

The Vermont Drinking Water
State Revolving Fund
Draft Intended Use Plan
for Federal Fiscal Year 2025

Prepared by:

The Water Investment Division

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

Department of Environmental Conservation

1 National Life Drive, Davis 3 | Montpelier, VT 05620-3510

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1. Executive Summary

Vermont sends to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as part of its annual application for Drinking Water Capitalization Grants under the Safe Drinking Water Act, a Drinking Water Intended Use Plan to meet the requirements of the Act and the Drinking Water Capitalization Grant Agreements. This Intended Use Plan covers the FFY 2025 General Grant, and the supplemental General and Emerging Contaminants Grants, created by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The Vermont Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF) Program is deferring application for the 2025 Lead Service Line Grant; however, this Intended Use Plan includes subsidy and other information for existing Lead Service Line Grant funds.

DWSRF funds can be used for a wide variety of eligible activities, including public water system infrastructure improvements and water system management enhancements.

The Safe Drinking Water Act requires that each state prepare an Intended Use Plan every fiscal year that details how the DWSRF funds will be used. Once the Intended Use Plan has undergone public comment, it is submitted along with other supporting documents to the regional EPA office. These documents comprise the capitalization grant request for the DWSRF. While a variety of state agencies are involved in the process, the Water Investment Division (WID) of the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is responsible for preparing and submitting these documents. WID and the Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division share responsibility for implementation of the policies that are followed as part of the DWSRF, including the assurances and certifications contained in the capitalization grant request.

1.1. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Build America, Buy America Act

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, passed November 15, 2021, provides two additional SRF grants: the General Supplemental, and the Emerging Contaminants Grants, to augment the existing General Grant, also known as the Base Grant. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act grants will continue annually for a total of five years, ending with the Federal Fiscal Year 2026 grants.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act expanded domestic sourcing requirements with the inclusion of the Build America, Buy America Act requirements. For all projects receiving funding based on federal awards made to the State on or after May 14, 2022, all steel, iron, manufactured products, non-ferrous metals, plastic and polymer-based products (including polyvinylchloride, composite building materials, and polymers used in fiber optic cables), glass (including optic glass), lumber, and drywall used in infrastructure projects for federal financial assistance programs must be produced in the United States. The Environmental Protection Agency has issued a Build America, Buy America Act Adjustment Period Waiver for SRF projects that have initiated design planning. The

Department of Environmental Conservation's Design and Construction Engineering Section has published an Adjustment Period Waiver Certification form, available at [SRF BABA Waiver Certification Form](#). Projects must meet a range of eligibility requirements under the Waiver and should seek an explicit eligibility determination from the SRF Program.

1.2 Notice of Nondiscrimination

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) operates its programs, services, and activities without discriminating on the basis of race, religion, creed, color, national origin (including limited English proficiency), ancestry, place of birth, disability, age, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or breastfeeding (mother and child). We will not tolerate discrimination, intimidation, threats, coercion, or retaliation against any individual or group because they have exercised their rights protected by federal or state law. To file a discrimination complaint, for questions, free language services, or requests for reasonable accommodation, please contact ANR's Nondiscrimination Coordinator at ANR.CivilRights@vermont.gov or visit ANR's online Notice of Nondiscrimination at <https://anr.vermont.gov/special-topics/equity-and-accessibility/notice-nondiscrimination>.



1.3 Language Access Services

Questions or Complaints/FREE LANGUAGE SERVICES | SERVICES LINGUISTIQUES GRATUITS | भाषासम्बन्धी निःशुल्क सेवाहरू | SERVICIOS GRATUITOS DE IDIOMAS | 免費語言服務 | BESPLATNE JEZIČKE USLUGE | БЕСПЛАТНЫЕ УСЛУГИ ПЕРЕВОДА | DỊCH VỤ NGÔN NGỮ MIỄN PHÍ | 無料通訳サービス | ነጻ የቋንቋ አገልግሎቶች | HUDUMA ZA MSAADA WA LUGHA BILA MALIPO | BESPLATNE JEZIČKE USLUGE | အခမဲ့ ဘာသာစကား ဝန်ဆောင်မှုများ | ADEEGYO LUUQADA AH OO BILAASH AH | خدمات لغة مجانية : anr.civilrights@vermont.gov or 802-636-7827."

If you speak a language not listed or require additional help, we offer free language assistance services. Please reach out to ANR at 802-636-7827 and we can support getting you access to the State of Vermont's free language services. The State of Vermont contracts with several Translation Services organizations, and you can visit this page for more information. <https://anr.vermont.gov/special-topics/equity-and-accessibility/language-services>.

2. DWSRF Mission and Program Goals

2.1. Mission of Vermont DWSRF:

To ensure the fund operates in perpetuity and provides continuing financial assistance to Vermont public water systems for drinking water project needs, and to effectively align the DWSRF with other state and federal funding sources to support drinking water projects.

2.2. Long Term Goals

1. Through effective management, provide a self-sustaining funding program that will assist public water systems in achieving compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act, maintaining the public health objectives of the Act, and ensuring the public has safe drinking water.
2. Implement the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act goal of increasing investment in disadvantaged communities by ensuring subsidy (loan principal forgiveness) is directed to disadvantaged communities, and by engaging in a multi-year sustained effort to increase our capacity to target assistance to disadvantaged communities.
3. Provide funding assistance to eligible public water systems for eligible projects associated with the improvement and maintenance of water treatment, storage and distribution facilities, and for consolidation or interconnection of water systems to improve service or develop capacity.
4. Use set-asides to improve source water protection and assessment efforts by providing technical and financial assistance.
5. Continue to update, develop, and implement administrative rules and guidance to carry out the DWSRF Program.
6. Continue to update, develop, and implement the capacity development strategy for existing systems.
7. Continue providing operator training by Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division staff and through grants and/or contracts with third-party technical assistance providers.

2.3. Short Term Goals

1. Secure the State's latest available capitalization grants to finance improvements for public water systems.
2. Administer the DWSRF Program for projects that have been determined to be the highest priority through the Priority List and Intended Use Plan to address

contamination issues that pose the most serious risk to human health and to ensure compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act requirements and maintain and/or improve water quality.

3. Provide timely assistance to public community and Non-Transient Non-Community water systems to replace lead service lines.
 4. Ensure that at least 15% of the DWSRF Project Fund provides loans to municipally-owned and privately-owned non-profit public water systems with populations of fewer than 10,000 people.
 5. Provide support to small systems to conduct feasibility studies, preliminary engineering, and final designs for water system improvements as well as promotion of capacity development for disadvantaged and small systems that do not have adequate technical, managerial, or financial resources to come into or maintain compliance, and to provide safe drinking water.
 6. Coordinate DWSRF activities with enforcement activities of the State and EPA.
 7. Continue implementation of the statewide strategy to improve capacity for existing public water systems and ensure capacity for new public water systems.
 8. Use DWSRF set-aside funding to provide the additional resources required to manage the Vermont Drinking Water Program.
 9. Expend all federal funds within two years of grant award.
 10. Engage communities and other stakeholders in an evaluation of the Department's criteria for Disadvantaged Communities and Priority Ranking Criteria to increase investment to disadvantaged communities.
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3. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant Eligibility

ARPA grant awards are not SRF funds. The Department uses the Intended Use Plan to identify ARPA grant award eligibility criteria. The Village Wastewater and Drinking Water ARPA Grant, described below, applies to both wastewater and drinking water projects, and as such is included in both the Clean Water and Drinking Water Intended Use Plans.

3.1. State Village Wastewater and Drinking Water ARPA Grant Eligibility

Villages form the heart of Vermont's rural communities, yet more than 200 villages lack community wastewater disposal systems, hampering revitalization. More than 100 Vermont villages do not have a public municipal drinking water system. While many communities have explored municipal water and wastewater solutions in the past, most could not proceed with the projects because users could not afford the new rates needed to cover the cost of the project.

However, \$36.2 million in ARPA funding was appropriated to help municipalities develop new public drinking water systems and community wastewater disposal systems where this critical infrastructure is lacking. This grant funding is intended to help bridge the affordability gap, protect public health, increase affordable housing, support economic development, and incentivize compact growth in Vermont's designated villages and neighborhoods.

The original funding goal was to support up to ten decentralized community wastewater solutions and/or public municipal water systems. Wastewater projects are eligible for funding per limitations set by SRF Guidance Document #38, dated March 28, 2024.

All funds have been awarded to qualifying Villages, and Village ARPA grants have been executed. Some villages have chosen to voluntarily rescind grants, allowing for DEC to reallocate those funds to the readiest projects, with the greatest need, and with the greatest potential to accommodate new housing. DEC reserves the right to rescind funding from grantees that are not making progress and where the funding may be at risk of recission from the Federal Treasury Department.

