

Notice of Public Comment:

Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Intended Use Plans, State Reserve Program Priority Rating System, and Asset Inventory and Assessment Grant Program

May 4, 2020

The Division of Water Infrastructure is soliciting comments on the following:

- Priority Rating System used for the State Revolving Fund (SRF) and State Reserve Programs (SRP)
- Intended Use Plan (IUP) for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)
- Intended Use Plan (IUP) for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)
- Asset Inventory and Assessment Grant Program (AIA) for Fiscal Year 2020

The Priority Rating System is used to develop a priority scoring system for applications to the Division's funding programs. The Priority Rating System is used for the SRF and SRP programs. Proposed changes to the Priority Rating System include additional priority points available for resiliency-type projects.

The Intended Use Plans for the CWSRF and DWSRF programs provide details on administration of the Fiscal 2020 Federal Capitalization Grants for the State Revolving Fund. Proposed changes include additional allowances for projects to receive principal forgiveness of a portion of their loan. The SRF program offers low-interest loans for water infrastructure, including water and wastewater treatment facilities, wastewater collection systems, water distribution systems, reclaimed water facilities, energy efficiency upgrades, stormwater BMPs and stream restoration projects.

The draft CWSRF IUP, Priority Rating System for Wastewater Projects, the draft DWSRF IUP, and Priority Rating System for Drinking Water Projects, may be obtained on May 4, 2020 at <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-infrastructure-draft/division-water-infrastructure/reports>.

The Asset Inventory and Assessment Grant Program (AIA) provides grant funds to inventory existing water and/or sewer systems and document the condition of the inventoried infrastructure. Proposed changes to the AIA program include rephrasing of questions in the application and modifications to the Priority Rating System. Information about these changes may be obtained on May 4, 2020 at https://files.nc.gov/ncdeq/WI/Authority/2020_meetings/Item-G-AIA-Modifications-Staff-Report---SWIA-Meeting-4-8-20.pdf.

Interested parties are encouraged to provide comments that reflect support for these items, areas of concern, and suggestions for changes. Written comments may be provided at any time until 5:00 p.m. on June 4, 2020.

PURPOSE (SRFs):	To obtain public comments on the draft CWSRF and DWSRF IUPs and Priority Rating System for projects to be funded through the CWSRF and DWSRF.
Purpose (SRP):	To obtain public comments on the Priority Rating System for projects to be funded through the SRP.
Purpose (AIA):	To obtain public comments on the proposed clarifications to the narrative questions and changes to the priority rating system.

<p>SRF IUP HIGHLIGHTS:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The standard interest rate will continue to be one-half The Bond Buyer’s 20-Bond Index • Principal forgiveness available for projects that address nonviable systems • Principal forgiveness available based on affordability criteria for qualifying applicants; the maximum amount of principal forgiveness available per applicant is \$500,000 • Provisions for exceeding principal forgiveness caps now available if principal forgiveness amounts exceed demand • Targeted interest rates on loans for applicants that meet the criteria for principal forgiveness • Targeted interest rates for all green projects (For CWSRF only: stormwater BMPs, stream restoration, reclaimed water, energy efficiency) • Maximum loan amount of \$30 million dollars per applicant, per round (CWSRF) and \$20 million dollars per applicant, per round (DWSRF) • Prioritization now provided for resiliency projects for wastewater and drinking water projects
<p>SRP Priority Rating System Highlights</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Priority Rating System for the SRP will mirror the Priority Rating Systems for the CWSRF and DWSRF
<p>AIA Program Highlights</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrative questions modified for clarity • Priority Rating System modified to provide better granularity
<p>CONTACT INFORMATION:</p>	<p>Submit comments before 5:00 p.m. on June 4, 2020, using the contact information listed below. Information related to IUPs and Priority Rating Systems for the CWSRF and DWSRF may be obtained on May 4, 2020 at https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-infrastructure-draft/division-water-infrastructure/reports. Information on the proposed AIA changes may be obtained at https://files.nc.gov/ncdeq/WI/Authority/2020_meetings/Item-G-AIA-Modifications-Staff-Report---SWIA-Meeting-4-8-20.pdf. Information may also be obtained using the following contact information:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Email: Cathy.Akroyd@ncdenr.gov Telephone: 919-707-9187</p> <p style="text-align: center;">U. S. Mail: Cathy Akroyd Public Information Officer Division of Water Infrastructure 1633 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-1633</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Courier or Special Delivery: Cathy Akroyd Division of Water Infrastructure 8th floor, Archdale Building 512 N. Salisbury St. Raleigh, NC 27604</p>