



The Watershed

Summer 2022

Indiana State Revolving Fund Loan Program Newsletter

From the Director

This is an exciting time at the Indiana Finance Authority's State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Programs as we have been provided with substantial, additional resources to finance important infrastructure improvement projects across our State.



The recently signed federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will more than double our federal allotment from US EPA in each of the next five years. These new federal resources represent the largest single investment in our nation's water and wastewater utilities and provides a unique and special opportunity for the SRF Program to fund water projects across Indiana to improve the lives of Hoosiers. These funds will provide the SRF Loan Programs with additional financing tools to address emerging contaminants, replace lead service lines, and make needed improvements to aging infrastructure in the disadvantaged communities of our State.

We look forward to working with you to identify and develop projects to take advantage of this monumental opportunity to improve water quality and public health for all Hoosiers.

With thanks,

Bill

Bill Harkins, SRF Director

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DID YOU KNOW?

Nearly 10 million American households and 400,000 schools and child care centers lack safe drinking water. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) will invest \$55 billion to expand access to clean drinking water for households, businesses, schools, and child care centers all across the country.

For more information about BIL in Indiana, please contact:

- Staci Orr Gardner (SOrrGardner@ifa.in.gov)
Clean Water Program Manager
- Brett Roberts (BRoberts@ifa.in.gov)
Drinking Water Program Manager



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Funding Opportunities for Disadvantaged Communities

President Biden signed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) on November 15, 2021. The BIL includes \$50 billion to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to strengthen the nation’s drinking water and wastewater systems – the single largest investment in clean water that the federal government has ever made. A significant portion of these water infrastructure dollars will flow through the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds.

A key priority of the BIL is to ensure disadvantaged communities benefit equitably from this historic investment in water infrastructure. To provide this result, the Indiana Finance Authority’s (IFA) SRF Programs (SRF) will direct substantial grant funding to Indiana communities whose median household income (MHI) is 80% or lower of the state’s MHI. For simplicity, the SRF will assume this threshold is an MHI of \$45,000 or less. The IFA will require a community provide census tract data to verify eligibility or an income survey if the area directly impacted by the project is smaller than the applicable census tract. Please refer to the SRF’s Intended Use Plans (IUPs) for both DWSRF (referenced as Disadvantaged Community Assistance) and CWSRF (referenced as Affordability Criteria) at www.srf.in.gov for complete definitions of “disadvantaged community assistance.” The IUPs are posted for a three-week public comment period. Please check the SRF website for the IUP postings in June and July. SRF encourages public comment on the IUPs.

Communities who have a project but are uncertain if they meet the disadvantaged communities’ criteria may contact the SRF Director, Bill Harkins at 317-234-4862, for further assistance.

Please note: As the EPA’s Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) will be going through a revision in the coming months, the SRF will ask communities doing distribution improvements to identify how they plan to comply with these revisions for their communities.

Build America, Buy America (BABA)

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law also includes the Build America, Buy America Act. The Act requires that federally funded projects must document that all iron, steel, manufactured projects, and construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States. This is similar to the current American Iron and Steel (AIS) requirements, but adds manufactured goods to the regulated material.

While the Act went into effect on May 14th, 2022, the EPA is currently drafting guidance and national waivers to clarify how Indiana will apply the requirements. EPA is maintaining a website to notify the public of this process at <https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/build-america-buy-america-baba>.

More information will be shared with applicants as it is received. Contact Amy Henninger at 317-232-6566 with questions.



Updated Bidding and Contract Review Process

We've been working behind the scenes to update some of our bidding and contract review documents in the hopes of providing more clarification of the process and of what needs to be submitted to us and when. SRF loan recipients and consulting engineers should expect to see final versions of our updated guidance documents for upcoming projects. A summary of the new process is highlighted below:

After the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) approval has been issued and prior to bidding, the Engineer of Record and the Authorized Signatory shall complete and return the Front-End Document Certification (FEDC) to SRF, which certifies compliance with SRF requirements. A blank copy of this will be provided to you. The executed copy should be sent to Amber Porter, PE, Construction Manager, at aporter1@ifa.in.gov.

After bids are received, SRF requires the submission of post-bid documentation for the selected bidder. A list of required documents needed for approval to award the contract will be provided to you. Please send the documents to Amber Porter, PE, Construction Manager, at aporter1@ifa.in.gov for review and approval. After SRF has reviewed the post-bid documentation and deemed it to be adequate, a Contract Award Approval will be issued. Awarding the contract prior to receiving the Contract Award Approval from SRF is **NOT advised**.

Once the contract is executed between the contractor and the SRF loan recipient and the Notice to Proceed has been issued, please submit copies of the contract documents to Amber Porter, PE, Construction Manager, at aporter1@ifa.in.gov. A list of required post-contract award documents will be provided to you.

Once construction begins, please refer to the SRF memorandum issued at the Pre-Construction Meeting for information on change order submittals, disbursements, inspections, etc.