Municipalities should note that the reallocation of any Village ARPA grant dollars are subject to approval by the Vermont Agency of Administration pursuant to the Vermont's State Fiscal Recovery Process and Guidance. The intent of the Water Investment Division is to confirm award values with the Agency of Administration.

4. DWSRF Administration

DWSRF construction loans are currently issued at a 0% interest rate with an administrative fee (calculated like an annual interest rate over the entire loan term) of between 0% and 2.75%. Administrative fee proceeds are deposited into a dedicated account separate from the DWSRF project account, referred to as the administrative account. Fees are tracked as either program or non-program income to enable use of non-program income for a broader array of Safe Drinking Water Act eligible activities than is allowed with program income. All fee income is accounted for in a separate fund outside the SRF fund.

These funds are primarily used for administrative support of the DWSRF program including staff salaries for financial, project development and engineering staff. Additionally, they have been used to fund costs associated with underwriting of loans and software support. The program reserves the right to use these funds for any eligible use of the fees as fund needs develop over the year.

4.1. Reallocated Funds

The Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 (Section 302) allow a state to transfer up to 33% of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) capitalization grant from the DWSRF to the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF) or an

equivalent amount from the CWSRF to the DWSRF for each open grant. This transfer is at the Governor's discretion. The program reserves the right to reserve this amount for future need.

In the event funds are reallocated from the DWSRF to the CWSRF, or vice versa, or additional federal funds are made available beyond the anticipated amount, Vermont will advance these funds to the appropriate projects in accordance with this Intended Use Plan, and the Municipal Pollution Control Priority System.

4.2. Future Program Impact

The proposed method and financial terms for distributing project funds presented in this Intended Use Plan should have a positive impact on the long-term financial status of the DWSRF while accounting for loan subsidy. Principal and interest payments on loans plus the interest earnings on the fund balance are deposited into the DWSRF and made available for future water system capital improvement projects. The only other funds lost for revolving loans are those withdrawn for the following authorized Set-Aside uses: Administration; Technical Assistance; Program Management; and Local Assistance. Lending procedures used by Vermont Bond Bank for municipal loans and the Vermont Economic Development Authority for loans to private entities include safeguards structured to minimize unforeseen losses to the fund. Additionally, the placement of the DWSRF within the financial structure of the Vermont Bond Bank guarantees that the Program will benefit in the long-term from the management and financial planning expertise of this organization.

5. DWSRF Capitalization Grants Federal Fiscal Year 2025

5.1. Capitalization Grants

Vermont will receive a total of three Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025 capitalization grants. The Department is deferring application for the Lead Service Grant due to existing sufficient balances from prior grant years.

The FFY 25 Grants are as follows:

- General Grant : \$10,906,000
- General Supplemental Grant: \$24,898,000
- Emerging Contaminants Grant: \$7,640,000
- 2023 Reallotted Emerging Contaminants: \$205,000
- 2022 Reallotted Emerging Contaminants: \$12,000

The required state match for is as follows:

- General Grant (20% of grant): \$2,181,200
- General Supplemental Grant (20% of grant): \$4,979,600

- Emerging Contaminants Grants (no match requirement)

The full match for the General Supplemental grant has been appropriated by the legislature and will be available beginning July 2025. For the General Grant, \$1,247,721 will be available beginning July 2025. The remaining required match of \$933,479 will be available beginning July 2026. The Payment Schedule accounts for the schedule of match funds availability.

The Sources and Uses tables below assume the total needed match will be available. Sources of funds and uses are listed below.

5.2. Sources and Uses

The Sources and Uses tables below assume the total needed match will be available. Sources of funds and uses are listed below.

Sources	General	General Supplemental	Lead Service Lines	Emerging Contaminants
DWSRF Capitalization Grant Minus Set-Asides	\$7,525,140	\$17,179,620	NA	\$5,488,600
State Match Needed FFY25 Grant	\$2,181,200	\$4,979,600	NA	\$0
Repayments (anticipated 7/1/25-6/30/26)	\$6,590,745	NA	NA	NA
Interest (anticipated 7/1/25-6/30/26)	\$2,880,000	NA	NA	NA
Carry-Forward (anticipated)	\$58,514,166	Included in General	\$12,053,756	\$0
TOTAL	\$76,674,225	\$22,159,220	\$12,954,526	\$6,990,071

Uses	General and General Supplemental	Lead Service Lines	Emerging Contaminants
Anticipated Commitments See FFY 25 Priority Lists	\$126,833,445	\$2,400,000	\$7,122,000

The Sources and Uses tables identify the funds used to determine the funding line for the Priority List. The funding line, shown here as “anticipated commitments” is informed by a review of anticipated project schedules, consequently “Uses” are shown as exceeding “Sources” for the General and General Supplemental Grants.

As shown in the tables above for the Lead Service Line Grant Sources exceed Uses. The Department has had excellent compliance with systems meeting the inventory deadline, however demand for service line replacement loans remains low. The Department is continuing to reach out to systems to complete additional phase inventories to determine unknown service lines, develop replacement plans, and replace Lead Service Line Grant eligible service lines.

Detailed project information is included in the attached Projects Priority Lists for state fiscal year 2026.

5.3. EPA Federal Fiscal Year Payment Schedule

The State matching funds will be deposited into the DWSRF prior to the quarter when federal funds are requested. The schedule for entering into binding commitments and timing of cash draws is contained in the grant application submitted to EPA. The DWSRF program will continue to comply with the Operating Agreement for Implementing and Managing the State Revolving Fund Program between the State of Vermont and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region I.

SRF General

Payment No.	Quarter	Date	Federal Amount	State Amount
1	2026-1	10/1/2025-12/31/2025	\$3,817,100	\$763,420
2	2026-2	1/1/2026-3/31/2026	\$1,635,900	\$327,180
3	2026-3	4/1/2026-6/30/2026	\$-	\$-
4	2026-4	7/1/2026-9/30/2026	\$5,453,000	\$1,090,600
Total			\$10,906,000	\$2,181,200

SRF General Supplemental

Payment No.	Quarter	Date	Federal Amount	State Amount
1	2026-1	10/1/2025-12/31/2025	\$8,714,300	\$1,742,860
2	2026-2	1/1/2026-3/31/2026	\$3,734,700	\$746,940
3	2026-3	4/1/2026-6/30/2026	\$6,224,500	\$1,244,900
4	2026-4	7/1/2026-9/30/2026	\$6,224,500	\$1,244,900
Total			\$24,898,000	\$4,979,600

SRF Emerging Contaminants

Payment No.	Quarter	Date	Federal Amount	State Amount
1	2026-1	10/1/2025-12/31/2025	\$2,749,950	\$0
2	2026-2	1/1/2026-3/31/2026	\$1,178,550	\$0
3	2026-3	4/1/2026-6/30/2026	\$1,964,250	\$0
4	2026-4	7/1/2026-9/30/2026	\$1,964,250	\$0
Total			\$7,857,000	\$0

5.4. EPA Estimated Disbursement Schedule: All Grants

Disbursement Quarter	General	General Supplemental	Emerging Contaminants
1QFFY2026	\$3,817,100	\$8,714,300	\$2,749,950
2QFFY2026	\$1,635,900	\$3,734,700	\$1,178,550
3QFFY2026	\$-	\$6,224,500	\$1,964,250
4QFFY2026	\$5,453,000	\$6,224,500	\$1,964,250
Total	\$10,906,000	\$24,898,000	\$7,857,000

5.5. Local Assistance Water Planning Loan (LAWPL) Program Sources and Uses

This table summarizes the sources and uses for the Local Assistance Water Planning Loan (LAWPL) Program. Sources include capitalization from federal funds from prior grant years, and from loan repayments. Uses are new fully forgiven loans for Asset Management Plans as described in 6.2.4.1.

Sources – LAWPL	
Carry-Forward	\$4,241,606
Estimated interest (7/1/2025-6/30/2026)	\$180,000
Estimated repayments (7/1/2025-6/30/2026)	\$ 720,472
Total Sources	\$ 5,142,078

Uses - LAWPL	
Estimated loan commitments (7/1/2025-6/30/2026)	\$500,000
Total Uses	\$500,000

6. Set-Asides

The State of Vermont plans for set-asides are detailed in the tables below, including the proposed amount of authority to be banked. These activities are often vital to water systems so that they can develop and maintain the financial, technical, and managerial capacity to run their systems effectively. A portion of the set-aside money will be used to develop and implement programs within state government necessary to implement the DWSRF and the SDWA Amendments of 1996. The following outlines the allocations and provides a brief description of the proposed activities in each of the four set-asides.

