



2026 SRF CALL FOR PROJECTS

Clean Water and Drinking Water

January 29, 2026

des.sc.gov/SRFcall 

Today's Speakers



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SRF Division Director



Noel Hebert, CPA
RIA Finance Director

Webinar Agenda



Overview

Who and What are Eligible?

How to Apply and Expectations

Timelines, Tips, and Federal Requirements

Funding History and What to Expect for 2026

Financial Process and Requirements

Q & A



State Revolving Fund Overview

1

Clean Water (CWSRF)

- Clean Water Act
- Wastewater & Stormwater Projects
- Low-Interest Loans and Principal Forgiveness Funding

2

Drinking Water (DWSRF)

- Safe Drinking Water Act
- Drinking Water Projects, including PFAS and lead service line replacements
- Low-Interest Loans and Principal Forgiveness Funding

Partnership in Program Management



SC DEPARTMENT *of*
**ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES**

**DES is the EPA grantee and
manages the technical
aspects of the program**

**RIA's Office of Local
Government (OLG) handles
the financial responsibilities
of the Fund**



**South Carolina
Rural Infrastructure Authority**



RIA & DES • STATE REVOLVING FUND

CW Eligible Sponsors & Projects

Assistance for Public Entities:

- Municipalities
- Counties
- Special Purpose Districts
- Joint Regional Entities

What projects are NOT eligible:

- ⊗ Projects not supported by the Section 208 Water Quality Management Plan are not eligible.
- ⊗ Routine operations and maintenance projects are not eligible.
- ⊗ Equipment that will not be a permanent fixture of the system is not eligible.
- ⊗ Wages for force account or in-house labor are not eligible.

Sponsors must be in compliance with their NPDES permit to be eligible unless the funded project will restore compliance with the permit.



CW Eligible Activities



Publicly-Owned Treatment Works (POTW)

- New WWTPs, upgrades or expansions to WWTPs including residuals handling and disposal
- New or rehabilitation of pump stations
- Sewer line rehabilitation or replacement
- Relocation of sewer lines due to road widening
- System evaluations and planning projects
- Resiliency projects

Non-Point Source Pollution (NPS)

- Improvements to stormwater management and conveyance systems
- Watershed improvements such as land use controls
- Projects addressing groundwater discharge to surface water that causes a negative impact to surface water quality
- Stream restoration and stabilization

DW Eligible Sponsors & Projects

Community Water Systems owned or operated by:

- Municipalities
- Counties
- Special Purpose Districts
- Joint Regional Entities
- +
 - Non-Profit, Community Systems established under state law

What projects are NOT eligible:

- ⊗ Equipment that is not a permanent fixture of the system is not eligible.
- ⊗ Routine operations and maintenance isn't eligible. This includes water meter replacement projects.
- ⊗ Wages for force account or in-house labor are not eligible.
- ⊗ Projects that are the result of growth are typically not eligible.



DW Eligible Activities



Drinking water treatment, storage, and distribution projects; and Water conservation projects

- New water treatment plants and upgrades or expansions to existing plants
- Water storage facilities such as elevated storage tanks
- New or rehabilitation of water lines
- Infrastructure to interconnect drinking water systems
- New wells
- Relocation of water lines due to road widening.
- System evaluations and planning
- Lead Service Line Replacements
- PFAS-related projects
- Resiliency projects

PQ: How to Apply



Submit a two-page Project Questionnaire (PQ) to DES

Download available at:
des.sc.gov/SRFcall



PQ's are due by March 20, 2026



Email Completed PQ's to SRF-Info@des.sc.gov

	Project Questionnaire Clean Water State Revolving Fund	
		SCDES Use Only SRF - _____
GENERAL INFORMATION		
1. Project Sponsor _____		
2. Sponsor Address _____		
3. Sponsor Contact _____		
Contact Phone _____		
4. Consultant (if known), Firm _____		
Engineer Phone _____		
5. PQ submitted by <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor <input type="checkbox"/> Consultant If a consultant submits this form, include a letter indicating the sponsor's consent for the project.		
6. Date Submitted _____		
PROJECT INFORMATION (Please refer to instructions.)		
7. Project Title _____		
8. County where project takes place _____		
9. Describe and define the project location. Please supply any GPS coordinates or street addresses . <input type="checkbox"/> Project map(s) are attached showing both a regional view and a project level view.		
10. Project Description - Describe the scope of the project. _____		

