



Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Grant

Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Program Guidelines

House Bill 33 provided funds for the Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Grant program to help Ohio communities make necessary investments in water and wastewater infrastructure. Projects receiving funds will improve access to clean drinking water and wastewater infrastructure.

The program is being administered by the Ohio Department of Development (Development) in partnership with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA).

Eligible Applicants

All political subdivisions with the authority to own and operate public water and sewer systems and non-profit, non-community public water systems may submit an application. Political subdivision means a county, township, municipal corporation, or other body corporate and politic responsible for governmental activities in a geographic area smaller than that of the state.

Eligible Projects

There is one type of eligible project: construction.

Eligible construction projects can receive a maximum grant amount of \$5 million. At the discretion of the Director of Development, additional grant funding may be awarded for an individual project due to lack of matching funds and other inhibiting factors. Maximum project awards in these circumstances shall not exceed \$10 million and are solely at the discretion of the Director.

Examples of infrastructure construction projects could include, but are not limited to:

- Sewer/wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) improvements/expansion
- New/replacement sanitary sewer lines
- Excess sanitary sewer infiltration/inflow correction
- Improvements to public drinking water treatment facilities
- Drinking water line improvements or extensions
- Repair, replacement, and construction of drinking water storage towers

Total project awards are determined at the discretion of Development.

Eligible Costs

Eligible costs include:

- Water or wastewater treatment facility and collection/distribution system improvements
- Covering tap-in fees for households connecting to a centralized sewer system or drinking water distribution system
- Professional fees (cannot exceed 10% of total request)
- Administrative costs (cannot exceed 10% of total request)
- Other (detailed description of other costs must be provided)

Administrative costs are for costs related to submitting reimbursement requests and submitting reporting information as requested by Development. Administrative costs must adhere to all uniform cost guidance.

Applicants are encouraged to ensure that projects use strong labor standards, including project labor agreements and community benefit agreements that offer wages at or above the prevailing rate. Local hiring is also strongly encouraged.

If a project includes operational and information technology systems, the applicant must demonstrate cybersecurity risks, relevant to the type and scale of the project, were considered and a plan was developed. Please see the Cybersecurity Requirements for State of Ohio Critical Infrastructure Grants document [here](#) if you have questions.

Ineligible Costs

Projects cannot charge costs associated with planning or design. Costs incurred prior to the grant period are ineligible but may be counted toward matching funds. The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) aligns program eligibility with that of the State Revolving Fund programs, and as such, some other costs may be determined to be ineligible (ex.: excessive pavement replacing, land acquisition, indoor plumbing, etc.).

Matching Funds

Utilizing matching funds is strongly encouraged. If a project cannot demonstrate match funds, the eligible applicant must describe why match funds cannot be obtained and how the project will be successful without additional resources. Matching fund sources can include local ARPA funding, other local, state, or federal grant dollars, or other sources. Match funds can be counted for project related expenditures up to two years prior to the grant start date. In addition, the on-going operation and maintenance costs associated with construction of new infrastructure can be submitted as match contribution.

Application Evaluation Criteria

Projects must be “shovel ready” to be completed by October 2026 and meet Project Completion Deadlines listed below. Projects must demonstrate alleviation of a public health concern, and/or increase access to public sewer or drinking water. Documentation to demonstrate alleviation of a public health concern can include, but is not limited to Notices of Violation, Director’s Final Findings and Orders, Consent Orders, etc.

Application Process

Applications will be reviewed in the order received. In order to access the application, individuals will be required to login using an existing OH|ID or create a new OH|ID, which provides users with secure access to state of Ohio services and programs. For more information on creating an OH|ID, please click [here](#).

Upon submission of a complete application, the applicant will receive an email from Development confirming that the application has been received. Submission of a complete application does not ensure the applicant will be awarded. If Development determines that an application is ineligible, or the documentation attached does not meet the requirements, the applicant will be notified via email that the application has not been accepted for funding.

Awards will be given for priority projects until funds are depleted. If a project funded in previous rounds that was awarded less than \$10,000,000 requires additional funds, applications to close this gap will be accepted.

