



# The Watershed

Summer 2023

## Indiana State Revolving Fund Loan Program Newsletter

### Inside this Issue

- [Lead Service Line Inventory \(LSLI\)](#)
- [PER Guidance Updates](#)
- [New Borrower and Bypass Procedure](#)
- [New Submittal Methods](#)
- [Changes to the IFA/SRF Technical Organization Chart](#)

With the passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, SRF Loan Programs across the country have experienced a record influx of funding. Indiana is no different. Over the past two years we have completed over 120 financings for Indiana communities amounting to over \$1.1 billion in funding. We do not expect demand to decrease in the short term; in fact, we have received over \$3 billion in requests for funds as shown on our current State Fiscal Year 2024 Project Priority Lists.

We have posted our final project priority lists where we have identified which projects are eligible for funding in the current state fiscal year. We will reach out to all Participants' Financial Advisors and Consulting Engineers to discuss funding packages and closing timelines.

In the meantime, we thank you for your continued support and we look forward to continuing to offer a low-cost source of funding for important water and sewer improvement projects across our great State.

### Build America, Buy America (BABA)

The EPA has issued implementation documents and guidance for the Build America Buy America Act. The Act requires that federally funded projects must document that all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials incorporated in the project are produced in the United States. This requirement will only apply to projects designated as equivalency in the SRF program. SRF program staff will inform you of your project's equivalency status prior to funding. Any SRF funded project that is not designated equivalency will continue to document compliance with the American Iron and Steel requirement.

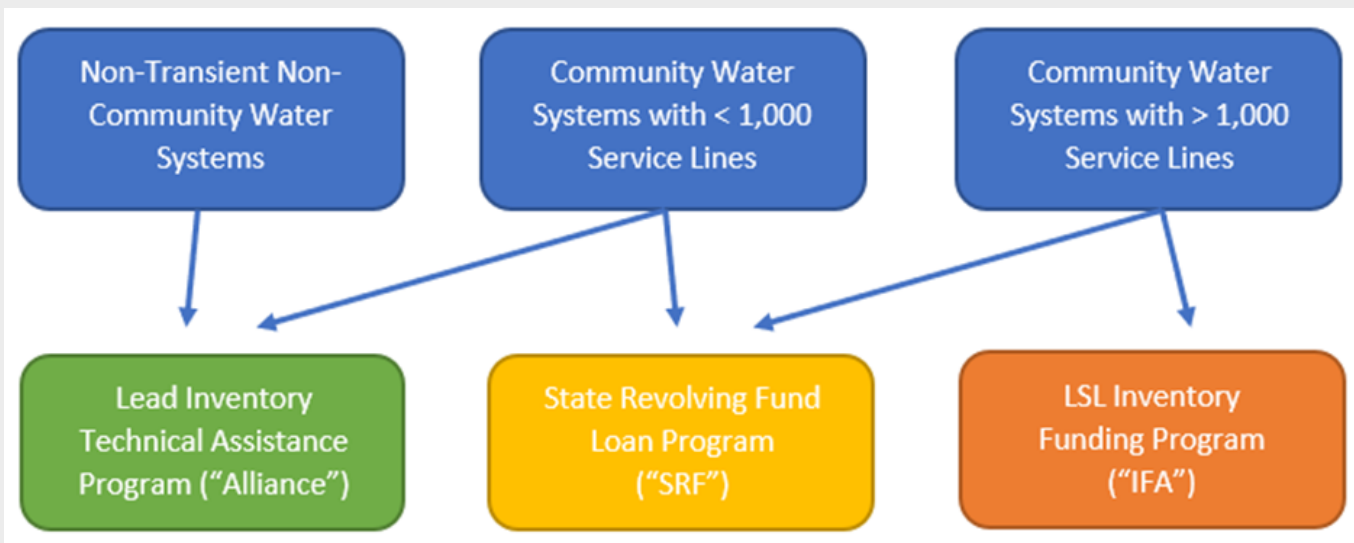
The EPA has also issued an adjustment period waiver of the requirements of the Build America Buy America Act for the State Revolving Fund Program. Any SRF equivalency project that has initiated project design planning prior to May 14, 2022, will be exempt from the requirement. This waiver will be available for application until September 2024.

EPA's guidance can be reviewed [here](#). Please contact Amy Henninger at [ahenning@ifa.in.gov](mailto:ahenning@ifa.in.gov) with questions.

## Lead Service Line Inventory Assistance

The Indiana Finance Authority (IFA) has new funding opportunities available to water utilities seeking assistance in completing a Lead Service Line (LSL) Inventory. In order to comply with the Environmental Protection Agency’s October 16, 2024 deadline for the [Lead & Copper Rule Revisions](#), the Indiana Department of Environmental Management will collect LSL data using its LSL Inventory reporting template and online reporting portal; this template and its instructions can be found [here](#). The IFA is offering three different funding paths:

1. **All Non-transient Non-Community Water Systems (NTNCWS) and Community Water Systems (CWS)** with less than 1,000 service connections have access to a free LSL Inventory Technical Assistance Program managed by the Alliance of Indiana Rural Water. More information about the program and how to obtain assistance is featured on [Alliance’s website](#). See the “Alliance” box in Figure 1.
2. **All CWSs** pursuing financial assistance from the [Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program](#) can add the cost of LSL Inventory work to their applications. See the “SRF” box in Figure 1.
3. **CWSs with greater than 1,000 service connections** are eligible for IFA’s LSL Inventory Funding Program, which is the focus of this website. See the “IFA” box in Figure 1.



