**Office of Congresswoman Deborah Ross**

**FY2026 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies**

**Community Project Request Form**

Return completed form and required documentation to: [CommunityProjects.Ross@mail.house.gov](mailto:CommunityProjects.Ross@mail.house.gov)

**Due Date for this Request Form: Thursday, April 24, 2025 at 6:00PM EST**

**Due Date for Letters/Evidence of Community Support (in a single PDF): Monday, April 28, 2025 6:00PM EST**

*Note: Only non-profit entities, public institutions, and state and local government entities are eligible to request projects. Projects cannot be designated for private individuals or for-profit entities. Memorials, museums, and commemoratives will not be considered.* *The Subcommittee will not fund projects, or the portion of a project, for the direct benefit of resorts, golf courses, athletic fields, park amenities, gardens, or similar projects. The Subcommittee will only accept legally eligible requests under the following accounts: For FY 2026, the Interior Subcommittee will accept Community Project Funding requests in the Environmental Protection Agency – State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) account for certain clean water and drinking water infrastructure projects. The Subcommittee will not accept project requests in any other account. If you have questions about the appropriations community project submission process, please contact* [puj.adusumilli@mail.house.gov](mailto:puj.adusumilli@mail.house.gov) *to discuss.*

* **Entity Requesting Funds (legal name, no abbreviations):**
* **If this entity is a non-profit, please include documentation that the entity is a registered 501(c)(3) under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.**
* **Primary Point of Contact (name, email, phone number, organization address):**
* **Project Priority (if non-federal sponsor is submitting more than 1 project):**
* **Project description (not more than 1,000 characters):**
* **Amount requested:**
* **Total project cost:**
* **Can the project obligate all of the appropriated funds within 12 months after enactment (yes/no)?**
* **Estimated start and completion dates for the project:**
* **Include a budget describing in detail how the requested federal funding will be used by the grantee.**
* **Include an explanation of why the project is a good use of taxpayer funds.**

* + **Include evidence of community support in separate attachments (examples: letters of support from local governments; press articles highlighting the need for funds; support from newspaper editorial boards; evidence the project is listed on State intended use plans, community development plans, or other publicly available planning documents; resolutions passed by city councils or boards):**
* **Has this request been submitted to another Member, if yes, which Member(s) and who is the staff point-of-contact?**
  + **Is this a Clean Water SRF project or a Drinking Water SRF project?**
* **For clean water projects, the list of project options is found within the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1383(c) (Section 603(c) of the Clean Water Act).**
* **For drinking water projects, the statutory authority is found within Section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act and the list of project options is found within 40 CFR 35.3520(b)(2)(i-vi).**
  + **Is the** **project on your State’s most recently finalized Clean Water/Drinking Water SRF Intended Use Plan (IUP)?**
  + **Has the project received Federal funds previously? If so, please describe.**
  + **Does the project have (or expects to have within 12 months) its 20% cost share requirement?**
  + **Given the Federal nexus requirement, does the project help meet or maintain Clean Water Act/Safe Drinking Water Act standards? If so, please describe.**

# Community Project Funding

**Environmental Protection Agency – State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)**

For FY 2026, the Interior Subcommittee will accept Community Project Funding requests in the Environmental Protection Agency – State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) account for certain clean water and drinking water infrastructure projects. The Subcommittee will not accept project requests in any other account.

These projects include construction of and modifications to municipal sewage treatment plants and drinking water treatment plants. Similar to past practice, the Committee will be limiting STAG infrastructure grants only to projects that are publicly owned or owned by a non-profit entity and that are otherwise eligible for the funding from that state’s Clean Water or Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRF) loan programs.