General Grant	PROPOSED FFY25	Banked Authority
TOTAL, ALL SET-ASIDES	\$ 4,397,886	\$ (1,017,026)
Program Mgmt	\$ 2,107,626	\$ (1,017,026)
Administrative	\$ 436,240	\$ -
Small Sys. Tech. Assist.	\$ 218,120	\$ -
Water System Operator Train Contract	\$ 143,120	
TNC TA Contract	\$ 143,120	
Rates Dashboard	\$ 25,000	
Local Assistance	\$ 1,635,900	NA
Capacity	\$ 600,000	
Staff	\$ 600,000	
Wellhead	\$ 1,035,900	
Staff	\$ 1,035,900	

General Supplemental	PROPOSED FFY25	Banked Authority
TOTAL, ALL SET-ASIDES	\$ 7,718,380	\$ -
Program Mgmt	\$ 2,489,800	\$ -
Administrative	\$ 995,920	\$ -
Small Sys. Tech. Assist.	\$ 497,960	\$ -
Local Assistance	\$ 2,384,700	NA
Capacity	\$ 2,384,700	
Water Loss Control	\$ 150,000	
Rates Media Campaign	\$ 200,000	
Rates Training	\$ 100,000	
Small and Disadvantaged Water System Outre	\$ 200,000	
Capacity Program Asset Management Initiati	\$ 100,000	
LSL Inventory Unknown Identification	\$ 500,000	
Class D Operator Training	\$ 100,000	
O&M Template development	\$ 100,000	
Approximately 6 FTE	\$ 909,700	
Wellhead	\$ 1,350,000	
Source Protection work	\$ 101,538	
Goundwater Protection Guidance	\$ 100,000	
USGS Groundwater Monitoring Contract	\$ 300,000	
Staff	\$ 848,462	

Emerging Contaminants	PROPOSED FFY25	Banked Authority
TOTAL, ALL SET-ASIDES	\$ 866,929	\$ 1,501,471
Program Mgmt	\$ 301,329	\$ 462,671
Administrative	\$ 305,600	\$ -
Small Sys. Tech. Assist.	\$ 50,000	\$ 102,800
TNC PFAS Monitoring	\$ 50,000	
Local Assistance	\$ 210,000	NA
Capacity	\$ 210,000	
Cyanotoxin Monitoring Study	\$ 60,000	
PFAS Treatment Efficacy Study	\$ 50,000	
Ion Exchange Treatment pilot study	\$ 100,000	

6.1. General Grant: Set-Asides

6.1.1. General Grant: Program Management Set-Aside

Up to 10% of the capitalization grant can be used for the DWSRF Program Management Set- Aside. We propose to take the full 10%, \$1,090,600, from FFY25 grant plus \$1,017,026 in banked authority, for a total of \$2,107,626 to support approximately 10 FTEs, and associated operating costs within the DWGPD. Duties of staff include capacity development, consumer confidence report assistance, adoption and implementation of new regulations, implementation of new and existing federal rules, source water assessment and protection, planning, outreach, data management, engineering, compliance supervision, and other drinking water program activities including the ability to provide up to \$10,000 in Emergency funding.

6.1.2. General Grant: Administrative Set-Aside

Up to 4% of the capitalization grant can be used for the DWSRF Administrative Set-Aside. Changes to the FY17 grant requirement allows the program to take 4%, or $0.002 \times$ total net position. The program will be taking 4%, or \$436,240 from the FFY25 grant to support approximately 2.4 FTEs within WID and the Administration and Innovation Division (AID). These positions provide project development, construction oversight, loan administration, and financial management services for the operation of the DWSRF. Administrative funds are also used to pay for the services of the Vermont Bond Bank (VBB), which is responsible for the overall fund and is a party to all loan awards to municipal applicants, and the Vermont Economic Development Authority (VEDA), which is responsible for conducting creditworthiness reviews of loan applicants for privately-owned water systems and is a party to those loans.

6.1.3. General Grant: Small Systems Technical Assistance Set-Aside

Up to 2% of the capitalization grant can be used for the DWSRF Technical Assistance (TA) Set-Aside. TA funds may be used for systems serving populations under 10,000 people. The program will take 2% of the FFY25 grant, or \$218,120, to provide technical assistance to small public water systems. The following activities and allocations are proposed:

Water System Operator Training Contract: \$143,120 to contract to provide professional training to public water system owners and operators in Vermont. These training efforts support the Vermont Water Operator Certification Program administered by the DWGPD.

TNC Technical Assistance: \$25,000 to provide technical assistance to Transient Non-Community Water Systems (TNCs).

Rates Study: \$50,000 to conduct surveys of water rates for community water system and update the Rates Dashboard based on the results of the survey. This dashboard will help

Vermont water systems evaluate their financial performance and influence future planning to improve their financial and managerial capacity.

6.1.4. General Grant: Local Assistance Set-Aside

Up to 15% of the capitalization grant, or \$1,635,900, can be used for the DWSRF Local Assistance Set-Aside, with a further limitation that no more than 10% can be used to fund any one specific activity. The program will take 15%, or \$1,635,900 to fund local assistance activities. The following activities and allocations are proposed.

6.1.4.1. Capacity Activity

Local Assistance Capacity Program Positions: This set aside will support staff implementing the Vermont Capacity Strategy, as well as the Operator Certification Program. In total, this set aside will fund approximately 3 FTEs for a total of \$600,000.

6.1.4.2. Wellhead Protection Activity

Local Assistance Wellhead Protection Positions: DWGPD Regional Office staff will use this set aside to support the technical review of soil-based wastewater system projects to ensure they do not contaminate public drinking water sources or groundwater supplies.

In total, this set aside will fund approximately 6 FTEs and proposes to use \$1,035,900.

6.2. General Supplemental Grant Set-Asides

6.2.1. General Supplemental Grant: Program Management Set-Aside

Up to 10% of the capitalization grant can be used for the DWSRF Program Management Set-Aside. We propose to take 10% or \$2,489,800, from the FFY25 Supplemental grant to support approximately 14 FTEs and associated operating costs within the DWGPD. Duties of the FTEs include capacity development, adoption and implementation of new regulations, implementation of new and existing federal rules, planning, outreach, data management, engineering, compliance supervision, and other drinking water program activities.

6.2.2. General Supplemental Grant: Administrative Set-Aside

Up to 4% of the capitalization grant can be used for the DWSRF Administrative Set-Aside. Changes to the FY17 grant requirement allows the program to take 4%, or .002 x total net position. The program will be taking 4%, or \$995,920 from the FFY25 supplemental grant to support approximately 5 FTEs within WID and the Administration and Innovation Division (AID) and DWGPD. The WID and AID positions provide project development, construction oversight, loan administration, and financial management services for the operation of the DWSRF. The DWGPD positions will be providing technical assistance to water systems of all sizes.

6.2.3. General Supplemental Grant: Small Systems Technical Assistance Set-Aside

Up to 2% of the capitalization grant can be used for the DWSRF Technical Assistance (TA) Set-Aside. TA funds may be used for systems serving populations under 10,000 people. The program will take 2% of the FY25 General Supplemental grant, or \$497,960, to support approximately 3 FTEs to provide direct technical assistance to small public water systems, such as RTCR Level 2 assessments, operator certification training, and outreach regarding drinking water program requirements.

6.2.4. General Supplemental Grant: Local Assistance Set-Aside

Up to 15% of the capitalization grant can be used for the DWSRF Local Assistance Set-Aside, with a further limitation that no more than 10% can be used to fund any one specific activity. The program will take 15%, or \$3,734,700 to fund local assistance activities.

The following activities and allocations are proposed:

6.2.4.1. Capacity Activity

Local Assistance Capacity Program Positions: \$909,700 to fund approximately 6 FTEs. Duties of staff include capacity development, adoption and implementation of new regulations, implementation of new and existing federal rules, source water assessment and protection, planning, outreach, data management, engineering, compliance supervision, and other drinking water program activities

Leak Detection Surveys: \$150,000 to provide leak detection surveys performed by a professional leak detection firm per American Water Works Association's standards. These surveys will be provided to community drinking water systems to promote water conservation efforts, reduce pumping and treatment costs, extend the useful life of assets, and minimize the risks of contamination.

Capacity Program Asset Management Initiatives: \$100,000 to extend the asset management training program funded through previous grants to promote the practice of infrastructure asset management at Vermont's public water systems.

