

Interior Subcommittee Guidance

This guidance will use the following abbreviations:

DOI: Department of the Interior

BLM: Bureau of Land Management

FWS: Fish and Wildlife Service

NPS: National Park Service

USGS: U.S. Geological Survey

BIA: Bureau of Indian Affairs

BIE: Bureau of Indian Education

USFS: U.S. Forest Service

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency

WWI: Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

The subcommittee will accept CDS requests within the following programs. Information about each program and the justification required for each project are explained in detail below.

1. WWI: EPA, State and Tribal Assistance Grants, Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

2. HPF: NPS, Historic Preservation Fund

3. SPF: USFS, State and Private Forestry, Forest Resource Information and Analysis

4. Projects on Agency Lists

• LWCF: Great American Outdoors Act, Land and Water Conservation Fund

○ BLM, Land Acquisition

○ FWS, Land Acquisition

○ NPS, Land Acquisition

○ USFS, Land Acquisition

○ USFS, Forest Legacy

• LRF: Great American Outdoors Act, Legacy Restoration Fund

○ BLM, Legacy Restoration Fund

○ FWS, Legacy Restoration Fund

○ NPS, Legacy Restoration Fund

○ BIE, Legacy Restoration Fund

○ USFS, Legacy Restoration Fund

• LMCON: Land Management Agencies, Construction

○ BLM, Construction

○ FWS, Construction Projects, Line Item Construction

○ NPS, Construction, Line Item Construction and Maintenance

○ USFS, Capital Improvement and Maintenance, Facilities, Road and Trails

5. Land Management Agencies, Local Projects and Research

• BLM, Management of Land and Resources, Habitat Management Priorities

• NPS, National Recreation and Preservation, Statutory and Contractual Aid

• FWS, Resource Management, Stewardship Priorities

• USGS, Surveys Investigations and Research, Status and Trends

6. BIA, Operation of Indian Programs, Special Initiatives
7. EPA, Science and Technology, Research: National Priorities
8. EPA, State and Tribal Assistance Grants, STAG Infrastructure Grants

Specific information relating to making CDS requests is as follows:

1. WWI: EPA, State and Tribal Assistance Grants, Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

About the Program: The subcommittee will be limiting water infrastructure grants only to projects that are publicly-owned or owned by a non-profit entity. Privately-owned projects are NOT eligible for water infrastructure grants.

State and Local Projects

The subcommittee will accept CDS requests for local and/or municipal projects included on a state's most recently finalized Clean Water or Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan (IUP). In exceptional circumstances, the committee may consider projects that are eligible for funding under State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) guidelines (detailed below), but are not on the state IUP list.

There is a minimum 20% cost share requirement for any state or local water infrastructure grant funded through congressionally directed spending. For example, a \$1 million project could receive a maximum of \$800,000 from the Federal government, with the remaining \$200,000 the responsibility of the grantee. In almost all cases, other federal funds cannot be used to meet this 20% cost share. Please note that only the non-federal portion of assistance provided by a State Revolving Loan Fund can be applied towards a project's matching requirement.

Note that SRF projects have very specific eligibility requirements and the subcommittee will not consider projects that do not meet those requirements. The following table lists some of the project types that are ineligible for SRF funding:

Projects that generally are NOT eligible for SRF funding			
Clean Water / Waste Water		Drinking Water	
1.	Land, except for projects described in the subsequent table under eligibility #11	1.	Dams or rehabilitation of dams
2.	Operations and maintenance costs	2.	Operations and maintenance costs
3.	Non-municipal point source control	3.	Water rights, except if the water rights are owned by a system that is being purchased through consolidation as part of a capacity development strategy or if the water rights purchase is covered by EPA's DWSRF Class Deviation for Water Rights 2019
4.	Acid drainage correction	4.	Reservoirs, except for finished water reservoirs and those reservoirs that are part of the treatment process and are located on the property where the treatment facility is located
5.	Ambient water quality monitoring	5.	Laboratory fees for monitoring
6.	Flood Control Projects, unless the project is otherwise managing, reducing, treating, or recapturing stormwater	6.	Projects needed mainly for fire protection
7.	Privately owned sewer pipes	7.	Projects for systems that lack adequate technical, managerial, and financial capability, unless assistance will ensure compliance
		8.	Projects for systems in significant noncompliance, unless funding will ensure compliance
		9.	Projects primarily intended to serve future growth

