



RCAC

*www.rcac.org*

# Oregon Water and Wastewater



## Funding and Resource Guide

### Background and purpose

Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC), a private nonprofit organization serving 13 states in the West, helps rural communities achieve their vision and goals through training, technical assistance and access to resources. In Oregon, RCAC works with funding, regulatory agencies and partners to address compliance issues for lower income rural communities by helping with water and wastewater infrastructure projects. The purpose of the *RCAC Oregon Water and Wastewater Funding and Resource Guide* is to provide an easy-to-use document that identifies water and wastewater funding programs, agencies and organizational resources. It is our hope that this guide will be a useful tool to help you move forward with water and wastewater infrastructure projects in Oregon.

### Scope

The guide provides information on primary agency funding programs that support drinking water and wastewater infrastructure planning, predevelopment and construction in Oregon. It also includes information on resources available to assist communities

complete drinking water and wastewater projects that address regulatory compliance, drinking water protection, and improve water quality and local public health.

### Key project stages

- Planning
- Predevelopment
- Engineering and design
- Construction

The guide will help you identify organizations to work with on regulatory issues, funding, training and technical assistance to move your projects forward.

The *RCAC Oregon Water and Wastewater Funding and Resource Guide* is funded as part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Rural Community Development Activities Program and was compiled by RCAC, the Western regional affiliate of the national Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP), in collaboration with other agencies and organizations.

For more information on RCAC, go to [www.rcac.org](http://www.rcac.org).

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### Federal Agencies Serving Water and Wastewater Needs of Small Communities in Oregon

#### U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

*EPA Region 10 Oregon Field Office*

811 SW 6th Avenue, 3rd Floor  
Portland, OR 97204

**Joel Salter**, Oregon Water Programs Coordinator

**Phone:** 503/326-2653

**Email:** [Salter.Joel@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:Salter.Joel@epamail.epa.gov)

#### United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA)

1201 NE Lloyd Blvd., Suite 801  
Portland, OR 97232-1274

**John Brugger**, Community Programs Director

**Phone:** 503/414-3360

**Email:** [john.brugger@or.usda.gov](mailto:john.brugger@or.usda.gov)

**Website:** <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/or/>

#### U.S. Public Health Services Portland Area Indian Health Service

1220 SW 3rd Avenue, Room 476  
Portland, OR 97204

**Phone:** 503/326.2025

**Website:** [www.ihs.gov](http://www.ihs.gov)

#### U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA)

*One World Trade Center*  
121 SW Salmon Street, Suite 244  
Portland, OR 97204

**Phone:** 503/326-3078

## State Agencies and Organizations Serving Water and Wastewater Needs of Small Communities in Oregon

### Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) Drinking Water Program

PO Box 14450  
Portland, OR 97293-0450  
**Roberto Reyes-Colon:** 971/673-0422  
**Email:** Roberto.Reyes-Colon@state.or.us  
**Tom Charbonneau,** Plan Review: 971/673-0406  
**Technical Assistance HBH Engineering:**  
Coos Bay, 541/266-0355  
Portland Office, 503/625-8065

**Dennis Nelson,** Groundwater Coordinator  
**Phone:** 541/726-2587 ext. 21  
**Email:** Dennis.O.Nelson@state.or.us

**Tom Pattee**  
**Phone:** 541/726-2587 ext. 24  
**Email:** tom.pattee@state.or.us

### Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

811 SW 6th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97204-1390  
**Rick Watters:** 503/229-6814  
**Larry McCallister:** 503/229-6412  
**Kim Carlson:** 503/229-6312  
**Website:** <http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/loans/cwsrf.htm>

**Sheree Stewart,** Program Coordinator  
**Phone:** 503/229-5413  
**Email:** stewart.sheree@deq.state.or.us

**Julie Harvey**  
**Phone:** 503/229-5664  
**Email:** harvey.julie@deq.state.or.us

### Oregon Economic and Community Development Department

775 Summer Street NE, Suite 200  
Salem, OR 97301-1280  
**Phone:** 503/986-0123  
**Email:** oedd.info@state.or.us  
**Website:** <http://econ.oregon.gov/ECDD/>

### RCAC

1020 SW Taylor Street, Suite 610  
Portland, OR 97205  
**Chris Marko,** Rural Development Specialist  
**Email:** cmarko@rcac.org

**Jake Salcone,** Rural Development Specialist  
**Email:** jsalcone@rcac.org  
**Phone:** 503/228-1780  
**Website:** [www.rcac.org](http://www.rcac.org)

### Association of Oregon Counties

*Local Governments Center*  
1201 Court Street NE, Suite 201  
PO Box 12729, Salem, OR 97301  
**Phone:** 503/585-8351  
**Website:** [www.aocweb.org](http://www.aocweb.org)