Rates Training: \$100,000 water rates training program to promote the practice of infrastructure asset management and full-cost funding at Vermont's public water systems.

Class D Operator Certification: \$100,000 for a training program for Distribution Operators to meet the requirements of the 2024 updates to the Water Supply Rule.

Community Engagement with Disadvantaged Communities: \$200,000 to support community engagement with disadvantaged communities and provide DWSRF technical assistance for disadvantaged communities.

Water Rates Media Campaign: \$200,000 to build on previous media campaigns to build public awareness of the importance of safe drinking water and the cost of ensuring that water makes it to the tap.

Lead Service Line Inventory Updates: \$500,000 to provide help for Water Systems to identify “unknown service line material” identified in their approved Service Line Inventories.

TMF Capacity Template Updates: \$100,000 for contracted work to update DWGPD’s outreach templates, such as O&M Manual Templates, Source Protection Plan templates, or Long Range Plan templates, to support community water system TMF Capacity.

National Drinking Water Associations Memberships: \$25,000 to cover membership fees for representation and support by the ASDWA, AWWA, National Groundwater Association, etc.

6.2.4.2. Wellhead Protection Activity

Local Assistance Wellhead Protection Positions: DWGPD Water Resources staff will use this set aside to review and approve source protection plans and work with systems to update them, to review and approve source construction to ensure work meets technical requirements, to work with systems to ensure that proper testing occurs to ensure long-term viability of new sources, and to work with systems to develop new sources as needed.

In total, this set aside will fund approximately 5 FTEs and proposes to use \$848,462.

Groundwater Monitoring Program: \$300,000 to continue contract with USGS and Vermont Geological Survey to create a robust evaluation of a groundwater monitoring program and then design a monitoring program to account for climate change.

Groundwater Protection Guidance Document: \$100,000 to update “A Ounce of Prevention” guidance document for source water protection.

Source Protection Plans: \$101,538 to support community system water resource planning and mitigation assistance.

6.3. Emerging Contaminants Grant Set-Asides

6.3.1. Emerging Contaminants Grant: Program Management Set-Aside

Up to 10% of the capitalization grant can be used for the DWSRF Program Management Set- Aside. We propose to take 6.2%, or \$301,329 from FFY25 Emerging Contaminants grant to support approximately 3 FTEs and 1 Intern and associated operating costs within

the DWGPD. Duties of the FTEs include implementation of programs to address emerging contaminants in drinking water with a focus on perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances. The remaining Program Management funds from the FFY25 Emerging Contaminant Grant will be reserved for banked authority.

6.3.2. Emerging Contaminants Grant: Administrative Set-Aside

Up to 4% of the capitalization grant can be used for the DWSRF Administrative Set-Aside. We propose to take 4% or \$305,600 to support 2 FTEs within the WID and AID.

6.3.3. Emerging Contaminants Grant: Small Systems Technical Assistance Set-Aside

Up to 2% of the Emerging Contaminants capitalization grant can be used for the DWSRF Technical Assistance (TA) Set-Aside. TA funds may be used for systems serving populations under 10,000 people. The program will take 0.7% of the Emerging Contaminants FY25 grant, or \$50,000, to provide technical assistance to small public water systems. The remaining TA funds from the FFY25 Emerging Contaminant Grant will be reserved for banked authority.

The following activities and allocations are proposed:

TNC PFAS Monitoring: \$50,000 to monitor TNC sources for PFAS in known areas of high PFAS contamination.

6.3.4. Emerging Contaminants Grant: Local Assistance Set-Aside

Up to 15% of the Emerging Contaminants capitalization grant can be used for the DWSRF Local Assistance Set-Aside, with a further limitation that no more than 10% can be used to fund any one specific activity. The program will take a combined \$210,000, or 2.7% of the Emerging Contaminants grant, to fund local assistance activities. The following activities and allocations are proposed:

6.3.4.1. Capacity Activity

Cyanotoxin Monitoring Program: \$60,000 to support the ongoing cyanotoxin monitoring program.

GAC PFAS Treatment Efficacy Study: \$50,000 to support a study to understand the efficiency and lifespan of GAC units for small, medium and large size systems for PFAS removal.

Ion Exchange PFAS Treatment Pilot Study: \$100,000 to support a pilot study to understand the efficiency and lifespan of Ion Exchange units for small, medium and large size systems for PFAS removal.

6.3.4.2. Wellhead Protection Activity

None proposed.

7. Banked Authority

The DWSRF reserves the right to use Banked Authority. Set-asides have been banked from the 2025 Grants as detailed in Section 6.

This Intended Use Plan proposes to use \$1,017,026 in banked authority for Program Management Set-Aside activities.

General Base Banked Authority			
IUP Year	Program Management	Administrative	Technical Assistance
FFY97	\$ 1,105,880	\$ -	\$ -
FFY98	\$ 592,130	\$ -	\$ -
FFY99	\$ 226,380	\$ -	\$ -
FFY00	\$ 275,700	\$ -	\$ -
FFY01	\$ 48,910	\$ -	\$ -
FFY03	\$ 177,410	\$ -	\$ -
ARRA	\$ 1,730,000	\$ -	\$ 300,000
FFY08	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 162,920
FFY09	\$ 43,965	\$ -	\$ -
Less prior transfers	\$ (780,505)	\$ -	\$ -
FFY09 Amendment	\$ (222,387)	\$ -	\$ -
FFY11	\$ (258,200)	\$ -	\$ -
FFY16	\$ (300,000)	\$ -	\$ (63,984)
FFY17	\$ (300,000)	\$ -	\$ -
FFY18	\$ (322,132)	\$ -	\$ 57,320
FFY19	\$ 9,900	\$ 3,960	\$ 1,980
FFY20	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FFY21	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 123,705
Reallocated WY FFY21	\$ 9,900	\$ 3,960	\$ 1,980
FFY22	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FFY23	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FFY24	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FFY25	\$ (1,017,026)	\$ -	\$ -
Total Available	\$ 1,019,925	\$ 7,920	\$ 583,921

General Supplemental Banked Authority			
IUP Year	Program Management	Administrative	Technical Assistance
FFY22	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FFY23	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FFY24	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,695
FFY25	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Available	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,695

Lead Service Line Banked Authority			
IUP Year	Program Management	Administrative	Technical Assistance
FFY22	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FFY23	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FFY24	NA	NA	NA
Total Available	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Emerging Contaminant Banked Authority			
IUP Year	Program Management	Administrative	Technical Assistance
FFY22	\$ 476,394	\$ -	\$ 51,100
FFY23	\$ 467,566	\$ -	\$ 72,800
FFY24	\$ 394,934	\$ -	\$ 102,800
FFY25	\$ 462,671	\$ -	\$ 102,800
Total Available	\$ 1,801,565.00	\$ -	\$ 329,500.00

8. Criteria and Method for Distribution of Funds

The State of Vermont will continue to finance projects based on a point system that ranks eligible water supply projects that are ready to proceed. Priority in funding will be given to projects that address the most serious risk to human health, are necessary to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Vermont Water Supply Rule, and that assist systems most in need according to State affordability criteria.

8.1. Priority Lists

This IUP has three Priority Lists: General and General Supplemental; Lead Service Line Replacement; and Emerging Contaminants. These Priority Lists, shown in Section 14, identify the projects that submitted complete priority list applications and the total proposed construction funding awards.

Vermont will disburse 100% of its state match up front, followed by federal funds.

The anticipated construction loan recipients are those projects with the highest ranking that comply with the following:

- Under federal requirements, at least 15% of available funds must be used for projects serving communities with populations of less than 10,000 persons. Because the great majority of Vermont's public water systems serve populations <10,000, this requirement is readily met.
- As required in Vermont legislation, funds for private water systems are limited to 20% of the available funds, unless there are insufficient municipal projects ready to proceed and additional funds are available. Funds for private water systems on this priority list are below the 20% limit.

8.1.1. Priority Lists, Funding Eligibilities and Funding under Multiple Grants

Projects may be shown on more than one Priority List due to eligibility and funding considerations.

Notes on Project Priority Lists:

General and General Supplemental

Projects may be funded from either the General or General Supplemental Grants, or a combination of the two, as managed by the DWSRF Program, to meet grant requirements. The selection of the specific grant by the program has no effect on the borrower. The information on the Priority List relative to which grant is used to fund a given project is an estimate.

Emerging Contaminants

The DWSRF Program prioritizes use of Emerging Contaminants Grant funds to projects addressing PFAS in accordance with United States Environmental Protection Agency guidance. Depending on loan amount and whether all costs are eligible under the Emerging Contaminants Grant, projects may be funded solely under the Emerging Contaminants Grant, or also partially funded by the General Grant. Projects that are only partially eligible under the Emerging Contaminants Grant will need to track all costs according to eligibility.