Projects that generally ARE eligible for SRF funding			
Clean Water / Waste Water		Drinking Water	
1.	Wastewater treatment plants, including sludge handling facilities.	1.	Facilitate compliance with national primary drinking water regulations or address serious risks to public health including non-regulated contaminants (i.e. PFAS)
2.	Collector Sewers - Small sewers that convey wastewater from residences, commercial establishments, and industrial sites.	2.	Rehabilitate or develop water sources (excluding reservoirs, dams, dam rehabilitation and water rights) to replace contaminated sources
3.	Interceptor Sewers - Large sewers that convey wastewater from collector sewers directly to a wastewater treatment facility.	3.	Install or upgrade treatment facilities
4.	Sewer Pipes – Rehabilitation is only eligible if the pipes are publicly owned.	4.	Install or upgrade storage facilities, including finished water reservoirs, to prevent microbiological contaminants from entering the water system
5.	Outfall Sewer - A sewer that conveys treated wastewater from a wastewater treatment facility to the receiving waters.	5.	Install or replace transmission and distribution pipes to prevent contamination caused by leaks or breaks in the pipe, or improve water pressure to safe levels
6.	Storm Water Management – Measures to manage, reduce, treat, or recapture stormwater or subsurface drainage water (i.e. storm sewers, green infrastructure, etc.).	6.	Projects to consolidate water supplies – for example, when individual homes or other public water supplies have a water supply that is contaminated, or the system is unable to maintain compliance for financial or managerial reasons – are eligible for DWSRF assistance.
7.	Combined sewer overflow (CSO) control and sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) control.	7.	Land is eligible only if it is integral to a project that is needed to meet or maintain compliance and further public health protection.
8.	Infiltration/Inflow Correction - Construction activities that prevent surface water or groundwater from entering the sewer system.	8.	Project planning, design and other related costs
9.	Water Security - Installation or upgrade of physical security infrastructure such as lighting, fencing, monitoring and access control. Also, cybersecurity measures, installation of safer treatment technologies, and more secure storage of on-site treatment.		
10.	Septic Tanks - Remediation, rehabilitation, removal and replacement of failing tanks are eligible, as well as installation of new tanks.		

11.	Land - The leasing and fee-simple purchase of land, including surface and subsurface easements, needed to locate eligible municipal or tribal projects, and land integral to the treatment process. Municipal purchase of land and/or conservation easements for source water protection are also eligible.		
12.	Water Reuse - Projects involving the municipal reuse or recycling of wastewater, stormwater, or subsurface drainage water.		
13.	Capital Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Projects – e.g., river or streambank restoration, agricultural best management practices (i.e., buffer strips, manure containment structures), wetlands restoration, etc.		

Tribal Projects

For tribal projects, the subcommittee will accept CDS requests for projects included on the Indian Health Services' (IHS) Sanitation Deficiency System (SDS) list. In exceptional circumstances, the committee may consider projects that are eligible for funding under the Criteria for the [Sanitation Facilities Construction Program](#) but are not on the SDS list (see pg. 5-1 through 5-12 of the criteria).

2. HPF: National Park Service, Historic Preservation Fund

About the Program: The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), which was established to help fund the programs engendered by the National Historic Preservation Act (Public Law 89-665; 54 USC 300301 et seq.), was designed to preserve historical and archaeological sites in the United States of America. All HPF grantees must meet standards set by the Secretary of the Interior and comply with the [audit requirements](#), and each successful CDS recipient must complete an application through grants.gov. The subcommittee will accept CDS requests for non-formula funded activities within HPF that meet the qualifications of HPF programs, including eligible entities and activities. Please note that acquisitions of collections or historic properties are not eligible under the HPF. For more information, please visit [here](#).