Eligible applicants will be required to provide the following on each application:

- Applicant Contact Information (including indicating a primary contact)
- Project Name
- Project location (city/village)
- County(ies) to be served, identify primary county served (include map)
- List construction Project type
 - Construction grant for a public drinking water infrastructure project
 - Construction grant for a wastewater infrastructure project
 - Construction grant for a combination drinking water and wastewater infrastructure project
- Project description – include the projected project completion date
- Estimated population number to be served
- Median Household income for the area served is less than the statewide average Median Household Income (check if yes)
- Is the community unemployment rate greater than the current state unemployment rate (check if yes)
- Project will provide public water in an unserved area (check if yes)
- Project will provide sewer services in an unserved area (check if yes)
- Project will regionalize or connect two or more community systems (check if yes)
- Project will address a significant water quality and/or public health concerns (check if yes)
 - If yes, provide documentation (Notices of Violation, Director's Final Findings and Orders, Consent Orders, etc.)
- Project will achieve compliance with a current compliance-related order (check if yes)
- The project area has a large number of failing home sewage treatment systems (check if yes)
- The project area experiences sewage back-ups into basements (check if yes)
- The project area experiences either sanitary sewer overflows or combined sewer overflows (check if yes)
- The project area has contaminated drinking water wells (check if yes)
- The Public Water System has consistently not met treatment standards (check if yes)
- The project will address a high-risk for critical infrastructure failure (check if yes)
- The project received a design award from Development in a previous funding round
- For eligible projects (check all that apply):

- Engineering/design plans are in development
- Engineering/design plans are complete and approved
- Project has received applicable permits from the Ohio EPA
- Construction on the project can begin with 1-6 months
- Construction on the project can begin with 6-12 months
- Construction on the project can begin with 12-18 months
- Construction on the project can begin with 18 months
- Total Project Costs
- Total Requested Amount
- Project budget and Match budget (including sources)
- Documentation (as applicable)
 - Engineering agreements
 - Project Map
 - Documentation of match funds
 - Engineering reports
 - Approved permits
 - Economically disadvantaged criteria verification
 - Verification of Ohio Supplier ID
 - Verification of registration in Sam.Gov and Unique Entity Identification
 - Other supporting documentation

Reimbursement Requests

Once a project has been identified by Development to receive a grant award, Development will notify the eligible application of the process to receive grant funds. Applicants may submit for funding reimbursement as needed but must ensure grant funds greater than \$5,000 will not reside in the eligible applicants account for longer than 30 days.

An Ohio Supplier ID is required for disbursement and should be sent to Development along with the signed Grant Agreement. If the eligible applicant does not currently have an Ohio Supplier ID, the business will be required to register for an Ohio Supplier ID at Supplier.Ohio.gov.

Businesses will only be able to receive an award once a valid Ohio Supplier ID matching the FEIN/SSN provided in the application has been obtained and is verified by Development. Applicant businesses that need assistance obtaining an Ohio Supplier ID or need to make changes to an existing Ohio Supplier ID should visit: <https://ohiopays.ohio.gov>

Sam.gov Registration

Grantees are required to have an active registration at SAM.gov to receive any funds. The Unique Entity Identification (UEID) number will be required, along with its expiration date, on the Grant Agreement. [Please follow this link for questions about your UEID.](#)

Maintenance of Records

Eligible applicants shall maintain records of all specific expenses for which the funds were used for a period of five (5) years from the final expenditure of received funds. These records shall include but not be limited to paid invoices, cancelled checks, payroll records and other documentation acquired when the permissible expense occurred. Upon request, the eligible applicant shall provide access to

these records to the State of Ohio, its agencies, agents, directors, and/or any party who has contracted with the State for the exclusive purposes of evaluating or ensuring compliance. At their own expense, eligible applicants shall prepare photocopies of all of the requested records to the State or any of the aforementioned parties upon written request of the State within a reasonable time of the request. Failure to abide by the requirement may result in a demand to repay.

Eligible Applicant Certification

Providing the signature of a duly authorized representative on an application, an applicant is certifying to Development and the state of Ohio that each of the certifications is true as of the date of signature and that each of the documents submitted are accurate and appropriate for the project requesting funds. By providing a signature on an application, the applicant also acknowledges that any person who knowingly makes a false statement to obtain an award of financial assistance may be required under Section 9.66(C) of the Revised Code to repay such financial assistance and shall be ineligible for any future economic development assistance from the State of Ohio, any state agency, or political subdivisions. Also, any person who provides a false statement to secure economic development assistance may be guilty of falsification, a misdemeanor of the first degree, pursuant to Section 2921.13(F)(1) of the Revised Code.

Public Records of Information

Public Records Information, documents, or other materials submitted to Development as part of an application are public records unless a statutory exception exists under Section 149.43 of the Revised Code or other relevant law that exempts the information, document, or other material from public release.

Project Completion Deadlines

All funds must be obligated (i.e., in contract) by the grantee no later than Dec. 31, 2024. Final reimbursements must be submitted by Aug. 1, 2026, and funds obligated by this date must be reimbursed no later than Oct. 1, 2026.

Failure to obligate funds by Dec. 31, 2024, will result in the cancellation of grant funds, and no extensions on this obligation deadline will be issued after that date, in accordance with the requirements of the American Rescue Plan Act and federal regulations.