Lead Service Line

Construction project expenses shown on the Lead Service Line Priority List are estimates of what may be eligible due to lead: full lead service line replacement (LSLR), partial LSLR (but not leaving partial LSL behind), galvanized SLR, lead connector replacement, temporary pitcher filters, and related service line inventory (SLI) creation and updates. Estimates of project expenses not eligible under this list but eligible on the general priority list are shown there. Overall project expenses will be prorated between the two underlying funding sources according to EPA guidance based on actual project costs (See section E.1. US EPA Implementation Memo [EPA Memo Link](#)).

8.2. Federal Reporting

Environmental benefits will be reported at least quarterly for every loan transaction using the EPA Office of Water SRF reporting system (OWSRF). The OWSRF replaced the Drinking Water Benefits Reporting (PBR) federal on-line reporting system in 2022. Reporting to FFATA and NIMS will also be completed.

All projects regardless of funding source will need to comply with National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) review, Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) reporting, Davis-Bacon, American Iron and Steel and other federal crosscutters. Build America Buy America requirements apply to equivalency projects reported for purposes of Federal Funding Transparency Act (FFATA). The Program will identify such projects as necessary to comply with reporting requirements.

9. Subsidy (Loan Forgiveness)

The term “subsidy” refers to forgiveness of loan principal. Subsidy is available to municipalities and private water systems and is offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Eligibility requirements are discussed in “Requirements to Secure Additional Subsidy”, section 9.5, below.

9.1. Prior Years Subsidy

9.1.1. Lead Service Line Grant Subsidy

This IUP makes all unused subsidy from FFY 2022 Lead Service Line Grant (approximately \$9,015,147) available under the terms of this Intended Use Plan.

9.1.2. 2024 General and General Supplemental Grants

This Intended Use Plan makes available unused subsidy from the following grants, approximately:

2024 General Disadvantaged Subsidy: \$1,431,350

2024 General Additional Subsidy: \$304,283

2024 General Supplemental Disadvantaged Subsidy: \$3,795,841

2023 General Additional Subsidy: \$525,445

2023 General Supplemental Disadvantaged Subsidy: \$350,359

9.2. 2025 Subsidy Amounts

The following sections describe the amount of available subsidy and a description of the eligible categories. Subsidy amounts are stipulated per federal law and the Capitalization Grant agreements with EPA. The specific amounts of proposed subsidy are described

below. If demand for Additional Subsidy is less than allocated it may be re-assigned for construction subsidy according to the criteria for Disadvantaged Communities.

9.2.1. General Grant

An amount equal to 14% of the grant must be provided as subsidy (“Additional Subsidy”) under eligibility terms set in the Intended Use Plan.

The State must use at least 12% but no more than 35% of the grant to provide subsidy to Disadvantaged Communities. The DWSRF Program intends to use the full amount of available Disadvantaged Subsidy (35%).

9.2.2. General Supplemental Grant

Per the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, an amount equal to 49% of the grant shall be provided as subsidy to Disadvantaged Communities.

9.2.3. Lead Service Line Grant

Due to the availability of prior-year Lead Service Line grant funds the Department is deferring applying for the FFY 25 Lead Service Line Grant. All prior year subsidy will be made available under the terms of this IUP.

9.2.4. Emerging Contaminants

Per the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, an amount equal to 100% of the grant, net after set-asides, shall be provided as subsidy, with at least 25% going to Disadvantaged Communities or public water systems serving fewer than 25,000 persons.

9.2.5. Summary Table: Available Subsidy by 2025 Grant

Per the FFY25 appropriations language, subsidy shall be provided as follows.

2025 Grant	Subsidy Proposed	Eligibility Requirements Per EPA Grant Agreement
General	\$1,526,840	No Restrictions (Additional Subsidy)
	\$3,817,100	Disadvantaged Communities
General Supplemental	\$12,200,020	Disadvantaged Communities
Emerging Contaminants	\$6,990,071	At least 25% of subsidy to Disadvantaged Communities or systems serving < 25,000 persons
Total Available Subsidy	\$24,534,031	

9.3. Subsidy Categories

All loan forgiveness is offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Eligibility requirements are discussed in “Requirements to Secure Additional Subsidy”, Section 9.5, below.

9.3.1. Summary Table: Available Subsidy by Initiative Category (Inclusive of any Prior-Year Subsidy)

Grant	Initiative	Amount
General		
	Planning (Additional Subsidy)	\$2,366,668
	Construction (Disadvantaged Subsidy)	\$9,394,650
General Supplemental		
	Construction (Disadvantaged Subsidy):	\$12,200,020
Lead Service Lines		
	Planning and Construction (Disadvantaged Subsidy)	\$9,336,412
Emerging Contaminants		
	Planning (Additional Subsidy):	\$795,000
	Construction (Additional Subsidy):	\$6,195,071
Total Available Subsidy		\$33,870,443

9.3.2. Planning Subsidy

Supports Short Term Goal #5: Financing of Planning Activities

Planning includes feasibility studies, asset management planning (where not funded under LAWPL set-aside), preliminary engineering reports, final design, and source exploration and development.

9.3.2.1. Planning Subsidy Category 1: General

Planning projects will receive loan forgiveness (Additional Subsidy) as follows:

- 25% loan forgiveness, up to \$100,000 per project, per loan step (i.e. Step 1, Step 2)

9.3.2.2. Planning Subsidy Category 2: Lead Service Lines

Planning and design for eligible Lead Service Line projects may receive loan forgiveness as follows:

- For water systems with a local Median Household Income (MHI) less than or equal to 125% of State Median Household Income, 100% loan forgiveness up to \$100,000 and 50% subsidy for the portion over \$100,000. The initial \$100,000

forgiveness is offered once per water system inclusive of all previously received Lead Service Line Grant subsidy for inventory, planning, and design phases. If the system received set-aside contract assistance, that is not counted against the \$100,000 forgiveness

- Depending on the availability of subsidy after all projects are funded and actual disbursements are reviewed, subsidy may be increased up to 100% of total approved costs.

9.3.2.3. Planning Subsidy Category 3: Emerging Contaminants

Planning and design loans are eligible for loan forgiveness as follows:

- 100% forgiveness.

9.3.3. Construction Subsidy

Construction subsidy is available based on the following grant categories.

9.3.3.1. Construction Subsidy Category 1: General and General Supplemental

Eligible Disadvantaged Community construction projects may receive loan forgiveness as follows:

- Disadvantaged Communities: Up to 50% loan forgiveness.

9.3.3.2. Construction Subsidy Category 2: Lead Service Lines

Eligible construction projects may receive loan forgiveness as follows:

- Disadvantaged Communities: 50% loan forgiveness.

9.3.3.3. Construction Subsidy Category 3: Emerging Contaminants

All construction projects may receive 100% loan forgiveness, with loans capped at \$5,000,000 in Emerging Contaminant Grant funds.

9.4. Disadvantaged Community Subsidy

The following sections describe the DWSRF Program's approach to the allocation of disadvantaged community subsidy under this Intended Use Plan.

9.4.1. General Grants Disadvantaged Community Subsidy

For purposes of this Intended Use Plan, construction projects eligible for funding under the General and General Supplemental grants are eligible to receive disadvantaged community subsidy if they meet the statutory definition of disadvantaged municipality in 24 VSA §4752(12). The definition includes municipal or service area Median Household Income (MHI) and calculations are described in Vermont DWSRF Guidance Document 10. Income measurements are determined using Median Household Income. This

information will be obtained from the American Community Survey's most recent 5-year rolling average MHI using the most current data available on the date the corresponding Intended Use Plan year was finalized, or based on an approved income survey, or other method as approved by the Secretary. The procedures for conducting and approving income surveys and the requisite record keeping will be in accordance with the Vermont State Revolving Fund's established Guidance Document #11: Median Household Income Determination or as determined by an equivalent method. Disadvantaged community projects may receive longer loan terms up to 40 years depending on project useful life and may receive a lower administrative fee rate. A project may receive this subsidy, pending availability of this form of subsidy from this Intended Use Plan cycle, up to the level that would reduce the annual household user rate to 1% of MHI post-project, and not to exceed 50% principal forgiveness.

