

District of Columbia
Draft Intended Use Plan for
Safe Drinking Water Act Funds
Federal Fiscal Years 2021 and 2022

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Amendments of 1996 (Public Law 104-182) authorize a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program to assist public water systems to finance improvements needed to achieve or maintain compliance with SDWA requirements and to protect public health. Although the District of Columbia (“the District”) is defined as a State for the purposes of SDWA, Section 1452(j) exempts the District from establishing a State Revolving Fund program. Therefore, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides the District's allotment of Federal funds in the form of grants. The District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water) is the grantee for project grants while the DC Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE) and its agent, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Office at Blue Plains, can receive funds for oversight and management of these projects.

EPA, DOEE, and DC Water have agreed to this combined Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 - FY 2022 Intended Use Plan. This Intended Use Plan outlines how the combined amount of Federal funding and required matching funds will be apportioned among program and project uses. The Federal Fiscal Year 2021 runs from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021; and the Federal Fiscal Year 2022 runs from October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022.

LONG AND SHORT-TERM GOALS FOR THE USE OF DC GRANT FUNDS

Long-Term Goals

1. Provide safe and adequate supplies of potable water by correcting problems with and maintaining adequate facilities for drinking water storage and distribution. Emphasis is placed on projects designed to correct deficiencies, which pose a potential threat to public health.
2. Maintain compliance with SDWA drinking water standards or other requirements of the SDWA.

Short-Term Goals

1. Implement near term projects as identified in DC Water’s Water System Facilities Plan.
2. At this time, there are no requirements to prioritize or establish a specific goal to fund “green projects” as defined by the EPA. “Green projects” were previously defined by EPA as meeting one of the following four categories: water efficient, energy efficient, green infrastructure, or environmentally innovative. However, should “green projects” become a requirement, as they have been in the past, project funding and prioritization may be affected to comply with this requirement. Absent any such requirement or agreement by DC Water, DOEE, and EPA, the listed projects will be funded in priority order and on their readiness to proceed.

AVAILABLE FUNDS

The FY 2021 and FY 2022 DWSRF allotment have not yet been determined. But for purposes of planning, we have assumed FY 2020 DWSRF allotment of approximately \$8,312,000 for each of these years. When the final amounts are determined and made available by Congress, the available fund amount will be adjusted accordingly. It should be noted that some previously grant funded projects may be completed for less money than anticipated. This may result in surplus grant funds becoming available for reuse. The use of any “carryover” or surplus grant funds that may be recovered during this period will be used to fund new unfunded projects or past under-funded projects in priority order.

If Congress authorizes any supplementary funds during this period, these funds would be directed in accordance with this Intended Use Plan, the Project Priority List and process described below unless otherwise modified by Congress or EPA.

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

For FY 2021 and FY 2022, the available funding and expected usage is as follows:

Available Federal Funds	Grant Dollars
Estimated Surplus Funds from previous years (Prior to FY 2020) ^{Note 1}	\$0
Estimated Recovered Unused Funds from Other States ^{Note 2}	\$99,000
FY 2021 DWSRF (Estimated Allotment)	\$8,312,000
FY 2022 DWSRF (Estimated Allotment)	\$8,312,000
Total Estimated Federal Funds (FY 2021 – 2022)	\$16,723,000
Project Pool that may be submitted for grants during FY 2021 & FY 2022 (in priority ranking order)	
Anacostia Elevated Tank #1 Upgrades [FY’21]	\$3,148,000
66-inch / 72-inch PCCP N Street (Water Mains Rehab Phase I) [FY’21]	\$4,212,000
Small Diameter Water Main Rehab 14C [FY’21]	\$12,544,864
Constitution Ave NE w C9 [FY’21]	\$1,048,000
Small Diameter Water Main Rehab 15A [FY’22]	\$10,380,000
Small Diameter Water Main Rehab 15B [FY’22]	\$11,172,000
Small Diameter Water Main Rehab 15D [FY’22]	\$13,960,000
Small Diameter Water Main Rehab 12C [FY’21]	\$9,276,000
Small Diameter Water Main Rehab 16A [FY’22]	\$11,924,000
Small Diameter Water Main Rehab 16B [FY’22]	\$11,600,000
Small Diameter Water Main Rehab 16C [FY’22]	\$12,400,000
Small Diameter Water Main Rehab 18A [FY’22]	\$9,600,000
Bryant Street PS – Spill Header Flow Control [FY’22]	\$6,200,609
Total Grant Project Pool	\$117,465,473
Grant awards may not exceed estimated, recovered, and available grant funds	

Notes

1. As of this date, there are no surplus grant funds available from previously funded projects. However, surplus grant funds may arise as existing grant funded projects are completed during FY 2021 and FY 2022. Any surplus grant funds recovered will be used to supplement allotted grant funds. The use of surplus or “carryover” funds

- will be directed toward either new unfunded projects or past under-funded projects in priority order or as may be agreed upon by EPA, DOEE, and DC Water.
2. Approximately \$99,000 has been recovered from States unable to use past allotments and has been directed for use in the District of Columbia.

Total Estimated Federal and Local Funds Available for FY 2021 – FY 2022	Funds
Estimated Federal Funds for DC Water Projects (80% grant)	\$61,584,000
Estimated Local Funds for DC Water Projects (20% match)	\$16,600,500
Total Available Funds for FY 2021 and FY 2022	\$16,723,000

EPA allows DC Water to receive Federal Funds at the 80% level. These grants require a 20% local match.

DC Water will increase its local match level if sufficient Federal funds are not available for a project to be fully funded in order not to impede the project or its construction. As future Federal funds become available, DC Water may request additional funds to cover any shortfall in Federal funding. It should also be noted that DC Water’s Capital Improvement Program is not wholly dependent upon Federal funding. Many DC Water projects proceed without any Federal funds.

SELECTION OF PROJECTS TO BE FUNDED

In 1999, EPA in conjunction with DC Water developed a Project Priority Rating System. The Project Priority Rating System uses a system to numerically score drinking water projects based upon their contribution to protecting public health, improving compliance with regulatory standards, and maintaining drinking water reliability, safety, and environment. The ranking system includes a provision allowing for funding of lower ranked projects (i.e. for by-passing higher ranked projects) based on exigent circumstances and implementability of the lower ranked projects relative to the higher ranked projects proposed to be by-passed.

The Project Priority List (PPL) is routinely updated to remove projects when grants are awarded, to reflect new estimated costs and schedules, and to include new projects. This FY 2021– FY 2022 PPL, is a two-year project funding plan and revises and supersedes the previously approved FY 2019 - FY 2020 PPL, which expired on September 30, 2020. The plan identifies expected projects to be funded during the FY 2021 – FY 2022 period. Projects are displayed on the PPL in priority order. The project with the highest priority rating score (i.e., the most important) is listed first. The remaining projects are listed in order of descending score.

A more detailed description of these and future water projects can be found online at DC Water’s website under “District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority: Capital Improvement Program, Approved FY2018– 2027, Section V, Capital Programs.”

https://www.dewater.com/sites/default/files/finance/budgets/2019/FY%202019%20Capital%20Improvement%20Program_revised%207-19-18.pdf