

May 3, 2021

EPA seeks suitors for \$5.5 billion in water infrastructure loans

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EPA last week published a Notice of Funding Availability (<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/04/29/2021-08867/notification-of-funding-for-credit-assistance-under-the-water-infrastructure-finance-and-innovation>) for \$5.5 billion worth of water infrastructure loans through the agency's Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program. The loan funds will be leveraged from WIFIA's congressional appropriation for FY21.

WIFIA offers low-cost loans to finance major drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects that generally cost more than \$20 million, though smaller-scale loans are available for projects serving rural communities. According (<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-65-billion-new-funding-water-infrastructure-projects>) to EPA, to date the agency has closed 49 WIFIA loans delivering more than \$9.3 billion worth of credit assistance.

This year EPA will prioritize WIFIA projects that address lead and emerging drinking water contaminants, repair or replace aging water infrastructure, or protect against extreme weather events, among other goals. A water system that wishes to pursue a WIFA loan should submit (<https://www.epa.gov/wifia/wifia-application-process>) a letter of interest to EPA by July 23.

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