9.4.2. Lead Service Line Grant Disadvantaged Community Subsidy

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, requires states to provide 49% of the Lead Service Line grant to disadvantaged communities in the form of loan forgiveness. Because communities with lead service lines are appropriately considered disadvantaged, and to ensure communities can take full advantage of the Lead Service Line Grant funds, the Department is hereby continuing the scope of disadvantaged community subsidy eligibility for purposes of the FFY 2025 Lead Service Line Intended Use Plan. To emphasize, because the subsidy requirement in the grant from EPA is a specific amount (49%), rather than a range or not to exceed amount, and because it is a large percentage of the grant, any underutilization of subsidy would limit the overall amount of available loan funds, and vice versa. It is in the public interest to ensure maximum utilization of Lead Service Line funds, including providing funding to disadvantaged communities.

9.4.2.1. Lead Service Line Planning Loans

For purposes of planning and design loans for lead service line inventories and replacements funded under the Lead Service Line IUP, "disadvantaged community" shall mean a municipality or served area of a municipality that has a median household income (MHI) less than or equal to 125% of the state median household income. These communities shall be eligible for loan forgiveness for lead service line inventories as described in section 9.3.2.2.

9.4.2.2. Lead Service Line Construction Loans

For purposes of construction loans funded under the lead service line IUP, "disadvantaged community" shall mean an applicant municipality or served area that:

- (1) has a median household income (MHI) less than or equal to 125%, of the State average median household income as determined by the Secretary.

These disadvantaged communities shall be eligible for 50% loan forgiveness for construction loans funded under the lead service line IUP.

The Department notes that for Lead Service Line construction loans the above eligibility criteria for disadvantaged community subsidy are similar to the definition of “disadvantaged municipality” in 24 VSA § 4752(12). The eligibility criteria for disadvantaged community subsidy differ from the §4752(12) definition of disadvantaged municipality in that there is an eligibility cap of 120% of the State average median household income under the eligibility criteria, and the amount of subsidy is based on a percentage (50%) of the loan. The above criteria for allocation of disadvantaged community subsidy apply only to construction projects funded by the Lead Service Line SRF.

9.5. Requirements to Secure Subsidy (Loan Forgiveness)

The Department establishes the amount of available subsidy on an annual basis in the Intended Use Plan, consistent with the requirements of the State’s capitalization grants. All subsidy is awarded to recipients and project types that are eligible for subsidy on a first-come, first-served basis.

Subsidy is considered reserved for a project once DWSRF has received the following:

- Complete funding application (see below for specifics for each loan type).
- Approved Engineering Services Agreement.

9.5.1. Funding Application Requirements

The list below identifies the required elements of a complete funding application for each step unless it is inapplicable to the project. The DWSRF program will notify borrowers when they have secured additional subsidy.

Step 1 (Preliminary engineering)

- Loan application form
- Draft Engineering Services Agreement

Step 2 (Final design)

- Complete funding application
- Draft Engineering Services Agreement
- Preliminary Engineering Report Approval from DWGPD engineer

Step 3 (Construction)

- Complete funding application
- Draft Engineering Services Agreement
- Bond Vote Certification and Counsel Opinion letter
- All permits in place, including Act 250, if required, and environmental review
- Permit to Construct
- All necessary prior step engineering approvals, including preliminary engineering

9.6. Municipal School Subsidy

Municipally owned non-transient, non-community school water systems are categorically disadvantaged per State statute and are eligible for up to \$25,000 in construction loan principal forgiveness; there is no further subsidy provided to these applicants with the exception of municipal school projects funded under the Emerging Contaminants Grant. Because all Emerging Contaminant Grants funds are required to be 100% forgiven the only applicable Emerging Contaminant subsidy limitations are those identified in this IUP.

10. Program Updates and Guidance

10.1. Priority List Ranking

A potential construction (Step 3) loan applicant must submit a priority list application during the open application period. Only construction projects that have previously submitted an administratively complete Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) or Permit to Construct (PTC), or the equivalent as determined by the DWGPD, will be scored and ranked for potential construction loan (step 3) funding. The program encourages those projects without a PER or PTC to apply for a planning loan. If additional loan funds are available and/or other projects are bypassed, the priority list may be reopened for priority list applications and amended up to twice per fiscal year based on a public participation process. If a project has made progress since the original IUP adoption, it may reapply at that time; note that it will also likely receive a higher point score.

Available Lead Service Line Grant funds exceed demand. Because it is in the public interest to ensure maximum use of these funds, eligible projects may submit a Lead Service Line Grant Priority List Application at any time during the effective period of this Intended Use Plan, i.e. until approximately July 1, 2026, provided sufficient funding remains available.

10.1.1. Continuing Projects

For purposes of this IUP, a continuing project shall mean a project that was listed on an earlier IUP year priority list, received prior approval for a construction loan or is expected to receive approval by the adoption date of this IUP, and applied in February 2025 to be on this priority list.

The funding request shown for continuing projects shall be the identified additional need beyond the current or anticipated loan (which may be \$0). Continuing projects shall be shown and ranked at the top of the priority list, in point order.

10.1.2. Readiness to Proceed and Priority List Bypass

All projects must meet the following readiness to proceed milestones, by no later than:

- December 1, 2025: Submit a signed and administratively complete Environmental Information Document (for SERP review) to the assigned WID engineer;
- January 1, 2026: Submit 90% design drawings to DWGPD. A project with a current construction permit for the same project scope already meets this milestone;
- January 31, 2026: Schedule a bond vote and submit a copy of the warning to WID;
- May 1, 2026: Receive voter authorization via the bond vote; and,
- June 30, 2026: Submit complete Step III/Construction loan application (all required items have been completed and submitted).

Projects failing to meet these milestones will be bypassed and expected to reapply for the following funding cycle. This will make funding available for projects below the funding line. Further, any projects that confirm to DWSRF program staff that they have secured funding through another source will receive notification of bypass.

10.1.3. Emergency Funding Procedure

Systems either on or off the Priority List that experience an emergency resulting in an imminent and substantial threat to the public health may bypass all other projects and may be assigned top priority. Emergency additions to the Priority List will result in the lower priority projects identified as Anticipated Loan Recipients being bypassed. The number of projects bypassed will depend upon the amount of funds needed to cover the emergency. The determination of an imminent and substantial health risk for cases involving chemical contamination or a potential disease outbreak is the responsibility of DEC in consultation with the Department of Health. The determination of an emergency resulting from a water system failure that requires immediate attention to protect the public health is the sole responsibility of DEC. Projects that may be required to address such a health risk could involve installation of treatment facilities, construction of a new water source, or replacement of a failed system element. The bypass procedure is detailed in the DWSRF Program's Guidance Document #16, available [here](#)

10.2. Planning Loans Evaluation and Funding Cap

For this funding cycle, "Planning Loans" (Step 1 and/or 2) for General projects (those other than Emerging Contaminants or Lead Service Line / Service Line Inventory projects) will be funded using the \$2,000,000 put-aside shown in the Priority List. Most Asset Management Plans are funded by the LAWPL set-aside described above but an AMP can be funded under the general grants as a step 1 loan for private water systems or the portion of municipal AMPs in excess of \$50,000. DEC is accepting applications for Planning Loans on a rolling basis while funding is available. If funding is available following the bypass of projects on the Priority List, DEC may increase funding for Planning Loans beyond \$2,000,000.

10.3. ANR Online Funding Application

Loan applications and associated documentation must be submitted through ANR Online [ANR Online Link](#). A loan application will be considered complete when the form and all required documentation are uploaded to ANR Online and the applicant clicks the Submit button. The documentation required for loan applications varies by project step. Applicants with questions about required documentation are encouraged to reach out to a Drinking Water Project Developer with questions.

Applicants should begin the review process for their draft Engineering Services Agreement (ESA) prior to obtaining other documentation required to submit a complete loan application. Applicants may work directly with the relevant DEC engineering staff to secure review of their ESA, however no formal loan action will be taken prior to submittal of a complete loan application.

It should be noted that submittal of a completed application is not sufficient to lock in additional subsidy as the project needs relevant approvals as detailed in the additional subsidy portion of this Intended Use Plan.

10.4. Guidance Document Updates

The DWSRF Program attempts to continuously update Guidance Documents. There have been no updates since adoption of the 2024 Intended Use Plan.

10.5. Administrative Fee for Manufactured Home Communities (MHCs)

This Intended Use Plan continues a maximum administrative fee of 1.5% for all non-profit or cooperatively-owned manufactured home communities (MHCs). Actual loan term, administrative fee, and any principal forgiveness are determined in accordance with Guidance Document 10. Guidance Document 10 will be updated upon adoption of the final Intended Use Plan.