### League of Oregon Cities

*Local Governments Center*  
1201 Court St. NE, Suite 202  
PO Box 928, Salem, OR 97308  
**Phone:** 503/588-6550  
**Website:** [www.orcities.org](http://www.orcities.org)

### Special Districts Association of Oregon

PO Box 12613  
Salem, OR 97309  
**Phone:** 503/371-8667  
**Email:** sdao@sdao.com

### Oregon Water Resources Department

725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301  
**Phone:** 503/986-0929  
**Email:** webmaster@wrdd.state.or.us

### Oregon Association of Water Utilities

12312 Silverton Road NE  
PO Box 857 Silverton, Oregon 97381  
**Phone:** 503/873-8353  
**Website:** [www.oawu.net](http://www.oawu.net)

### Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360  
Salem, OR 97301  
**Phone:** 503/986-0178  
**Website:** [www.oregon.gov/OWEB](http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB)

## Regulatory Information

### Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)

**Website:** [www.epa.gov/safewater/sdwa/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/sdwa/index.html)

### Clean Water Act (CWA)

**Website:** [www.epa.gov/r5water/cwa.htm](http://www.epa.gov/r5water/cwa.htm)

## Funding Programs for Water and Wastewater Projects in Oregon – Planning and Predevelopment

Program	Eligible Projects	Eligible Applicants	Available Funding	How to Apply
<p><b>Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)</b> <i>Preliminary Engineering and Planning Grants, Final Engineering Grants</i></p>	<p>Preliminary engineering and planning including water master plans, wastewater facilities plans, water conservation and management plans, capital improvement plans, sanitary surveys, inflow and infiltration studies. <i>Final Engineering</i> including preliminary engineering reports and studies.</p>	<p>Projects must principally benefit low- to moderate income people in non-entitlement cities and counties including cities with less than 50,000 and counties less than 200,000 population. Projects must serve primarily residential needs, and are not primarily for capacity building.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grants up to \$150,000 for preliminary engineering and planning subject to the maximum \$1 million per project limitation during a five-year period</li> <li>Grants up to \$1 million for final design engineering and construction</li> </ul>	<p>Competitive applications are accepted year-round and reviewed quarterly. All awards are subject to funding availability. Contact the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department (OECD) at 503/986-0123 and ask for your regional coordinator, or view program details at <a href="http://econ.oregon.gov">http://econ.oregon.gov</a></p>
<p><b>Special Public Works Fund (SPWF)</b> <i>Technical Assistance</i></p>	<p>Preliminary engineering studies and economic investigations related to municipal utility projects (water, wastewater, stormwater) for industrial site development.</p>	<p>Cities, counties, county service districts (ORS Chapter 451), tribes, ports and districts (ORS 198.010).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grants up to \$60,000 or 85% of project costs, whichever is less</li> <li>Loans available at reduced interest rates for a 7-year term</li> </ul>	<p>Apply year-round based on funding availability. Contact OECD at 503/986-0123 and ask for your regional coordinator, or view program details at <a href="http://econ.oregon.gov">http://econ.oregon.gov</a></p>
<p><b>Water Wastewater Fund (WWF)</b> <i>Technical Assistance</i></p>	<p>Preliminary engineering studies, economic investigations for construction projects to ensure compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act or Clean Water Act.</p>	<p>Cities, counties, county service districts (ORS Chapter 451), tribes, ports and districts (ORS 198.010). For a population of less than 15,000 with non-compliance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grants up to \$20,000</li> <li>Loans up to \$20,000</li> <li>Interest rate is 75 percent of the rate for other loans</li> </ul>	<p>Apply year-round based on funding availability. Contact OECD at 503/986-0123 and ask for the regional coordinator or view program details at <a href="http://econ.oregon.gov">http://econ.oregon.gov</a></p>
<p><b>USDA Rural Development</b> <i>Predevelopment, Water and Waste Disposal Direct Loans and Grants</i></p>	<p>Water and/or wastewater planning, preliminary engineering reports, environmental reports and other work to assist in developing a project for infrastructure improvements.</p>	<p>Low-income communities with less than 10,000 population.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximum \$15,000 grant</li> <li>Requires 25 percent match</li> </ul>	<p>Apply year-round based on funding availability. Contact USDA Rural Development, Oregon State Office at 503/414-3360 and ask for your regional loan specialist or view program details at <a href="http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/or/utl11.htm">http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/or/utl11.htm</a></p>
<p><b>Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant</b></p>	<p>Rural communities that have had a significant decline in quantity or quality of drinking water.</p>	<p>Rural areas, cities or towns with a population of 10,000 or less and a MHI of 100 percent of a State's non-metropolitan MHI. Grants may be made for 100 percent of project costs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximum \$500,000 grant when a significant decline in quantity or quality of water occurred within 2 years</li> <li>\$150,000 for emergency repairs and replacement of facilities on existing systems</li> </ul>	
<p><b>RCAC</b> <i>Feasibility and Predevelopment</i></p>	<p>Water and/or wastewater planning, environmental work and other work to assist in developing an application for infrastructure improvements.</p>	<p>Nonprofit organizations, public agencies, tribes and low-income rural communities with a population of 50,000 or less, or 10,000 if guaranteed by USDA Rural Development financing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximum \$50,000 for feasibility loan</li> <li>Maximum \$350,000 for predevelopment loan</li> <li>1 year term</li> <li>Interest rate at 5-6 percent</li> </ul>	<p>Applications are accepted anytime. Contact Josh Griff at 720/898-9463 or <a href="mailto:jgriff@rcac.org">jgriff@rcac.org</a>. Applications are available online at <a href="http://www.rcac.org">www.rcac.org</a></p>

