

BIL and Small Communities

Resources for Small Town Infrastructure

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Washington State
Department of
Commerce

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We strengthen communities



**HOUSING
HOMELESSNESS**



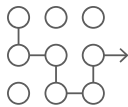
INFRASTRUCTURE



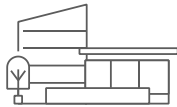
**BUSINESS
ASSISTANCE**



ENERGY



PLANNING



COMMUNITY FACILITIES



**CRIME VICTIMS &
PUBLIC SAFETY**



**COMMUNITY
SERVICES**

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Agenda

- Introduction
- Common issues in rural infrastructure
- General funding process for water and wastewater
- What funders consider
- Available funding resources
- Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council (IACC)
- Further resources

Introductions



- Project Manager, Small Communities Initiative
- Rural water and wastewater technical assistance
- BA in History; MA in Urban and Regional Planning

Common issues for small town infrastructure

- Economies of scale
- Low income populations
- Limited staff capacity
- Difficulty finding, retaining qualified staff
- Staff/administration turnover
- Leaders who are spread thin
- Lack of reserves
 - Emergency, debt service, asset replacement, O&M, etc
- Limited funding options

General Funding Process for Water and Wastewater Projects

PLANNING

- Identify the project, should be part of larger plan like:
 - Water System Plans, Small Water System Managements Programs, General Sewer Plans
- Some funders (SRFs) require the community have *approved* plans in place.
 - Communicate with regulator to know how long approval may take
- Planning phase should usually produce an engineering plan – facilities plan or Preliminary Engineering Plan (PER)
 - Includes project alternatives, cost estimates, timelines
- Updating or creating plans takes time and money
 - Can pay consultant or have local staff work on it, depending on scale

General Funding Process for Water and Wastewater Projects

DESIGN

- Final design/plans and specifications for the project
- More specific than general sewer plans or water system plan
- Need cost estimates to begin talking to construction funders

General Funding Process for Water and Wastewater Projects CONSTRUCTION

CONSTRUCTION

- Design & Construction
 - Ask funders about ability to fund design/construction in one contract.
- Understand funder's procurement and bidding requirements
- If a project has multiple funders this can get tricky

Making First Interactions Successful

- Communicate early and often
- Communicate directly with funders and regulators
- Keep regulator in the loop
- Make sure funders know when there are multiple funders involved.
 - Can coordinate environmental and cultural resource review, etc.

What Funders Consider

- Population of community/service area
- Monthly residential water/wastewater rates
- Median Household Income (MHI) and/or Low to Moderate Income (LMI)
 - Funders have different rules, rely on different data
 - Need for an income survey?
- Any reserves in place
- Affordability Index or Hardship
 - Consider rates for the system being upgraded
 - Rates are ~2% of MHI
- Capacity to take on funding

State and Federal Identifiers

- Unified Business Identifier (UBI)
- Tax ID number – Employer Identification Number (EIN)
- System of Award Management (SAM) registration
- Unique Entity Identifier
 - Replaced DUNS number as of April 4, 2022

Need help with SAM or UEI?

Washington Procurement and Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) offers free assistance.

Contact

info@washingtonptac.org

Funders for Project Phases

This spreadsheet is updated 2-3 times annually and is the best resource available for identifying potential funders for your water or wastewater project:

<https://www.infracosting.wa.gov/resources.html>

What funders will NOT fund

- Operations and Maintenance
- Reserve contributions
- Salaries/pensions

IIJA/BIL Funding

- Funding going into SRFs over 5 years
- Common hurdles
 - No planning documents in place that identify the project
 - SAM/UEI
 - Unrealistic timing expectations

Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council (IACC)

- Started in 1989 with the idea “Can we make infrastructure funding easier on local governments?”
- Non-profit dedicated to helping Washington communities identify and obtain resources they need to develop, improve, and maintain infrastructure

IACC Resources

- <https://www.infracfunding.wa.gov/resources.html>
- **Funding Opportunities**
 - [Water and Wastewater Funding Program Summary](#)
 - [Transportation Funding Programs Summary](#)
 - [Washington Water and Salmon Fund Finder](#)
 - [Link to Washington Fund Directory](#)
- **Environmental Inventory**
 - Outlines differences and similarities in environmental requirements among various state and federal funding programs

IACC Resources, cont.

- **Income Survey Guidance**
- **Introductory guide to value planning**
- **Public Works Board resource catalog and links to trainings**
- **Planning resource guides**
- **TA Portal**
- **Past IACC Conference session slide decks**

Mark Your Calendars for the IACC Conference!

- **OCTOBER 24-26 IN WENATCHEE, WASHINGTON**
- **What can you expect?**
 - Updates on infrastructure funding programs
 - Chance to speak to funders directly, network
 - Learn from the experiences of similar communities
 - General session on topic of interest
 - Tribal Track
 - Exhibitor hall and reception
 - Tech teams
 - Pybus Market reception
- **Want to be notified when registration opens? Email me!**

Additional Resources

- [MRSC Contracting for Services: Guidelines for Local Governments in Washington State](#)
- [Past IACC sessions](#) (scroll to the bottom)

The End!



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