

Ohio's Water & Wastewater Infrastructure Grant Program (Ohio's ARPA Story)

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Early Visions of Water & Wastewater Funding

- ARPA becomes law on March 11, 2021
- Ohio EPA prepares an internal proposal (April 2021)
- Ohio EPA prepares a revised internal proposal (May 2021)
- Discussion: Funding levels, Focus areas, Implementation
- General Assembly passes HB 168 at the end of June 2021

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Key Elements of HB 168

- Combined with provisions to repay unemployment advances, and support improvements in pediatric behavioral health.
- Appropriates \$250 million; creates “Water and Sewer Quality Program”
- Directs Department of Development to administer the program
- Allows up to 1% to be used for administration
- Grants can be awarded to political subdivisions and “other bodies politic”
- Requires a local match but provide for a waiver.
- Requires County Engineers to submit priority list of projects

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Department of Development and Ohio EPA

- Under HB 168, Department of Development (DOD) was directed to administer the ARPA funds.
- The Administration directed DOD and Ohio EPA to collaborate
- DOD has a Community Services Division that administers CDBG funds
- Partnership was smooth and seamless
 - Senior Leadership Teams meet regularly
 - Includes people from programs, legal, communications, etc...

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Basics of the Water & Wastewater Infrastructure Grant Program

- \$250M total; DOD can use up to 1% for administration
- \$5M max. for construction awards; exception to go to \$10 M
- Matching funds required, but not specified %. Waiver for disadvantaged
- \$5 M reserved for design grants, \$250K maximum for design
- Emphasis on readiness-to-proceed and first-come/first served
- Scoring rubric balances social and environmental factors, and project readiness

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Program Basics - Scoring rubric

Scoring Criteria	Maximum Points
Basic Project Info	10
Economically Disadvantaged	15
Providing access to public water/sewer	12
Regionalization	10
Addressing public health/water quality	15
Achieving Environmental Compliance	8
Project Readiness	15
Project Match	5
Supporting Documentation	10
Total	100

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Program Materials and Application

- Within 30 days of the passage of HB 168, DOD and Ohio EPA:
 - Developed program guidelines, a detailed scoring explanation, and a FAQ document
 - Created an online application portal
 - Held an Informational Webinar attended by 500+
- Materials are available at:

www.investinginohiosfuture.ohio.gov

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Timeline

Extremely fast program development and delivery!



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Current Status and Level of Interest

- 1,236 applications, totaling \$1.42 billion
- \$1.38 billion construction / \$41 million design
- Avg Construction request = approx. \$1.4 million
 - 79% received pts for Economically Distressed
 - 26% received pts for providing access to unserved areas
 - 12% received pts for involving regionalization
 - 72% received pts for addressing a WQ/PH concern
 - 92% proposed matching funds

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Observations on Program and Process

- Lightning fast – pros and cons
- Collaboration – pros and cons
- Communication is key
- Emphasis on who's ready now
- Managing expectations
- We're not done yet...
- Ripple effects SRFs, workforce, supply chains

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