## Funding Programs for Water and Wastewater Projects in Oregon – Construction

Program	Eligible Projects	Eligible Applicants	Available Funding	How to Apply
<p><b>Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)</b></p> <p><b>Construction Grants</b></p>	<p>All projects must be in accordance with an approved water plan or wastewater plan. Eligible activities include construction engineering, construction management, property acquisition (including easements), grant administration and audits. Projects addressing an existing or pending compliance issue will score higher.</p>	<p>Projects must principally benefit low- to moderate income people in non-entitlement cities and counties including cities with less than 50,000 and counties with less than 200,000 population. Projects must serve primarily residential needs and not be used for capacity building.</p> <p>For more information, refer to <a href="http://econ.oregon.gov/ECDD/CD/index.shtml">http://econ.oregon.gov/ECDD/CD/index.shtml</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum grant of \$1 million, subject to the maximum \$1 million per project limitation during a five-year period</li> <li>• A single grant may be awarded to cover final engineering and construction</li> </ul>	<p>Competitive applications are accepted year-round and reviewed quarterly. All awards are subject to funding availability.</p> <p>Contact OECD at 503/986-0123 and ask for your regional coordinator or view program information at <a href="http://econ.oregon.gov">http://econ.oregon.gov</a>.</p>
<p><b>Special Public Works Fund (SPWF)</b></p>	<p>Planning for raising and managing funds, pre-construction and construction of water, wastewater and stormwater projects. Projects must be municipally owned and support industrial or commercial economic development.</p>	<p>Cities, counties, county service districts (organized under ORS Chapter 451), tribes, ports, and districts (as defined under ORS 198.010)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primarily a loan program</li> <li>• Maximum \$15 million</li> <li>• 25-year term maximum</li> <li>• Limited grant funds</li> <li>• Grants based on retention or creation of jobs, up to a maximum of \$5,000 per job</li> <li>• Grant cannot exceed \$500,000 or 85 percent of project cost, whichever is less</li> </ul>	<p>Applications are accepted year-round on a fund-available basis.</p> <p>Contact OECD at 503/986-0123 and ask for your regional coordinator or view program information at <a href="http://econ.oregon.gov">http://econ.oregon.gov</a>.</p>
<p><b>Water Wastewater Fund (WWF)</b></p>	<p>Planning, pre-construction and construction improvements of drinking water, wastewater, or storm water projects. Projects must be municipally owned and be necessary to address an existing or pending compliance issue.</p>	<p>Cities, counties, county service districts (ORS Chapter 451), tribes, ports, and districts (ORS 198.010); Population less than 15,000 with non-compliance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primarily a loan program</li> <li>• Maximum \$15 million</li> <li>• 25 year term maximum</li> <li>• Limited grant funds</li> <li>• Grants are based on median household income</li> <li>• \$10,000 maximum per hookup</li> <li>• \$750,000 per project for severely distressed areas</li> </ul>	<p>Competitive applications are accepted year-round. All awards are subject to funding availability.</p> <p>Contact OECD at 503/986-0123 and ask for your regional coordinator, or view program details at <a href="http://econ.oregon.gov">http://econ.oregon.gov</a>.</p>
<p><b>Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund (SDWRLF)</b></p>	<p>Drinking water system infrastructure projects must resolve a health hazard or non-compliance issue including planning, engineering, design, construction, property acquisition, environmental review, legal costs and security.</p>	<p>Community and non-community water systems, except federal- and state-owned systems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum \$6 million per project</li> <li>• Interest rate fluctuates quarterly (set at 80 percent of state/local bond rate)</li> <li>• 20-year term</li> <li>• Disadvantaged community eligible for a 30-year term</li> <li>• \$20 – 30 million available annually</li> </ul>	<p>A letter of interest must be submitted to be eligible for funding consideration. Check with DHS on submittal schedule. Contact Oregon DHS Drinking Water Program; call Roberto Colon-Reyes at 971/673-0422 or Roberto.reyes-colon@state.or.us; or go to the DHS website <a href="http://oregon.gov/dhs/ph/dwp/srif.shtml">http://oregon.gov/dhs/ph/dwp/srif.shtml</a> or contact OECD at 503/986-0123.</p>

