



Water Lines Special Insert

Sources of Infrastructure Financing and Assistance for Rural Nevada's Water and Wastewater Systems

Community Development Block Grant Program

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program assists in the development of healthy and viable communities by improving both the living conditions and economic opportunities for individuals, primarily those that are low- to moderate-income. CDBG coordinates and collaborates with various government agencies and nonprofit groups to carry out locally based projects. Staff conducts regional application and grant administration workshops. Grants are provided to rural communities (outside of Clark County, Reno and Sparks) for public facilities/services, planning, economic development and housing.

Project selection is made through an advisory committee, representative of the 26 eligible counties and incorporated cities. The advisory committee meets annually to review applications and make funding recommendations.

Historically, CDBG has funded the following types of projects: water and sewer systems, preliminary engineering reports, senior citizens centers, community centers, emergency vehicles and stations, short and long range plans, rehabilitation of owner-occupied single family homes, infrastructure improvements to industrial parks, and business loans to for-profit businesses.

Contact: Des Craig
Phone: 775/687-1812
Email: dcraig@bizopp.state.nv.us

Indian Health Service

This agency offers technical and financial assistance for tribes seeking to address health and safety needs related to water, wastewater and solid waste.

Community-wide and individual assistance is available.

Contact: George Pringle
Phone: 775/784-5327
Email: george.pringle@ihs.gov

Nevada Department of Business and Industry

The director of the Nevada Department of Business and Industry may finance the cost of a water project approved by the Board for Financing Water Projects through the issuance of general obligation bonds or revenue bonds.

A qualified project would be one that provides for the management, control, delivery, use or distribution of water.

Contact: Ann Waldren
Phone: 775/684-2999
Email: biinfo@business.nv.gov

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection

AB 198/237

In 1991, the Nevada State Legislature created a program that provides grants to water purveyors for costs of capital improvements to publicly-owned community water systems in order to meet the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act and, in 1999, extended those grants to eligible recipients to pay for the cost of improvements to conserve water.

Eligible projects include water treatment facilities, replacement of leaking distribution lines, new well installation to replace poor quality water sources, provisions for backup water supply, storage tanks & tank rehabilitation, and improving the efficiency of the storage of water and of irrigation operations.

The Board for Financing Water Projects makes AB 198/237 funding decisions. The grant program was established to fill the financial gap between actual project costs and what the community can reasonably afford.

Contact: Michelle Stamates
Phone: 775/687-9331
Email: mstamate@ndep.nv.gov
Website: <http://ndep.nv.gov/bffwp/bffwp.htm>

Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund

The revolving loan program provides loans at or below market rate and other forms of financial assistance (not grants) to public entities to assist them in financing the construction of wastewater treatment works and projects to control sources of water pollution. Eligible projects include sewage treatment plants, collection systems, interceptors, erosion control and other point and nonpoint source control projects.

The Program has an annual priority list process which begins in December of each year. An entity must be on the Priority List to be eligible to receive a loan.

Contact: Morris Kanowitz
Phone: 775/687-9425
Email: mkanowit@ndep.nv.gov

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

The primary purpose of the DWSRF program is to provide loans to public water systems at or below market rates. All community water systems, whether publicly or privately owned, and nonprofit, non-community water systems are potentially eligible to receive DWSRF loans.

Projects considered for loans are ranked on a priority list to address acute and chronic health risks and replace or rehabilitate deteriorating water system infrastructure. Existing debt (for publicly owned systems) is also eligible for refinancing under certain conditions. The SDWA requires that at least 15 percent of the loan be used to provide loan assistance to small systems that serve fewer than 10,000 persons, if there are enough eligible projects for systems meeting that criteria.

The principal repayments on loans go back into the loan fund for use on financing future projects. Interest repayments are used to retire state bonds issued for the 20 percent match requirement for the EPA grant.

The DWSRF provides technical assistance to public water systems to address a variety of public health, technical, managerial and financial concerns. This assistance is free to public water systems and is available through third party providers who contract with the State of Nevada to provide specific services.

Contact: Adele Basham
Phone: 775/687-9488
Email: abasham@ndep.nv.gov
Website: www.ndep.nv.gov/bwpc/dwsrf01.htm

Nevada Rural Water Association

The Nevada Rural Water Association (NvRWA) affiliate, the National Rural Water Association, manages a loan program designed around easy application and fast turnaround. The NRWA Revolving Loan Fund was established under a grant from USDA/RUS to provide financing to eligible utilities for pre-development costs associated with proposed water and wastewater projects. RLF funds can also be used with existing water/wastewater systems and the short term costs incurred for replacement equipment, small scale extension of services or other small capital projects that are not a part of regular operations and maintenance.