	Project Questionnaire Drinking Water State Revolving Fund	
		SCDES Use Only SRF - _____
GENERAL INFORMATION		
1. Project Sponsor _____		
2. Sponsor Address _____		
3. Sponsor Contact _____		
Contact Phone _____		Title _____
		Email _____
4. Consultant (if known) Firm _____		
Engineer Phone _____		Engineer _____
		Email _____
5. PQ submitted by <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor <input type="checkbox"/> Consultant If a consultant submits this form, include a letter indicating the sponsor's consent for the project.		
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Tips As You Apply



Tip #1:

Provide a Detailed
Cost Estimate

\$2 million max for PF

Tip #2:

Provide Your Latest Audit

Resolve delinquent audits by
March 20th

Tip #3:

Consider Scalability

Recommend use of
ad alternates when
bidding PF projects

Out-of-the-Box Ideas to Fund Loan Projects

Large Projects in 2 Stages

- Planning & Design
- Construction

Project Phasing

Projects Ready to Proceed and Large Line Projects will be Prioritized

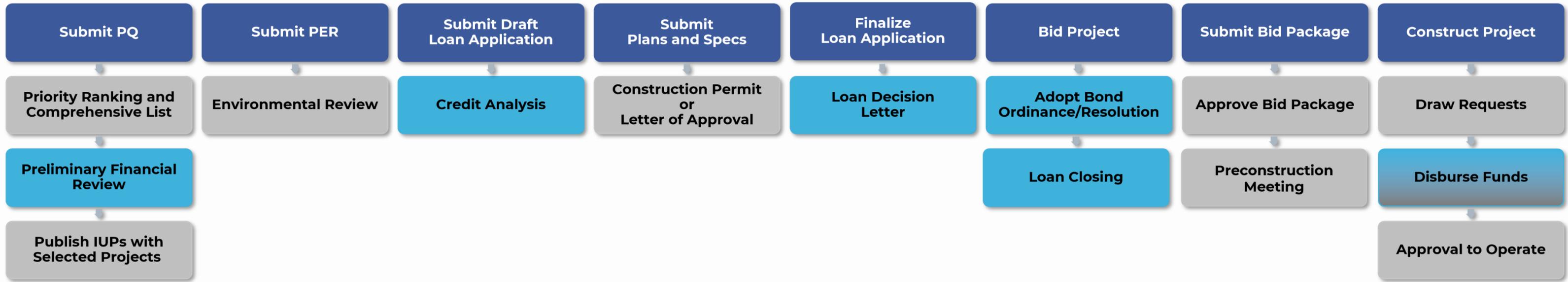


Timeline for Typical SRF Process

Reminder:
PQs Due by
March 20, 2026

Timeline for the Typical SRF Process

KEY: Activities Performed by Applicant (Sponsor) Activities Performed by DES Activities Performed by RIA



Expected Timeliness of Projects



Loan Projects should have approved plans and specs by July 31, 2027, and an executed Loan Agreement by December 31, 2027

PF Projects should have an executed Loan Assistance Agreement by September 30, 2027

Projects that do not meet these deadlines may be administratively withdrawn from our program.

Federal Requirements Summary

General

- Utility Sustainability Assessment
- Civil Rights
- Environmental Review
- Davis-Bacon
- American Iron and Steel
- Debarment and Suspension
- Cost and Effectiveness (CW Only)
- Fiscal Sustainability Plan (CW Only)

Equivalency

All General requirements PLUS:

- Build America, Buy America (BABA)
- Prohibition on Telecommunications & Video Surveillance
- URLAP (Land acquisition)
- DBE (MBE/WBE)
- EEO (Affirmative Action)
- Single Audit Act
- FFATA Reporting
- Signage (only if Construction)
- A/E Procurement (CW Only)

