general water quality problems or moderate water quantity problems (occasionally daily or seasonal water shortages) for individual residences or businesses through consolidation with another PWS or regionalized service provided by a PWS.	1

Operator Safety (select one if applicable, 5 points maximum)	
Correction of a problem that poses a critical and chronic safety hazard for operators.	5
Correction of a problem that poses an intermittent safety hazard for operators.	3
Correction of a potential significant safety hazard for operators.	1

General Water Quality (select all that apply)			
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)		Manganese (Mn)	
500 - 999 mg/L	1	0.05 - 0.25 mg/L	1
1,000 - 1,499 mg/L	2	0.26 - 1.00 mg/L	2
≥ 1,500 mg/L	3	> 1.00 mg/L	3
Total Hardness as Calcium Carbonate (TH)		Sodium (Na)	
200 - 424 mg/L	1	200 - 424 mg/L	1
425 - 649 mg/L	2	425 - 649 mg/L	2
≥ 650 mg/L	3	≥ 650 mg/L	3
Iron (Fe)		Sulfate (SO ₄)	
0.3 - 0.89 mg/L	1	250 - 499 mg/L	1
0.9 - 2.0 mg/L	2	500 - 750 mg/L	2
> 2.0 mg/L	3	> 750 mg/L	3
Total From Above	Category for Water Quality Item H		
≥ 6	Significant general water quality problem		
4 or 5	Moderate general water quality problem		
≤ 3	Minor general water quality problem		

¹ Applies to community and non-profit non-community public water systems only. Water quality problems must be ongoing and unresolved under the present system configuration. Analysis applies to finished water after all treatment (raw water if no treatment is provided).

² Projects intended to address multiple community and/or non-profit non-community public water system water quality and/or quantity problems will be ranked based on the highest-level problem to be solved.

³ Applies to community and non-profit non-community public water systems only. Projects intended mainly to increase water availability for or to improve fire protection are not eligible for DWSRF assistance. To be eligible, fire protection features must represent an ancillary project benefit or secondary project purpose.