3. SPF: USFS, State & Private Forestry

About the Program: The State & Private Forestry account provides technical and financial assistance grants to non-federal forest landowners, including state, tribal and local governments. Activities within this account include forest health management, cooperative fire protection, wood innovation, and urban and community forestry. Requests must meet USFS eligibility requirements for the appropriate grant program. Project requests should be part of the state's Forest Action Plan, or contribute to meeting the goals of the Forest Action Plan.

4. Projects on Agency Lists

About the Programs: Requests for any location-specific project that is included in the President's request or the fiscal year 2021 enacted Interior bill, and for which the request for funding is at or below the level in those documents, should be submitted with the Member office's programmatic requests. Requests for location-specific projects that are not included in the President's request or the FY21 enacted bill, or for location-specific project funding above the President's request or the FY21 enacted level (whichever is higher), will be

considered CDS requests.

- **LWCF: Great American Outdoors Act, Land and Water Conservation Fund:** Pursuant to the Great American Outdoors Act of 2020 (P.L. 116-152) and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260), prioritized project lists will accompany the President's budget request. Projects on those lists will be funded programmatically, and there will be a high bar for considering CDS requests for any projects not present on the current year's lists. While third party organizations may advocate for specific projects, note that the Grantee for federal acquisition is the federal agency that will eventually manage the land (either BLM, FWS, NPS, or USFS), or in the case of the Forest Legacy Program, it is the state.

- **LRF: Great American Outdoors Act, Legacy Restoration Fund:** Pursuant to the Great American Outdoors Act of 2020 (P.L. 116-152) and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260), prioritized project lists for deferred maintenance projects to be funded by the National Parks and Public Lands Legacy Restoration Fund will accompany the President's budget request for BLM, FWS, NPS, USFS, and BIE schools. Projects on those lists will be funded programmatically, and there will be a high bar for considering CDS requests for any projects not present on the current year's lists. Note that the Grantee is the federal agency.

- **LMCON: Land Management Agency Construction:** The four land management agencies (BLM, FWS, NPS, and USFS) receive annual appropriations for new construction and other capital improvement projects and typically include a short list of specific projects in the President's budget request. Projects on those lists will be funded programmatically, and there will be a high bar for considering CDS requests for any projects not present on the current year's lists. Note that the Grantee is the federal agency.

5. Land Management Agencies, Local Projects and Research: In order for requests to be considered within this category, they must be relevant to the specified mission area within the bureaus listed below and contribute to responsible stewardship of land, wildlife, and recreation resources or contribute to priority research areas that inform stewardship of those resources. Proposed projects should contribute to local, state, and federal efforts to benefit species, habitat, and/or enhanced stewardship of land and water resources. Project funding is not intended to primarily fund annual operations and maintenance of existing programs at the state, federal, or local level.

- BLM, Management of Land and Resources, Habitat Management Priorities – project requests may be considered for activities related to wildlife and aquatic habitat management.
- NPS, National Recreation and Preservation, Statutory and Contractual Aid – project requests may be considered for activities relating to operating, managing, and preserving resources, including as authorized by law.
- FWS, Resource Management, Stewardship Priorities – project requests may be considered for fish and aquatic conservation, habitat conservation, recovery, and restoration activities.
- USGS, Surveys Investigations and Research, Status and Trends – project requests may be considered for high priority and core science research, and ecosystem and water resources related activities.

6. BIA, Operation of Indian Programs, Special Initiatives: BIA provides direct services and funding for compacts and contracts for tribes to provide programs for a wide range of activities. Within this account, requests may be considered that honor the commitment to invest in tribal communities, create economic opportunities, foster cultural heritage, promote efficient and effective tribal governance, and conserve natural resources.

7. EPA, Science and Technology, Research: National Priorities: Project requests may be considered for high priority lines of research related to environmental quality and human health.

8. EPA, State and Tribal Assistance Grants, STAG Infrastructure Grants: Requests will only be considered for projects related to existing funding categories and activities within the STAG account that will result in improvements in environmental quality and/or human health.