10.6. US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Performance Evaluation Review

EPA undertakes an annual Performance Evaluation review for the DWSRF Program. The most recently completed Program Evaluation Review conducted by EPA Region 1 covered SFY 2023. The Program Evaluation Review for SFY 2024 is pending at the time of this Intended Use Plan. The Department issues an Annual Report to EPA that covers program operations and addresses action items identified by EPA.

11. Public Participation

The DWSRF Program recognizes that public participation is an integral element in the development of an effective program. Additionally, water systems are routinely directed to the DWSRF by DWGPD staff, especially when a deficiency or SDWA violation has been identified.

On December 16, 2024, the Department notified municipalities and other interested parties to submit a priority list application by February 14, 2025, to be reviewed for possible inclusion on the Priority List for Federal Fiscal Year 2025 (State Fiscal Year 2026).

The draft Intended Use Plan was released on July 2, 2025. A public hearing invitation to participate was sent via email to all entities in the contact list and directions to participate via Microsoft Teams, telephone, or in person were posted on the SRF website and on the state library public hearing calendar. A hybrid virtual/in-person public hearing will be held on Friday, August 1, 2025, at 10 AM, at the Catamount Room of the National Life Building, 1 National Life Drive, Montpelier. Public comments on the draft IUP were accepted at both the public hearing, and in writing until 5:00 PM on August 8, 2025.

12. Responsiveness Summary

The final Intended Use Plan will include a summary of all public comments received on this draft Intended Use Plan and a response to all comments.

13. Project Priority Lists

The following Project Priority Lists are attached:

- General Grant Projects (General and General Supplemental)
- Lead Service Line Replacement and Service Line Inventories
- Emerging Contaminants Grant

The Priority List Application is available at [Link: 2025 Priority List Application Form](#)

DWSRF FFY 2025 Priority List - General (Base & Supplemental)									
						General Principal Forgiveness		Loan Terms ¹	
PL App Score	WSID	Water System / Borrower	User Popln	Project	Loan Amount Request	Base Forgiven	Suppl. Forgiven	Years	Admin %
Planning & Design Put-Aside (see details at end of general priority list):					\$ 2,000,000				
Continuing construction projects. Each has a loan agreement, or applied under an earlier list and loan application in review.									
\$ amount listed if additional funds needed due to bid results, most are \$0 placeholders in case of unexpected overruns. Prior loan terms apply.									
245	5333	Springfield Town	9800	Contract I mains and service lines	\$ 3,600,000		\$ 1,800,000	40	0
230	5116	Enosburg Falls Village	1700	Replace Upper Main St & Elm St mains	\$ 208,726		\$ 104,363	40	0
220	21760	Killington Town	800 (est.)	Contract 5/6A Water Main	\$0				
215	5315	Bethel Town	1929	Phase 2 distribution system	\$0				
205	5004	Middlebury Town	9379	Chipman Hill Additional StorageTank	\$0				
197	5120	Franklin Town	400	New Well	\$0				
185	5469	Shaftsbury Town	950	Phase 1 improvements	\$ 320,000		\$ 160,000	40	0
185	5218	Fair Haven Town	3076	Washington, Main, & Prospect St Main Replacement	\$0				
180	5132	Swanton Village	4000	Missisquoi River water main crossing	\$0				
165	20562	North Hero Town	2750	New storage tank	\$0				
165	5092	Champlain Water District	81623	SCADA upgrade	\$0				
155	5092	Champlain Water District	81623	South filtered water storage tank replacement	\$0				
145	5290	Brattleboro Town	12200	Phase 1: Signal Hill pump station; generator; water mains	\$ 500,000		\$ 250,000	40	0
115	5290	Brattleboro Town	12200	Pleasant Valley redundant storage tank	\$ 180,000		\$ 90,000	40	0
107	5269	Marshfield Village	350	Marshfield mains, service lines, and PRVs	\$ 50,000		\$ 25,000	40	0

PL App Score	WSID	Water System / Borrower	User Popln	Project	Loan Amount Request	Base Forgiven	Suppl. Forgiven	Years	Admin %
Potential construction loans that submitted priority list applications and a PER or equivalent									
225	5020	Dorset FD1	530	New well and pump station	\$ 1,000,000			30	0
215	5333	Springfield Town	9800	Contract J mains and service lines	\$ 2,750,000		\$ 1,375,000	40	0
200	5020	Dorset FD1	530	Replace mains on Rt30 and Church St.	\$ 2,000,000			30	0
195	5002	Bristol Town	2103	West waterlines replacement	\$ 3,470,591			30	2
190	5126	Richford Town	3000	Golf Course Rd water main and booster pump station	\$ 1,200,000		\$ 600,000	40	0
185	5045	St Johnsbury Town	5000	Portland St main replacement	\$ 2,792,550		\$ 1,396,275	40	0
185	5045	St Johnsbury Town	5000	Railroad St main replacement	\$ 2,000,000		\$ 1,000,000	40	0
185	5105	Brighton Town	1200	Source and treatment plant upgrades	\$ 4,785,000		\$ 2,392,500	40	0
180	5298	Bellows Falls Village	4000	Kissell Hill & Colony Rd mains	\$ 1,625,000		\$ 812,500	40	0
180	5045	St Johnsbury Town	5000	Bay St main	\$ 3,401,700		\$ 1,700,850	40	0
170	5277	Plainfield Town	985	School St waterline replacement	\$ 713,000		\$ 356,500	40	0
167	5010	Vergennes-Panton Water District	5100	Replace Main St and Monkton Rd mains	\$ 3,669,000			30	0
157	5070	Hinesburg Town	2800	Well #6 Connection	\$ 540,000			30	2
155	5150	Jeffersonville Village	700	Wellhouse for new source	\$ 750,000		\$ 127,500	40	0
155	5004	Middlebury Town	9379	Exchange St Waterline Redundancy	\$ 1,337,000			30	2
150	20562	North Hero Town	2750	Replace Rte 2 waterline	\$ 1,500,000			30	0
145	5318	Chester Town	3200	Wellhouse and source facilities	\$ 1,000,000			30	2
145	5004	Middlebury Town	9379	Foote St waterline	\$ 1,368,000			30	2
145	5092	Champlain Water District	81623	Raw water parallel transmission main	\$ 3,500,000			30	2

PL App Score	WSID	Water System / Borrower	User Popln	Project	Loan Amount Request	Base Forgiven	Suppl. Forgiven	Years	Admin %
140	5004	Middlebury Town	9379	Gorham Ln waterline replacement	\$ 1,545,000			30	2
135	5016	Bennington Town	13250	Expansion in Monument Ave area due to PFAS in private wells	\$ 7,437,243			30	2
132	5001	Tri-Town Water District	3800	Upgrades to treatment plant, pump station, and water mains	\$ 2,100,000			30	2
130	5053	Burlington City	42000	Finished reservoirs and pump station improvements	\$ 9,500,000			30	2
127	5462	Round Top Mountain POA	240	Storage tanks, disinfection, booster station, and PRV vault	\$ 2,108,000			30	2.75
125	5343	Woodstock Town	2473	Transmission main replacement	\$ 4,100,000			30	0
125	5092	Champlain Water District	81623	Chemical building addition	\$ 26,000,000			30	2
122	5262	East Calais FD1	200	Storage and chlorinator upgrade	\$ 310,000			30	2
120	5040	Lyndonville / Town of Lyndon	4500	Passumpsic River waterline protection	\$ 1,033,000			30	2
115	5153	Hyde Park FD1	275	Replace hydropneumatic tank; New generator & booster pumps; other upgrades	\$ 562,080			30	2
115	21071	North Ave Co-op / CDI	301	Replace drinking water distribution system	\$ 882,000			30	1.5
107	21202	Berlin Municipal	1819	Scott Hill Loop main	\$ 4,947,700			30	0
105	5130	St Albans City	10200	Aldis Hill storage tank rehabilitation	\$ 1,052,100		\$ 526,050	40	0
100	5175	Newbury Village	480	Replace undersized mains and improve storage tank cap	\$ 2,200,000		\$ 1,100,000	40	0
95	20614	Grand Isle Consol. Water Dist.	1600	Rte 2, East Shore, & Hyde Rd Area	\$ 1,366,122			30	2
90	5065	Essex Town	9734	Fort Ethan Allen Mains Phase 1	\$ 2,175,000			30	2
90	5065	Essex Town	9734	Fort Ethan Allen Mains Phase 2&3	\$ 3,380,000			30	2
90	5053	Burlington City	42000	Interconnect Shelburne Rd & Main St	\$ 1,900,000			30	2
80	5212	Castleton FD1	1940	Sand Hill Rd distribution pipe	\$ 400,000		\$ 200,000	40	0
77	5566	Barre Town	1638	Barre Town & Websterville FD4 interconnection	\$ 275,000			30	0

