



Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program

Small System Preconstruction Activities Grant ***Answers to commonly asked questions***

What preconstruction activities are funded by this grant?

The preconstruction grant pays for activities related to feasibility of a construction project or design, planning, and engineering necessary to implement a construction project. The preconstruction grant activities often result in shovel-ready projects. Preconstruction work includes:

- Testing, feasibility studies, and cultural resource reviews.
- Water System Plan (WSP) updates or Small Water System Management Programs (SWSMPs).
- Engineering, design, and construction documents.
- Design through bid documents.

What type of work is *not* funded by this grant?

- Construction
- Construction materials
- Rolling stock
- Operations and maintenance

Does the grant pay the full cost of preconstruction activities?

The grant pays up to \$25,000. If the cost exceeds the grant amount, you are responsible for the rest.

How long do I have to complete the activities funded by the grant?

You must complete preconstruction activities within 12 months of receipt. A written request for an extension will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Can I use the preconstruction grant retroactively?

No, this grant cannot pay for previously completed work – only new work.

Is there a match requirement?

No.



HELPING TO ENSURE SAFE AND RELIABLE DRINKING WATER

Do I get additional points for turning in an early application?

No, early applications do not affect the score. All grants are reviewed and scored by a team of staff after February 12, 2015.

If my application eliminates a health risk, does it rank higher?

Yes. We will use the same scoring criteria as the DWSRF construction loan, which gives priority to eliminating high health risks.

Are we eligible for a preconstruction grant if we do not have our WSP or SWSMP updated?

Yes. However, you cannot receive a DWSRF construction loan without an approved plan. We hope that you can use part of this money to update your WSP or SWSMP as necessary.

Can we use the grant to fund staff time in a town, city, or association?

Yes, submit an estimated number of hours overhead. The hours and overhead should include federal approved indirect rate, salary benefits, and goods and services.

Can we use the grant to perform a pipe condition assessment?

Yes, if it's likely to lead to a DWSRF construction loan. Be sure to explain how you will fund the project and work associated with the project.

Can we use the grant to fund Section 106 or 05-05 work?

If the scope of work funds Section 106, we must perform a consultation. If you think your project could be in a "hot spot" for environmental or cultural resources, this money can be used for an archeological survey. If you send an EZ-1 form with your application, we will help you determine if you need a survey.

Will the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), Section 106 reviews, Davis-Bacon, and Prevailing Wages apply to my project?

Preconstruction activities do not typically trigger Davis-Bacon or Prevailing Wages. All federally funded DWSRF *construction* projects are subject to Davis-Bacon, State Environmental Review Process (SERP), and Section 106 reviews. The preconstruction grant does not fund construction projects. We will review consulting work that requires a small construction-like test or discovery on a case-by-case basis and construction rules will apply as required.

Do we have to issue a formal request for quotes (RFQ) for professional services?

Procurement rules apply. If you currently work with an engineering firm, you can continue to use that firm. If you amend an existing agreement, include enough detail in the scope of work to describe the deliverables of the preconstruction work.

Can consultation for construction wait?

No, you need to do consultation before construction begins. On average, if you need to do a survey, it takes between 9 and 12 months to complete all requirements. If you do not have your consultation completed, we will not consider the project shovel-ready.

Can we purchase an adjacent unimproved lot to enlarge and protect our well source?

No. The grant is for planning, design, engineering, Section 106, and other approved preconstruction activities. We have additional grant money for source water protection. Contact **Corina Hayes at 360-236-3114** for additional source water protection information.

Can I use the entire grant amount if I also apply for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money?

Yes, we encourage you to work with other funders and agencies, especially if your project is large.

If I apply for CDBG funding to supplement preconstruction funding, should I include information from that application in my scope of work?

Yes. Submit an application for the entire project, and note what amount you intend to fund with CDBG or any other funding source. This will help us understand which part of your project we would fund.

Does the grant obligate me to apply for the DWSRF construction loan?

You are not obligated to apply for a construction loan. However, engineering cost estimates and income surveys have a short shelf life and WSPs are only valid for six years. We strongly encourage you to apply for construction funding within three years of receiving the grant.

For more information:

Call your ODW regional office.

Eastern Region: Spokane 509-329-2100

Northwest Region: Kent 253-395-6750

Southwest Region: Tumwater 360-236-3030

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