Highlights

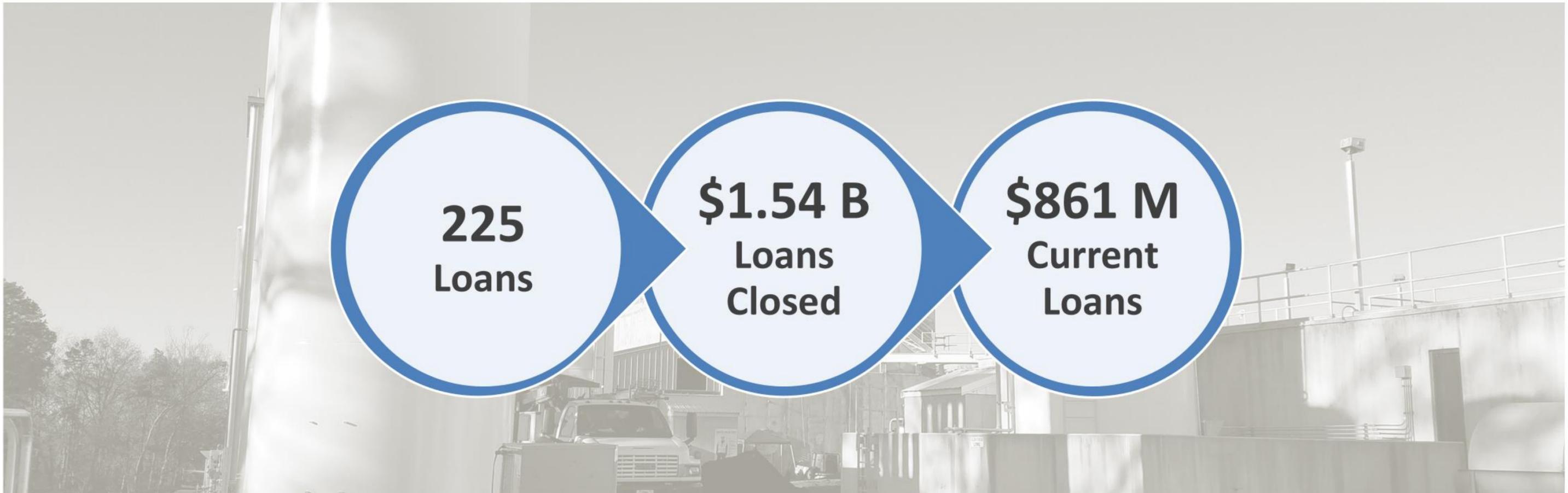
- BABA
- DBE
- A/E Procurement for CW Equiv

SRF Funding Summary: 1989 to 2025

225
Loans

\$1.54 B
Loans
Closed

\$861 M
Current
Loans



SRF Funding Available

**Clean Water
"All Eligible"**

≈ \$250 Million available in Loans

≈ \$13.9 million available for Principal
Forgiveness

**Drinking
Water
"All Eligible"**

≈ \$100 Million available in Loans

≈ \$16.6 million available for Principal
Forgiveness

**Drinking
Water
Specialized
Funding**

- SRF Lead Service Line Replacement Funding (\$40M) (1/2 loan, 1/2 principal forgiveness)
- SRF PFAS Principal Forgiveness (≈ \$11M)
- PFAS Federal Grant Funding for Small and Disadvantaged Communities (≈ \$20M)

Last Call for Specialized Funding

Last Call for EC Projects

≈ \$11 Million available in SRF Funds
Planning & Design or Studies, or
Construction projects that can meet BABA

Last Call for LSLR

≈ \$40 Million available
Half Loan + Half Principal Forgiveness
Wider Eligibility

*EC-SDC Grant webinar will be held in February.





**PROJECT
FUNDING**

SRF Financial Requirement and Project Funding

1 SRF Loans

2 Principal Forgiveness

All Principal Forgiveness Funds

- No loan application required
- Submit a copy of your most recent audit (may not be eligible if delinquent)
- Complete DES technical requirements first – including PER, plans and specs, permitting and bidding
- Once the amount of the project is confirmed through bidding, DES will notify RIA that the preliminary program requirements have been met and the project is ready for a loan agreement

- Loan agreements require a series of steps from the governing body of the sponsor:
- Adoption of a resolution by the governing body authorizing the loan agreement
- Loan Assistance Agreement will be sent by RIA after the local resolution is received
- A signed copy of the Loan Assistance Agreement signed by the locally authorized official designated in your resolution
- Funds may be requested for eligible expenditures once the Loan Assistance Agreement is fully executed

Loan Policies and Terms



Published on website: www.ria.sc.gov

Updated in October

Policies:

