

XV. Appendices:

Appendix A – Project Priority List

Priority Setting Procedures for Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund

Priority points are used for ranking proposed drinking water projects for eligibility for funding from the DWSRF. Arkansas will update and post the PPL as necessary (up to 4 times) in State Fiscal Year 2026 to reflect new projects. The most current published PPL is available on the Natural Resources Division's [website](#).

The points system presented below will be used.

A project otherwise determined to be eligible under DWSRF may not receive funding for improvements that were not included in the original project for which priority points were assigned. The additional unranked improvements must rely on alternate funding sources for the improvements or wait for the next funding cycle for a new point's assessment. Fundable projects proposing to omit specific improvements for which points were assigned must show that the omission will not compromise public health and will not otherwise impair the water system's capacity when compared to the original project. Acceptable downsized projects will be reassessed and re-ranked under the priority ranking system, possibly resulting in a lower priority status.

PRIMARY MCL VIOLATIONS FACTORS	POINTS
1. Surface Water or Groundwater under the direct influence of surface water with no filtration	100
2. Treatment technique violations, microbiological Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) violations	100
a. Total points for first two violations	5
b. Points for additional violations after first two	50
c. Points for imminent violation of future regulation	
3. Acute Chemical Violations	100
a. Total points for first two violations	5
b. Points for additional violations after first two	50
c. Points for imminent violation of future regulation	
4. New Service Areas for area(s) with contaminated private drinking water sources	100
a. Points for microbial contamination	100
b. Points for acute chemicals	50
c. Points for other chemicals	
5. Chemical MCL Violations	50
a. Total points for first two violations	5
b. Points for additional violations after first two	50
c. Points for imminent violation of future regulations	100
d. Points for lead service lines	
SOURCE VULNERABILITY FACTOR	POINTS

1. Vulnerable to point or non-point upstream discharge	
a. Microbiological	25
b. Industrial, agricultural, or mineral	15
c. Unprotected watershed	15
CONSOLIDATION / INTERCONNECTION FACTOR	POINTS
1. Consolidation with an existing system	
< 40 service connections	50
41 – 200	40
201 - 1,320	30
1,321 - 4,000	20
> 4,000	10
2. Interconnection with an existing system	
< 40 service connections	25
41 – 200	20
201 - 1,320	15
1,321 - 4,000	10
> 4,000	5
AFFORDABILITY FACTOR	POINTS
1. Total Population Served: Service Connections < 1,321	10
2. Affordability Ratio	
a. > 2.49 %	15
b. 2.0 % - 2.49 %	12
c. 1.5 % - 1.99 %	9
d. 1.0 % - 1.49 %	6
e. <1.0 %	3
OTHER DEFICIENCIES FACTOR	POINTS
1. Secondary MCL violation	25
2. Fluoridation start-up	5
3. Quantity deficiencies	
Continual/frequent outages	25
Peak demand/daily shortages	20
Peak demand/seasonal shortages	10
Peak demand/sporadic shortages	5
3. Design deficiencies	
Disinfection	10
Chemical Feed	8
Mixing	8
Clarification	8
Filtration	8
Storage	8
Distribution/low pressures	10
Distribution/deteriorated mains	8
Distribution/unaccounted for water	8

Treatment capacity	8
Intake structure	8
Well construction	10
BONUS POINTS	POINTS
1. Board Member or City Council Training in the past 5 years	15
2. Up-to-date Asset Management Plan	10

Eligibility for Priority Points

Projects for PWS will not be eligible for points in any category unless they meet the requirements specified below for that category. Should two or more projects accumulate the same number of points, priority will be given beginning with the project serving the least population and moving to the project serving the next higher population until all projects with the same point total are prioritized.

Discretion is used when awarding points in the following categories: Primary MCL Violations; Source Vulnerability; Consolidation/Interconnection; Affordability; Public Health Improvements or Deficiencies; and Bonus Points. If PWS accumulates violations due to negligence or inattention on the part of the system, points will not be awarded. PWS must be taking reasonable actions to achieve compliance.

Primary MCL Violations Factors

- 1 Surface Water or Ground Water under the direct influence of surface water with inadequate filtration:
 - a Points are awarded only for a water system that currently is required by the SDWA to provide filtration, and the system does not have a filtration system that complies with the SDWA and associated regulations. In the case of consolidating systems where the project applicant does not qualify but one of the consolidating systems does, points are awarded based on the consolidating system. If there are multiple consolidating systems within the same project that are SW or GWUDI, an additional five (5) points are awarded for each system after the first.
- 2 Treatment technique violations and microbiological MCL violations:
 - a Points are awarded only for a water system that has had more than one treatment technique or microbiological MCL violation of the Safe Drinking Water Act during the eighteen (18) months preceding the date of the most recent ranking questionnaire.
 - b Each microbiological MCL violation and treatment technique violation will be counted as an individual violation, even if the violations occur in the same month. Points may be awarded for multiple violations of the same type or in combination with other types of violation. For example, if a system had both a microbiological MCL and a treatment technique violation in the same month, it would receive points for two violations in that month.
 - i 100 points total are awarded for the first two violations.
 - ii 5 points are awarded for each additional violation.
 - iii 50 points may be awarded to a project whose purpose is to prevent a future NPDWS treatment technique or microbiological violation based upon EPA regulations, both promulgated and final but not yet promulgated.
- 3 Acute Chemical and Chemical MCL violations:
 - a Points are awarded only for a water system that currently has contamination from a SDWA regulated contaminant or other chemical contaminant for which no MCL has been adopted