If you have any questions about this process, please contact Amber Porter, PE, SRF Construction Manager, at aporter1@ifa.in.gov.

Summary of Required Documents:

In summary, the following submissions are required:

- 1) FEDC to be sent prior to beginning bidding
- 2) Post-Bid Documentation to be sent as soon as possible following bid opening
- 3) Post-Contract Award Documentation to be sent as soon as possible following contract execution and Notice to Proceed issuance



Clean Water Needs Survey

Indiana's State Revolving Fund Loan Program is seeking your assistance!

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has kicked off its 2022 Clean Watershed Needs Survey (CWNS). This nationwide survey is a comprehensive assessment of the capital needs to meet the water quality goals set in the Clean Water Act. This report is used by Congress to assist with informed budget decisions and provide information on general water quality issues to the public.

To be a success, input from your community is vital. To participate, simply provide the SRF staff with copies of the planning documents and cost estimates for wastewater infrastructure improvements that have been created for your community with a goal of outlining all projects necessary to meet water quality goals over the next twenty years.

Requests for information are currently being emailed from the Indiana State Revolving Fund Loan Program related to the CWNS. We want to identify as many water quality needs as possible, so if you have any projects on the twenty-year horizon, we want to hear from you. Please respond by the end of September 30, 2022, to allow Indiana to successfully complete the survey and keep Congress aware of the needs of our State. Responses by the deadline are much appreciated! Communities that apply to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and participate in the CWNS will earn bonus points when their project is scored and ranked for funding.

SRF staff and other resources are available to assist you. For more information, please contact Amy Henninger at 317-232-6566 or via e-mail at ahenning@ifa.in.gov.

Loan Spend-Down Requirements

When completing an SRF financing, borrowers are typically required to complete construction, submit all invoices, and fully draw their loan within **24 months** of closing. The SRF may assess a Non-Use Fee, which is typically 1% of the remaining funds left unspent on the loan after 24 months.

SRF communicates with borrowers periodically to discuss the status of the SRF loan, including the amount of funds remaining and eligible options for any remaining balance, in order to assist with the timely spend-down of funds to avoid assessment of a Non-Use Fee.

If a loan is approaching the Non-Use Fee date, please reach out to SRF's Clean Water or Drinking Water Program Managers to discuss possible options.

City of Delphi honored with AQUARIUS Award

Each year the U.S. E.P.A. recognizes Drinking Water SRF-funded project for innovative financing, system partnership, community engagement, environmental and public health protection or problem solving. Recent awardees include the City of East Chicago for its Lead Service Line Replacement Program and Town of Cayuga for its water main extension project to serve a nearby school corporation. This year the U.S. E.P.A. honored the City of Delphi for its capital improvement drinking water improvement project.

This project allowed the City of Delphi to provide reliable and safe drinking water to its customers by adding capacity, removing secondary contaminants, and installing additional water storage to enable for the rehabilitation of the system's existing storage tanks. These projects will result in a more sustainable environment for a large area employer and have a direct impact on the community and area as a whole. The scale of this project is significant for the area and customer base and positions the community for future project phases.

We are thankful for the opportunity to fund projects like these across the state.



Above: New Well House in Delphi, Indiana funded through the Indiana State Revolving Fund (SRF).

Welcome (and welcome back) to SRF!



Brett Roberts

Brett joined the IFA in November 2021 as SRF's Drinking Water Program Manager. He holds a Master's of Public Affairs (MPA) with a concentration in Community and Economic Development from Indiana University Bloomington's (IUB) Paul H. O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Brett will be starting the part-time Masters of Environmental Sustainability at IUB this fall.

Following graduate school, Brett spent time in South Bend as a Community Development Planner helping communities across north central Indiana through state and federal grant processes and completing their comprehensive planning efforts. Brett is a native Hoosier from Columbia City and lives in downtown Indianapolis.

In his spare time he enjoys reading, biking, volunteering with Indiana Landmarks, and exploring America's Third Coast: the Great Lakes.

Please contact Brett at broberts@ifa.in.gov or at **317-232-8623** with any questions. Welcome Brett!



Staci Orr Gardner

Staci began her career at the IFA in 2015 working on special projects and moved to the IFA's Water Resources and Infrastructure Planning Program. Following that, Staci became the Drinking Water SRF Program Manager. She left the IFA in the fall of 2021 to work as the Outreach Director for Indiana AWWA. SRF is fortunate she has returned to the program as the Clean Water Program Manager and will be taking on the responsibilities of Jacob Schmicker, who departed SRF in May 2022.

She holds an MPA-MSES (Public Affairs and Environmental Science), with a concentration in water resources from the Paul H. O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University Bloomington.

In her free time, she enjoys going on adventures with her husband and pups, kayaking at Eagle Creek, and visiting State Parks.

She can be reached at SOrrGardner@ifa.in.gov or at **317-232-4396**. Welcome back, Staci!



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