Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)

INTRODUCTION

The DWSRF is a federal-state program that provides low-interest loans to eligible recipients for drinking water infrastructure projects.

The program is administered at the state level and is aligned with federal administration policies and priorities on climate and racial wealth equity, as it requires that part of the funding goes to disadvantaged communities.

GRANT APPLICATION BOOTCAMP GOALS

- Provide clear, actionable, and user-centered information on funding opportunities available to all local governments as part of the IIJA
- Raise cities' ambition for how they can leverage funds to deliver a big impact for their residents, specifically in relation to racial wealth equity, climate, and other important policy areas
- Provide focused support to resource-constrained communities to help them submit competitive applications and win more federal funds
- Elevate the collective efforts of local governments, and philanthropic and civic sectors in their efforts to leverage federal infrastructure dollars for high-impact, outcomes-driven efforts

BOOTCAMP MODULES

Module 1, Orientation and Grant Overview: Cities are introduced to the DWSRF program and its project and applicant eligibility criteria.
Link to Peer Learning Session: https://nlc-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvcO2qrjMpHNMtcvViZVUbILOVNRs6z-GQ

Module 2, State and Federal Administration Priorities: Cities begin to align their project with the DWSRF program and process, by understanding how to identify state-specific DWSRF program requirements (e.g., eligibility survey, Intended Use Plans and Project Priority Lists, priority ranking, loan rates and terms, disadvantaged/affordability criteria).
Link to Peer Learning Session: https://nlc-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvcO2qrjMpHNMtcvViZVUbILOVNRs6z-GQ

Module 3, Engaging the Community: Cities explore community engagement strategies to ensure that community voices are embedded into project design and implementation.
Link to Peer Learning Session: https://nlc-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvcO2qrjMpHNMtcvViZVUbILOVNRs6z-GQ

Module 4, Project Planning and Application Preparation: Part 1: Cities understand the process of applying to and participating in the DWSRF, including the stages of environmental review, financial review, technical review, procurement and contracting, construction, disbursement, and repayment, and the capacity-building support available to support communities in completing the DWSRF's readiness requirements.
Link to Peer Learning Session: https://nlc-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvcO2qrjMpHNMtcvViZVUbILOVNRs6z-GQ

Module 5, Incorporating Data: Cities learn how to leverage data throughout their applications and are introduced to resources that can support water system data collection and analysis.
Link to Peer Learning Session: https://nlc-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvcO2qrjMpHNMtcvViZVUbILOVNRs6z-GQ

Module 6, Project Planning and Application Preparation: Part 2: Cities will better understand the process of applying to and participating in the DWSRF, including the stages of environmental review, financial review, technical review, procurement and contracting, construction, disbursement, and repayment.
Link to Peer Learning Session: https://nlc-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvcO2qrjMpHNMtcvViZVUbILOVNRs6z-GQ

Module 7, Demystifying DWSRF Financing Structures & Financial Assessments: Cities understand the percent of project funding available (i.e., identifying need for matching funds), loan interest rates, potential additional subsidization (e.g., principal forgiveness, reduced interest rates, extended repayment terms) and financing structures for projects; repayment requirements and allowable sources.
Link to Peer Learning Session: https://nlc-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvcO2qrjMpHNMtcvViZVUbILOVNRs6z-GQ

Module 8 Post Submission Long-Term Capacity Building: Cities develop plans to successfully administer the loan including next steps that are relevant across state programs.
Link to Peer Learning Session: https://nlc-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvcO2qrjMpHNMtcvViZVUbILOVNRs6z-GQ

WHO SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN EACH SESSION?

Mayor: Participates in selective modules to spearhead goals and advocacy, review the impact story of draft applications, and implement long-term capacity-building measures (Modules 1, 2, 8)

Grant Lead: Participates in all modules and is the primary point of contact for each participating city team (All Modules)

Community Engagement Lead: Participates in selective modules to help design community engagement strategies (Module 4)

Finance Lead: Participates in budget and capital stacks module (Module 5)

BOOTCAMP MEETING STRUCTURE

Peer Learning Sessions (Webinars): Interactive sessions featuring Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) on the policy and grant approach; followed by smaller sessions for peer discussions

Coaching Sessions: Smaller sessions that continue to build on specific application questions identified in the peer learning session

Office Hours (Consultant Meetings): Support in the form of designated time slots with our SMEs and your team to address specific questions about your grant application

SUPPORT DURING THIS BOOTCAMP

Navigator Team: Our Navigator is available to help answer the following kinds of questions:

- Bootcamp timelines
- Bootcamp schedules
- Participation expectations

Our Navigator for this grant, Clayton Harris III, can be reached at charris@nlc.org.

GRANT ELIGIBILITY

Eligible entities include public/private community water systems and nonprofit, non-community water systems

TIMELINE

States have different timelines. For more information, reach out to your state department responsible for the program.

LINK TO FEDERAL WEBSITE

https://www.epa.gov/dwsrf

PREPARING FOR THE BOOTCAMP

- Create an account at login.gov if you do not already have one.
- Register at SAM.gov or update registration to obtain a DUNS number.
  - Note: It can take almost a month after an applicant submits the SAM (System for Award Management) registration before the registration is active in the system. Please keep this in mind and create your account as early as possible.
  - Note: Existing SAM.gov registrants should check annually to confirm that their registration is active. Please ensure that your city's name, address, and EIN are up to date.
    - Getting started with your UEI:
      1. Sign in to SAM.gov.
      2. Go to Workspace (top right corner).
      3. Locate the Entity Management widget to find your UEI.
      4. Once you have the UEI, validate your entity's legal business name and physical address under Profile.