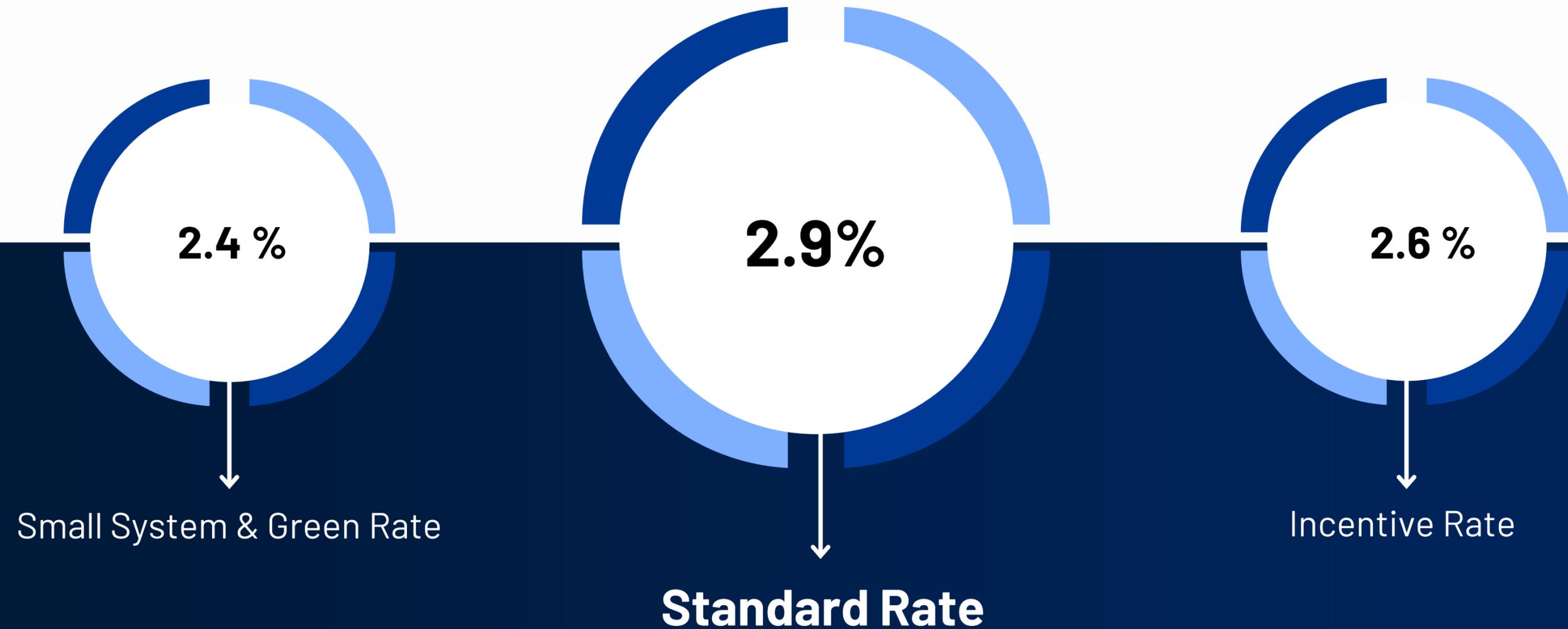
- ✓ Interest Rates
- ✓ Loan Terms
- ✓ Loan Fees
- ✓ Security
- ✓ Repayment Policies

Terms:

- ✓ Maximum of 30 years
- ✓ Shorter Terms Available
- ✓ 8-14 years: 30 basis points less than the standard rate
- ✓ Up to 7 years: 50 bases points less than the standard rate

Current Interest Rates

Subject to Change Based on Market Conditions



Timeliness of Obligation and Expenditures

Incentive rate encourages projects that are ready to proceed and have met program requirements through bidding

Disbursements should occur within 90 days of the first contractor pay application



SRF Loan Applications



OLG
sends
fillable
application
form



Short
form
for
repeat
"AA"
customers



Accepted
October 1
through
July 31

SRF Loan Application - Revolving

GOVERNMENT (OLG) - SC RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY

STATE DRINKING WATER REVOLVING LOAN FUND

[COMPANYING INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE COMPLETING THIS FORM](#)

INFORMATION

7.	LOAN AMOUNT REQUESTED:
8.	TERM(S) REQUESTED:
9.	INTEREST RATE REQUESTED: See
	Standard
	Small System
10.	COUNTY:
11.	BOND COUNSEL: Name:

Page 1

Loan Application Information



General Information

- System service area
- Largest employers

Proposed Project

- Description
- Budget
- Schedule
- Land/Easements

System Information

- Existing facilities/Capacity
- Rate structure/Average usage
- Customer data/Trends
- Revenues
- Operating Budgets
- Capital Improvement Plan
- System transfers
- Debt
- Audits