## Funding Programs for Water and Wastewater Projects in Oregon – Construction (continued)

Program	Eligible Projects	Eligible Applicants	Available Funding	How to Apply
<b>SDWRLF</b> (Continued)				Applications are accepted year-round. Contact OECDD at 503/986-0123 and ask for your regional coordinator or view program information at <a href="http://econ.oregon.gov">http://econ.oregon.gov</a> .
<b>Drinking Water Protection Loan Fund (DWPLF)</b>	Source water protection projects to carry out elements of a Source Water Protection Management Plan.	Community water systems that have a delineated Drinking Water Protection Area and are able to demonstrate a direct link between the proposed project and maintaining or improving drinking water quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum \$100,000 loan per project</li> <li>• Interest rate fluctuates quarterly (set at 80 percent of state/local bond rate)</li> <li>• 20-year term</li> <li>• Disadvantaged community eligible for a 30-year term</li> </ul>	Letters of interest must be submitted to be eligible for funding consideration. Contact Oregon DHS Drinking Water Program; call Roberto Colon-Reyes at 971/673-0422 or e-mail <a href="mailto:Roberto.reyes-colon@state.or.us">Roberto.reyes-colon@state.or.us</a> .  Applications are accepted year-round. Contact OECDD at 503/986-0123 and ask for your regional coordinator, or view program information at <a href="http://econ.oregon.gov">http://econ.oregon.gov</a> .
<b>Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRLF)</b>	Planning, design and construction projects associated with publicly-owned wastewater treatment facilities. Loans also are available for emergencies, urgent repair and local community projects that address water pollution (including non-point sources of pollution). Interim financing also is available.	Public agencies including cities, counties, sanitary districts, soil and water conservation districts, irrigation districts and various special districts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loan only</li> <li>• Up to 20-year term</li> <li>• Substantially discounted interest depending on loan type (ranging from 1-4 percent)</li> <li>• Annual loan fee of 0.5 percent of the outstanding balance (planning loans exempt from this fee)</li> <li>• \$30-40 million available annually</li> </ul>	Applications are accepted year-round with scheduled review and ranking in the first week of January, May and September.  Contact the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ); call Larry McAllister at 503/229-6412, e-mail <a href="mailto:mcallister.larry@deq.state.or.us">mcallister.larry@deq.state.or.us</a> ; or contact your local project officer. For a list of officers, go to <a href="http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/wqgrant/srf_fs.pdf">www.deq.state.or.us/wq/wqgrant/srf_fs.pdf</a>
<b>USDA Rural Development Water and Waste Disposal Loan Guarantees, Direct Loan and Grant Program</b>	Pre-construction and construction associated with constructing, repairing, or improving drinking water and wastewater facilities.	Cities and towns with a population of 10,000 or less, counties; special purpose districts; tribes; non-profit corporations; unable to obtain funds from other sources at reasonable rates and terms. Priority is given to communities under 3,300 with lower MHI and compliance related issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primarily a loan program</li> <li>• Grants are based on need</li> <li>• Interest rates are 2.75 percent to market</li> <li>• Up to 40-year loan term</li> <li>• \$16 – 30 million available annually</li> </ul>	Year-round based on funding availability  Contact the USDA Rural Development Oregon State Office at 503/414-3360 or local loan specialist at <a href="http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/or/RUS-Contadd.htm">http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/or/RUS-Contadd.htm</a>
<b>RCAC Loan Fund Construction Grants</b>	Water wastewater, solid waste and storm facilities that primarily serve low-income rural communities. Includes predevelopment costs.	Nonprofit organizations, public agencies and tribal governments located in rural areas with populations of 50,000 or less, or 10,000 if using USDA Rural Development financing as the takeout.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum \$1 million with commitment letter for permanent financing</li> <li>• Security in permanent loan letter of conditions</li> <li>• 1-3 year term</li> <li>• 1 percent loan fee</li> <li>• Interest rate varies</li> </ul>	Applications are accepted anytime. Contact Josh Griff at 720/898-9463 or e-mail <a href="mailto:jgriff@rcac.org">jgriff@rcac.org</a> . Applications are available online at <a href="http://www.rcac.org">www.rcac.org</a>