When submitting EPA STAG Community Project Funding requests, please be aware of the following guidance:

* **Ban on for-profit recipients and privately-owned projects.** The Committee will not fund projects to for-profit entities and privately-owned projects are NOT eligible for infrastructure grants, even if they are otherwise eligible for assistance under a SRF program. Additionally, the Committee will not fund projects for resorts, golf courses, gardens, or similar projects.
* **State, municipal, local, territorial, or Tribal governmental entities as grantees.** Public entities should be considered as the primary grantees to oversee the completion of the project. For STAG water infrastructure projects, States have Intended Use Plans (IUPs) with drinking water and wastewater projects that have already been vetted by governmental officials.
* **Non-profits as grantees.** Non-profits will be considered on a limited basis at the discretion of the Chairman. If a Member requests that funding be directed to a non-profit organization, the Member must provide evidence that the recipient is a non-profit organization as described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. Many water projects often partner with non-profit entities to complete projects. Therefore, the Chairman will consider, on a limited basis, projects that are directed to non-profits with an inherently governmental function.
* **Federal Nexus.** The Committee will only fund projects with purposes authorized by Federal law and that can meet all underlying Federal requirements: o Clean water/wastewater projects: Title VI of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C 1381 et seq.
  + Drinking water projects: Section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. 300j-

12.

* **Matching requirements**. There is a minimum 20% cost share requirement for any portion of a project funded through a STAG infrastructure grant and the Committee will not waive matching requirements:
  + 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. However, assistance provided by a SRF does count towards the project’s matching requirement.
  + It is important that Member offices discuss with their State and local officials the ability for localities to meet matching requirements prior to requesting a project. This does not mean that matching funds must be in-hand prior to requesting a project, but that local officials must have a plan to meet such requirements for such a project to be viable.
* **One-year funding:** Each project request must be for FY 2026 funds only and cannot include a request for multiyear funding.
* **Project Amounts.** Members should use the range of project amounts funded in FY 2024 as a general guide when making requests. In FY 2024, most EPA STAG infrastructure projects funded in the House bill ranged from $100,000 - $5,000,000. Note that the Committee may consider higher project amounts for fiscal year 2026, and any caps will be determined by the Chairman after reviewing the full universe of requests.
* **Contact information.** It is very important to include accurate contact information for the prospective grantee when filling out the online request. This includes a point of contact, phone number, email information, and address. The grantee name entered into the online database must match the grantee name on the signed disclosure of financial interest certification letter.

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| STAG projects have very specific eligibility requirements, and the Committee will not consider projects that do not meet those requirements. The following lists some of the project types that are ineligible for STAG funding:  **Projects that are NOT generally eligible for STAG Grants** | | | |
| **Clean Water / Wastewater** | | **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 rain 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. |

The following list provides some examples of the types of projects that are eligible for STAG grant funding, and which are most frequently funded:

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| **Projects that ARE generally eligible for STAG Grants** | | | |
|  | **Clean Water / Wastewater** |  | **Drinking Water** |
| **1.** | **Wastewater treatment plants, including sludge handling facilities:** Upgraded (increase in treatment level) or expanded (increase in treatment capacity) facilities, including biological facilities, mechanical, a lagoon system, a land treatment system, or individual on‐site systems. | **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 to larger interceptor sewers. | **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 eligible only if 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 (i.e., a river, stream, lake, ocean, etc.). | **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:** Combined sewers are sewers that convey both wastewater and storm water and may overflow during periods of heavy rain. The costs to correct CSO and SSO overflow problems are eligible. | **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:** These projects include 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 where none had previously existed. |  |  |
| **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 (e.g., land for effluent application or recharge basins), and a place to store equipment and material during POTW construction. 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. This includes but is not limited to the purchase and installation of treatment equipment sufficient to meet reuse standards, distribution systems to support effluent reuse, recharge transmission lines, injection wells, and equipment to reuse effluent (e.g., gray water, condensate, and wastewater effluent reuse systems). |  |  |
| **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. |  |  |

**For additional eligibility information, please consult:**

* [**EPA’s Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Eligibility Handbook**](https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2019-10/documents/dwsrf_eligibility_handbook_june_13_2017_updated_508_versioni.pdf)
* [**EPA’s Overview of Clean Water State Revolving Fund Eligibilities**](https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2016-07/documents/overview_of_cwsrf_eligibilities_may_2016.pdf)