

Overview

Among the ways the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) works to protect public health is by helping public water systems maintain or improve the quality of Idaho's drinking water. Much of Idaho's drinking water (96%) comes from ground water aquifers and is pumped to the surface by wells.

This brochure provides information on two drinking water programs administered by DEQ—the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund and the Idaho Planning Grant Program. Both programs help public water systems finance the costs of infrastructure needed to achieve or maintain compliance with state and federal drinking water standards and to protect public health.

Additional information on both programs is available from DEQ's Water Quality Division. Contact DEQ's State Office at (208) 373-0577 or visit DEQ's website at www.deq.idaho.gov/water-grants-loans.

Recent Recipients

Grants

- Cities of Driggs, East Hope, Rexburg, Wilder
- Lacey's Vista Acres Water Corp. (Bannock Co.), Rose Lake Water Assn. (Kootenai Co.), Snake River Middle School Drinking Water System (Bingham Co.)

Loans

- Fernwood Water and Sewer District (Benewah Co.), Hauser Lake Water Assn. (Kootenai Co.), West Bonner Water and Sewer District (Bonner Co.)

For More Information

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

State Office

1410 N. Hilton
Boise, ID 83706
(208) 373-0502

Regional Offices

Boise

1445 N. Orchard
Boise, ID 83706
(208) 373-0550
toll-free: (888) 800-3480

Coeur d'Alene

2110 Ironwood Parkway
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
(208) 769-1422
toll-free: (877) 370-0017

Idaho Falls

900 N. Skyline, Suite B
Idaho Falls, ID 83402
(208) 528-2650
toll-free: (800) 232-4635

Lewiston

1118 F Street
Lewiston, ID 83501
(208) 799-4370
toll-free: (877) 541-3304

Pocatello

444 Hospital Way #300
Pocatello, ID 83201
(208) 236-6160
toll-free: (888) 655-6160

Twin Falls

650 Addison Ave. W,
Suite 110
Twin Falls, ID 83301
(208) 736-2190
toll-free: (800) 270-1663

Web Resources

Water System Planning Grants

www.deq.idaho.gov/drinking-water-planning-grants

Water System Construction Loans

www.deq.idaho.gov/drinking-water-construction-loans

Green Projects

www.deq.idaho.gov/green-project-reserve

Idaho's Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund and Planning Grant Program



Idaho Department of
Environmental Quality
www.deq.idaho.gov



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Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund

The Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund provides loans at below-market interest rates to help build new or repair existing drinking water facilities. Eligible projects include water supply, treatment, storage, and distribution.

Loans of up to 100% of project costs may be awarded by DEQ for facility planning, project design, and/or construction.

Eligibility

Community water systems and non-profit water systems are eligible to participate in the Drinking Water Loan Program. Community water systems have at least 15 service connections used by year-round residents or regularly serve at least 25 year-round residents. Non-community water systems regularly serve at least 25 of the same persons during six months of the year.

Interest Rate

The interest rate is established annually. The interest rate for loans issued during the state's fiscal year (FY) 2014 ranges from 1.00% to 2.25%. These loans must be fully repaid within 20 years of project completion. Some applicants may qualify as "disadvantaged" and be eligible for an interest rate as low as 0% and a 30-year repayment schedule.

Sources of Revenue

Funding is derived from several sources. Congress appropriates funds to the U.S. Environmental Agency (EPA), which then allots those funds to the states based upon set formulas. Each state is required to provide a 20% match. Loan repayments and interest earnings provide additional funding.

FY 2014 Allocation

Approximately \$33 million is available for FY 2014 drinking water loans.

How to Apply

DEQ queries drinking water systems regularly to obtain information on projects for which loan funds could be used. Potential projects must first be listed on the state's annual priority list, which is developed through a rating and ranking process primarily based upon public health concerns. Fundable projects on the priority list are then placed on the Intended Use Plan.

Once funding is secured from EPA and the state match is provided, communities with projects on the Intended Use Plan are invited to submit applications. After an application has been reviewed and all environmental and legal requirements have been met, a loan may be offered.



Idaho Planning Grant Program

DEQ awards grants to municipalities to help prepare facility planning documents for construction of drinking water systems. Grants may be used to plan upgrade work at existing facilities or to plan construction of new systems. Grants cover 50% of eligible planning costs, with grant recipients providing the other half.

Eligibility

Drinking water planning grants are available for community water systems and non-profit, non-community water systems.

FY 2014 Allocation

Approximately \$250,000 is available for FY 2014 drinking water planning grants.

How to Apply

In November of each year, DEQ invites communities to submit a letter of interest explaining their grant request. Responses are evaluated, rated, and ranked by DEQ for inclusion on the next annual priority list. The highest-rated projects for which funding exists are invited to submit grant applications.