PL App Score	WSID	Water System / Borrower	User Popln	Project	Loan Amount Request	Base Forgiven	Suppl. Forgiven	Years	Admin %
75	5319	Hartford Town	7600	Nutt Lane Improvements	\$ 1,497,500			30	2
75	5254	Barre City	14000	Route 302 main replacement	\$ 3,320,000		\$ 1,660,000	40	0
75	5229	Rutland City	18500	Replace Center St & Wales St mains - estimated need \$3,000,000, as of 6/30/25 estimate for partial funding of:	\$ 2,482,133	\$ 1,241,067		40	0
				remainder below funding line as of 6/30/25:	\$ 517,867	\$ 258,934			
75	5053	Burlington City	42000	Distribution rehabilitation multiple streets	\$ 7,500,000			30	2
67	5206	Troy Town	315	Pleasant St main replacement	\$ 1,292,600			30	0
67	5037	Danville FD1	500	Village area mains	\$ 3,880,000			30	0
60	5319	Hartford Town	7600	Wilder water main replacements	\$ 5,763,300			30	2
	Priority list demand for construction projects + \$2,000,000 planning/design:				\$ 145,787,212	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 15,676,538		
				Funding line drawn at:	\$ 126,833,445				
	Loan/subsidy \$ available based on 2025 grants, carryforward, interest, and repayments				\$ 98,833,445	\$ 5,248,450	\$ 16,346,220		
		Funding line drawdown based on expected delays within year or other funding:			\$ 28,000,000				
						Base Forgiven	Suppl. Forgiven	Years	Admin %
					Loan Amount Request	General Principal Forgiveness		Loan Terms¹	

¹ **Loan terms shown on priority lists are estimates.** See Guidance Document 10. Loan terms are subject to change depending on detailed financial data at the time of loan application and the useful life of constructed assets. Some loans are split between this list and the Lead/Galvanized list due to eligibility, or with the Emerging Contaminants list due to funding limits or eligibility.

Planning & Design Loan Detail see next page

Planning & Design Loans					5 yr	0%
5053	Burlington City	42000	Treatment plant generator, zebra mussel control, and clearwell improvements	These loans include Step 1 preliminary engineering, Step 2 design, and well exploration and development. The water systems itemized under this heading submitted priority list applications (a) for those types of projects (which helps our program with budgeting), or (b) for a Step 3 construction project that has not yet finalized a PER, so has not been ranked for construction funding above. Other water systems may also apply for planning/design funding. Loans will be funded from our General Base grant on a rolling basis as received. Unless carried into a DWSRF construction loan, a planning/design loan goes into repayment 5 years after agreement, with 5 annual payments to follow, with 0% interest and 0% administrative fees (see Guidance Doc 10).		
5262	East Calais FD1	200	Route 14 waterline replacement			
5117	Fairfax Town	1550	Well and tank evaluation and improvements			
5039	Hardwick Town	1900	Wolcott St Water Main			
5154	Hyde Park Village	462	Storage Tank Replacement			
5323	Ludlow Village	2818	Lower High Street main replacement			
5323	Ludlow Village	2818	Pleasant Street Ext main replacement			
5040	Lyndonville / Town of Lyndon	4500	Valley Ln waterline replacement	Funding estimate: Based on priority list applications and prior funding cycle results, we estimate approximately \$2,000,000 in demand for planning/design this cycle. These and other water systems and projects can apply on a rolling basis.		
5004	Middlebury Town	9379	Additional well source			
5079	Milton Town	8000	Flanders main replacement			
5202	Newport City	4766	Sias Ave main replacement	Forgiveness: \$2,366,668 available in General Base Additional Subsidy forgiveness for these loans, at 25% per loan up to \$100,000 per project, until all obligated. See section 9.3.2.1 of the IUP text. Remaining AddSub may be provided to construction projects per DisSub rules.		
5225	Pittsford Florence / Pittsford Town	1923	US Rte 7 Segment 2 waterlines			
5225	Pittsford Florence / Pittsford Town	1923	US Rte 7 Segment 3 waterlines			
5227	Poultney Village	2400	Wheeler Ave new waterline & Norton Ave and Adams St main replacements			
5087	Shelburne Town	5764	Meach Cove transmission main replacement			
5087	Shelburne Town	5764	Replace Rte 7 South main from Laplatte River to Bostwick Rd			
5091	South Burlington City	19500	University Mall high service interconnect & hydraulic connection to Dorset St			
5130	St Albans City	10200	Federal St waterline			
21523	Triangle Court / Triangle Coop	44	New pumphouse and storage tank			
	Other eligible water systems and projects, see notes.					

DWSRF FFY 2025 Priority List - Service Line ID & Lead/Galvanized Component Replacement

Construction Loans - lead/galvanized portion

All of the Construction Phase projects that applied so far will also funded with General loan dollars and also appear on that Priority List.

Loan years and admin fee shown are based on the General list determination.

Pts	WSID	Water System	User Popln	Project	Loan terms	Loan amount	Loan forgiveness
Continuing projects (loans issued, additional funds needed) - lead/galvanized portion							
245	5333	Springfield Town	9800	Contract I - Clinton St, others	40y 0%	\$500,000	\$ 250,000
New Construction Projects - lead/galvanized portion							
215	5333	Springfield Town	9800	Contract J - Main St & River St	40y 0%	\$ 750,000	\$ 375,000
195	5002	Bristol Town	2103	West waterlines replacement	30y 2%	\$ 200,000	\$ 100,000
185	5045	St Johnsbury Town	5000	Portland St main replacement	40y 0%	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000
167	5010	Vergennes-Panton Water District	5100	Main St & Monkton Rd mains	30y 0%	\$ 25,000	\$ 12,500
140	5004	Middlebury Town	9379	Gorham Ln waterline replacement	30y 2%	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000
90	5065	Essex Town	9734	Fort Ethan Allen Mains Phase 1	30y 2%	\$ 300,000	\$ 150,000
90	5065	Essex Town	9734	Fort Ethan Allen Mains Phase 2&3	30y 2%	\$ 600,000	\$ 300,000
75	5319	Hartford Town	7600	Nutt Lane Improvements	30y 2%	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,250
60	5319	Hartford Town	7600	Wilder water main replacements	30y 2%	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,250
Construction subtotals:						\$ 2,400,000	\$ 1,200,000
Available for Lead/Galvanized Planning and Design Loans (see 8.1.1.), or for removal of eligible SL identified on other fundable construction projects:						\$10,554,526	\$ 8,136,412
Total FFY 2022 LSLR\$ remaining as of June 2025:						\$12,954,526	\$ 9,336,412
						Loan amount	Loan forgiveness

Small water systems receiving technical assistance from DWGPD staff or contractors via the set-aside funding described in section 6.2.4.1 of this IUP or similar sections in earlier IUPs will not receive overlapping funding via loans.

Planning and design loans are accepted on a rolling basis. Priority list applications for lead or galvanized service line or connector replacement (step 3 construction phase) are accepted on a rolling basis as of the amended 2024 IUP (see Section 10.1). Submit the current cycle's priority list application. DEC staff will review and notify you to apply for a Step 3 construction loan and submit a draft Step 3 ESA.

Loan terms shown on priority lists are estimates. Loan terms are subject to change depending on detailed financial data at the time of loan application and the useful life of constructed assets. The split of costs between General and Lead is affected by estimated engineering cost splits and actual materials encountered in construction and actual construction costs and is adjusted during the course of the project.

DWSRF FFY 2025 Priority List - Emerging Contaminants (PFAS)

Points	WSID	Water System	User Population	Project	EC Loan (forgiven)
Continuing Construction Projects					
On FFY 2024 list & loan application in review on that cycle.					
Listed in case need to apply for a loan amendment, but with \$0 placeholder.					
220	21760	Killington Town	800 (est.)	New system - Contract 5 & 6A mains *	\$0
New Construction Projects for FFY 2025					
175	20842	Hiland Hall School	40	PFAS mitigation	\$ 527,000
162	5165	Mountainside Resort	240	Water supply replacement due to PFAS	\$ 800,000
135	5016	Bennington Town	13250	Expansion in Monument Ave area due to PFAS in private wells *	\$ 5,000,000
Planning & Design					
	5029	Barnet FD2	205	New source and potential consolidation with Karne Choling system due to PFAS	\$ 795,000
				Other eligible projects	
Sum above:					\$ 7,122,000
Available for loans:					\$ 7,122,000

* The largest projects are also funded with General loan dollars and also appear on that priority list.