Systems applying must be public entities. This includes municipalities, counties, special purpose districts, Native American Tribes and corporations not operated for profit, including cooperatives, with up to 10,000 population and rural areas with no population limits. Loan amounts may not exceed \$100,000 or 75% of the total project cost whichever is less. Applicants will be given credit for documented project cost prior to receiving the RLF loan.

The law authorizing the program allows a maximum repayment period of 10 years. Additional ranking points are awarded in the selection process for applicants that propose a quicker repayment of the loan. The repayment period cannot exceed the useful life of the facilities or financed item. 5-year, interest only, pre-development loans will also be available.

Loans will be made at the lower of the poverty or market interest rate as published by RUS, with a minimum of 3% at the time of closing. As a minimum, a promissory note or comparable document authorized by the governing body will be required. Additional security may be required by the RLF administrator or loan committee when deemed necessary as allowable under State law.

Applications, information and forms can be found at <http://www.nrwarlf@nrwa.org> .

Contact: Bob Foerster
Phone: 775/841-4222
Email: nvrwa@pyramid.net

Rural Community Assistance Corporation

Established in 1978, Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting rural communities achieve their goals and visions by providing training, technical assistance and access to resources.

RCAC offers training in a classroom setting or via interactive online workshops. Topics include utility operator certification, operation and maintenance, monitoring requirements, water quality, emergency response plans, disinfection, regulations, board member roles and responsibilities, capital improvement planning, budgeting, rate setting and many more.

In addition, RCAC can help rural communities identify and evaluate solutions to water and waste disposal; assist in capacity development prior to applications for loans and grants, including performing community and income surveys; planning for operational changes; strategic planning; regulatory issues and system strategies.

With more than \$60 million in lending capital, RCAC's Loan Fund serves those traditionally neglected by conventional markets. RCAC's loan programs are unique – they provide the early funds small rural communities need to determine feasibility and pay predevelopment costs prior to receiving state and federal program funding. RCAC also provides intermediate and long-term loans when system improvements are needed.

Contact: Stevan Palmer
Phone: 775/323-8882
Email: spalmer@rcac.org
Website: www.rcac.org

U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development

This federal agency assists communities with water, wastewater and solid waste management needs, and provides loans and grant funding to public entities such as municipalities, counties, special purpose districts, tribes and nonprofit corporations. Entities must be unable to obtain credit elsewhere at reasonable rates and terms and be able to pledge security for the loans. Loans and grants may be used for the construction of infrastructure improvements, acquisition of water supply or water rights, purchase of utility systems and payment of necessary fees associated with facility improvements.

USDA Rural Development also offers technical assistance with assembling information for preliminary engineering reports, feasibility reports, cost estimates, and financing and management matters in connection with proposed improvements and provides training and assistance through other programs as well.

Contact: Kay Vernatter
Phone: 775/887-1222, ext. 28
Email: kay.vernatter@nv.usda.gov

U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service

The Forest Service offers annual Rural Community Assistance (RCA) Grants and National Fire Plan Economic Action Grants. The RCA program provides planning grants to help rural communities capitalize on their potential to diversify and expand local economies, and implementation grants based on the community action plan.

The National Fire Plan Economic Action Program encourages the use of biomass including marketing and demonstration projects. While not directly applicable to infrastructure funding, these grant sources may free up or leverage other funds for infrastructure improvement.

Contact: Mike Hampton
Phone: 775/331-6444

U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration

This program provides grant funding for development, expansion or improvements which are needed to enable sustainable economic development. The funding is tied to, and based upon, the creation of new permanent, higher skill, higher wage jobs for the community; and first requires a comprehensive economic development strategy.

All projects requesting EDA funding in the 7-county WNDD region are prioritized, processed and submitted by and through the WNDD Board of Directors (See WNDD below).

For projects outside of the WNDD area, call the EDA representative for Nevada and Idaho, Mr. Rick Tremblay at 888/693-1370.

Western Nevada Development District (WNDD)

For projects in Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Lyon, Mineral, Pershing or Storey Counties and area tribal governments, WNDD is a voluntary association of local governments which, through intergovernmental cooperation, addresses community and economic development issues and opportunities. WNDD serves its membership as a regional resource center, a State Data Center affiliate and provides shared professional staff to provide planning, implementation and technical assistance including grant writing and grant administration.

WNDD operates its own “mini-grant” Membership Assistance Program (MAP) for member local governments and nonprofit organizations within the 7-county region. Funding is limited: MAP funds can represent no more than 50 percent of total costs. WNDD also administers affordable housing funds for the county region.

Contact: Ron Radil
Phone: 775/883-7333
Email: wndd@wndd.org