**Figure 1:** IFA’s three funding paths for assistance with Lead Service Line Inventory work. Arrows indicate that utilities can apply to multiple programs at the same time.

To date, the IFA’s Lead Service Line Inventory Funding Program has received 181 applications from 160 utilities totaling approximately \$5 million.

Round 2 will open in February 2024, giving utilities time to complete a basic inventory (Type I project), which is a requirement in order to apply for assistance with LSL Inventory planning work (Type II) and/or LSL Inventory validation work (Type III).

For more information, visit [IFA LSL Inventory Funding website](#).



# The Watershed

## PER Guidance Updates

IFA would like to thank ACEC for their assistance and input as we've worked to update and streamline the Drinking Water and Clean Water PER Guidance documents. The new guidance was unveiled June 19th through the GovDelivery listserv and can be found at <https://www.in.gov/ifa/srf/applications-guidance-and-documents/>. If you did not receive this update, you may subscribe for IFA-specific program updates at [subscriptions.IN.gov](https://subscriptions.IN.gov).

Major changes to the guidance are highlighted below:

**New Submittal Method** – Electronic applications and PERs are to be submitted to [PERSubmittal@ifa.in.gov](mailto:PERSubmittal@ifa.in.gov). SRF will continue to request two hard copies of the PER.

**New Formatting** – The suggested PER table of contents has been modified to stream-line the submittal of information necessary for scoring and review of the project.

**Distinction between suggested organization and required content** – SRF continues to accept alternate forms of planning documents that do not follow the suggested table of contents (master plans, OCRA PERs, RD PERs, etc.). If an alternate format is submitted, please confirm all required content is provided in supplemental documentation and the new PER Content Checklist is included with the submittal.

**Service Line Information** – The updated DW PER Guidance now includes a request for lead service line information to facilitate accurate project scoring.

**Executive Order 14030** – A “Relocation out of the Floodplain” alternative is now required for both Drinking Water and Clean Water projects with proposed above ground infrastructure that could be negatively impacted by 100-year or 500-year flood events. This new alternative allows IFA to comply with Executive Order 14030.

**Net Present Worth Analysis** – A Net Present Worth analysis for all feasible alternatives is now a requirement of both the Clean Water and Drinking Water programs.

**AMP Requirements** – An executed AMP certificate, along with updated AMP language, is now required as part of the PER submittal (or no later than April 1) for project ranking on the upcoming state fiscal year Project Priority List (PPL).

**Environmental Information** – Several updates to Chapter 5–Evaluation of Environmental Impacts were made to address regulatory changes, capture frequently requested project information during the initial project submittal, and facilitate accurate project scoring.

## New Borrower and Bypass Procedure

The SRF Loan Program is updating its “Bypass Procedure” found in the Intended Use Plan located at [www.srf.in.gov](http://www.srf.in.gov) to enable a first-time borrower whose project ranks close, but not within the SRF Program’s fundable range, to “bypass” a project in the Fundable Range if that higher ranking project/borrower has unspent loan or grant proceeds from a prior SRF financing.

The reason for this change is to accommodate a new EPA request that first-time SRF participants be prioritized, as well as to encourage communities that have been awarded SRF funding to spend down available funds prior to reapplying to the SRF Program for additional funding.



# The Watershed

## New Submittal Methods

IFA is excited to roll-out a new document submittal method to be used by loan applicants and their consultants. Moving forward, please use the following e-mail addresses to submit electronic documents to SRF for review and approval.

- [ProfAgreements@ifa.in.gov](mailto:ProfAgreements@ifa.in.gov) – Professional services are eligible expenses and often reimbursed or paid for through SRF financing. Please submit executed copies of professional agreements to this e-mail address.
- [PostBids@ifa.in.gov](mailto:PostBids@ifa.in.gov) – As a project moves from bidding to construction, SRF must collect and review several documents. Please use this e-mail address for submittal of post-bid documents and post-contract award documents. Please also use this address for submittal of equipment and alternate construction contract procurement documents, where applicable and allowable by state bidding laws.
- [PERSubmittal@ifa.in.gov](mailto:PERSubmittal@ifa.in.gov) – Please use this e-mail address to submit electronic copies of funding applications, PERs, and associated PER documents such as responses to review comments, amendments, and addendums.
- [ChangeOrders@ifa.in.gov](mailto:ChangeOrders@ifa.in.gov) – Please submit executed construction contract change orders and supporting documentation to this e-mail address. Initial correspondence regarding work change directives and potential future change orders should continue to be directed to the assigned SRF project engineer for review and preliminary confirmation of funding eligibility.

## Changes to the IFA/SRF Technical Organization Chart

Camille Meiners is now the Director of Technical Review, Brandi Rodriguez is the Lead Engineer, and Brett Roberts is the SRF Program Manager (both CW and DW) with Assistant Program Manager, Jenn Pence. Gayle Hicks has moved back into the Bidding/Construction Coordinator role. The Water Resources Infrastructure and Planning group is now housed with the technical team. Sarah Hudson is the Technical Assistance and Outreach Manager. We'll continue to keep you informed as staff is added to the Water Programs team.

While the roles are similar, this should simplify who to contact when you have questions. All general SRF/eligibility questions can continue to go to Camille. Brandi will field any PER or other specific questions. Contact Brett for anything related to either program. Sarah will continue to manage regional meetings, water loss audits, and other programs, as well as the Lead Service Line Inventory Grant Program. As always, please continue to contact anyone at SRF and we'll be happy to connect you to the correct person if we cannot answer your specific question. Thanks again for your support and all you do for Indiana communities.

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