

Project Eligibility and Ranking Criteria for ARPA Competitive Grants

Project Eligibility Criteria

Clean Water (Wastewater/Sewer/Storm Water/Irrigation or non-source point)		Drinking Water	
Criteria	Pass/Fail	Criteria	Pass/Fail
Eligible Applicants – HB 632 Definition	P/F	Eligible Applicants – HB 632 Definition	P/F
Eligible Water and Sewer Infrastructure Projects – ARPA	P/F	Eligible Water and Sewer Infrastructure Projects – ARPA	P/F
Local Government Pledges Matching Funds	P/F	Local Government Pledges Matching Funds	P/F
Eligible project expenses fall within March 3, 2021 to December 31, 2026.	P/F	Eligible project expenses fall within March 3, 2021 to December 31, 2026.	P/F
Applicant provided a certification that the project is a necessary investment in water or sewer infrastructure as defined in ARPA and all applicable guidance.	P/F	Applicant provided a certification that the project is a necessary investment in water or sewer infrastructure as defined in ARPA and all applicable guidance.	P/F
Applicant provided the certification that funds will not be used to directly or indirectly offset revenue resulting from a tax cut enacted since March 3, 2021 or deposit into any pension fund.	P/F	Applicant provided the certification that funds will not be used to directly or indirectly offset revenue resulting from a tax cut enacted since March 3, 2021 or deposit into any pension fund.	P/F
Applicant provided the certification that of compliance with HB 632 Section 28.	P/F	Applicant provided the certification that of compliance with HB 632 Section 28.	P/F

Project Ranking Criteria

Clean Water		Drinking Water	
Ranking Criteria	Points	Ranking Criteria	Points
1. WATER QUALITY OR PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACTS RELATED TO THE PROJECT		1. DOCUMENTED HEALTH RISKS	
a. Public Health	75	a. Acute health risks	120
<i>Is the purpose of the project to protect a public health?</i>		<i>Does the project address documented acute health risks?</i>	
b. Water Quality	25	b. Non-acute health risks	60
Is the purpose of the project to reduce toxic effects to aquatic life?	25	Revised Total Coliform Rule	
Is the purpose of the project to reduce sediment loading to a surface water body?	25	Groundwater Rule and Montana Chlorination Rule - Treatment Technique Violation.	
Is the purpose of the project to reduce nutrients in a surface water body?	25	Chemical and Radiological Contaminant Rules	
Is the purpose of the project for compliance with national secondary standards?	25	Significant deficiencies identified in a sanitary survey.	
Is the proposed project to help meet a TMDL?	50	Subtotal Documented Health Risks-Total Available Points	180
Project addresses a formal state or federal enforcement action?	25	2. POTENTIAL HEALTH RISKS	
Subtotal Water Quality or Public Health Impacts-Total Available Points	250	a. Microbiological and Nitrate Health Risks	50
2. EFFECTIVENESS OF PROPOSED PROJECT IN IMPROVING WATER QUALITY OR PUBLIC HEALTH		b. Chemical Contaminant Health Risks	30
Project is expected to eliminate health hazards or restore local water body to fully supporting all uses that are impacted by the activity.	100	Subtotal Potential Health Risks-Total Available Points	80
OR		3. COMPLIANCE (points are either/or)	
Any project that directly improves the quality of ground or surface water, but may not fully restore uses.	50	Compliance with Current or future regulatory requirements.	50
Project is primarily designed to improve infrastructure and/or may not have direct impacts to improving water quality.	24	Project addresses a formal state or federal enforcement action.	25
Subtotal Effectiveness in Proving/Improving Public Health-Total Available Points	100	Subtotal Compliance-Total Available Points	50
3. ACTIVITY-SPECIFIC CRITERIA (either a. point source or b. nonpoint source)		4. CONSOLIDATION OR CREATION OF A NEW SYSTEM	
a. Wastewater Projects (Point Source Projects)		Projects which will create or consolidate a community water system to address existing public health and water efficiency problems.	
(1) Capacity Issues	10	Subtotal Consolidation or Creation/New-Total Available Points	30
(2) Reliability or Obsolescence	20	5. Conservation	
(3) Beneficial Use	20	The proposed project will improve water use efficiency?	30
(4) Water Conservation	10	Water meters are installed in the entire project area.	20
(5) Energy Conservation	10	Proposed project reduces energy consumption or includes energy reducing principles or technologies.	30
b) Nonpoint Source Projects		Subtotal Conservation-Total Available Points	80
The proposed project will improve water use efficiency.	20		
Proposed project will have beneficial uses in addition to water quality protection such as promoting wildlife habitat.	25		

