Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)

INTRODUCTION

The CWSRF program offers low-interest loans to support water quality infrastructure projects. There are 11 categories of eligible projects, including the construction, repair, and replacement of publicly owned treatment works that enhance energy efficiency, water conservation, recycling, and stormwater management. Forty-nine percent of general supplemental funding must go towards disadvantaged communities to address affordability challenges.

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, philanthropic and civic sectors in their efforts to leverage federal infrastructure dollars for high-impact, outcomes-driven efforts

BOOTCAMP MODULES

Module 1, Setting the Table: Cities are introduced to the CWSRF program and applicant eligibility criteria.

Module 2, Federal and State Administration Priorities: Cities begin to align their project with the CWSRF program and process, including the BILL-specific CWSRF provisions (LSLR, EC, Forgivable Loans) and the Green Project Reserve, by understanding how to identify state-specific CWSRF program requirements (e.g., eligibility survey, Intended Use Plans and Project Priority Lists, priority ranking, loan rates and terms, disadvantaged/affordability criteria).

Module 3, Engaging the Community: Cities explore community engagement strategies to ensure that community voices are embedded into project design and implementation.

Module 4, Project Planning and Application Preparation: Part 1: Cities will understand the process of applying to and participating in the CWSRF, including the stages of environmental review, financial review, technical review, procurement and contracting, construction, disbursement, and repayment. The module will orient cohort members to the SRF's application components and processes. This module will be based on example application components from 2-3 states.

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.

Module 6, Project Planning and Application Preparation: Part 2: Cities will better understand the process of applying to and participating in the CWSRF, including the stages of environmental review, financial review, technical review, procurement and contracting, construction, disbursement, and repayment. This will use the foundation from the previous module to deepen cohort members' understanding and support them in assessing their specific readiness to proceed to gauge their current status in their state's application process.

Module 7, Demystifying CWSRF Financing Structures & Financial Assessments: This module will include an in-depth discussion of 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; and repayment requirements and allowable sources. This module will be based on example application components from 2-3 states and support the cohort's identification of specific financial records, enterprise fund budgets and audits, and detailed planning and engineering information required to receive CWSRF funding in their state.

Module 8, Long Term Capacity Building: Cities develop their next steps in applying for a CWSRF loan.

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
Grant Lead: Participates in all modules and is the primary point of contact for each participating city team
Community Engagement Lead: Participates in selective modules to help design community engagement strategies
Finance Lead: Participates in budget and capital stacks module

BOOTCAMP MEETING STRUCTURE

Peer Learning Sessions (Webinars): Interactive sessions featuring subject matter experts on the policy and grant approach.
Coaching Sessions: Smaller sessions that continue to build on specific application questions identified in the peer learning session.
One-on-One Consultations: Support in the form of designated time slots with our Subject Matter Experts (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 is Clayton Harris III, who can be reached at: charris@nlc.org.

GRANT ELIGIBILITY

The CWSRF program is a federal-state partnership that provides low-cost financing to communities for a wide range of water quality infrastructure projects, including municipal wastewater facilities, nonpoint source pollution control, decentralized wastewater treatment systems, stormwater runoff mitigation, green infrastructure, estuary protection, and water reuse. To learn more, please access the Federal website by Clicking Here.

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.

BOOTCAMP WEBSITE

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund Website has all the information you need. The Modules and Resources section provides the dates/times and links for peer learning sessions, recordings, and slide decks from previous sessions, and office hours/coaching session info. To access the website, please Click Here.

- In each Module section, you will find relevant information and resources for that Module.

BOOTCAMP PEER SESSION REGISTRATION

You can register for all the peer learning sessions by Clicking Here.