Key Credit Review Factors

Local socio/economic conditions

Top customers as a % of total user charges revenue

Rates compared to MHI (recent or planned rates)

Debt service coverage

Cash resources

System transfers



Loan Closing



Loan agreement between the borrower and the SC water quality revolving fund authority



Loan agreement becomes part of the bond ordinance/resolution adopted by the governing body



Bond and local counsel opinions



Trustee/custodian agreement



Additional bonds test of governing bond ordinance/resolution for parity debt

Loan Closing Fees

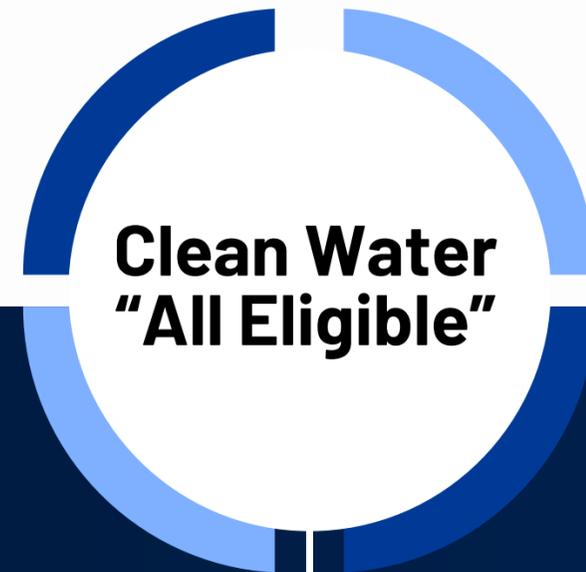
Example:

	\$1,000,000	Loan
X	.50%	Closing fee
<hr/>		
	\$5,000	Cost Due at Closing

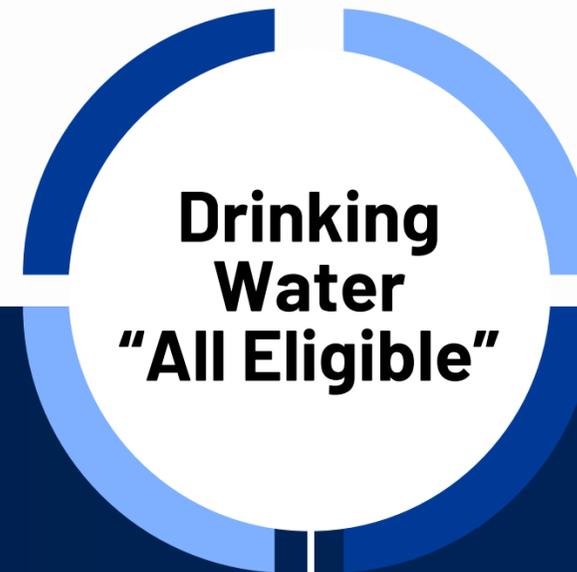
*Fees are not eligible for inclusion in the loan.



SRF Call for Projects Recap



≈ \$250 Million available in Loans
≈ \$13.9 million available for Principal Forgiveness



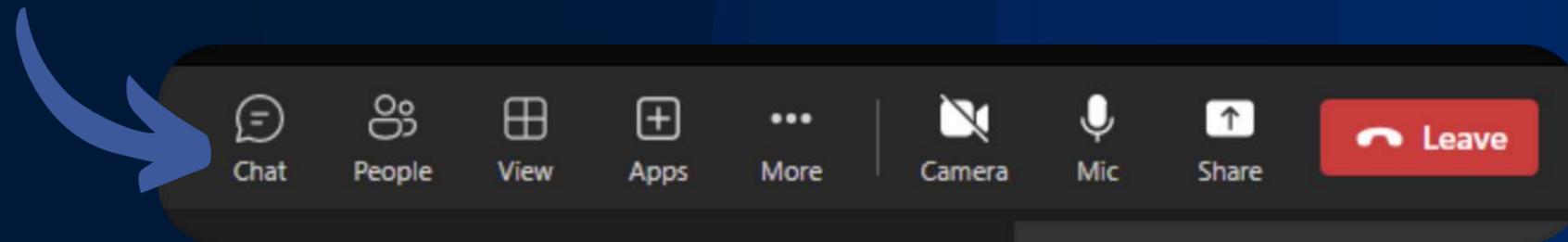
≈ \$100 Million available in Loans
≈ \$16.6 million available for Principal Forgiveness

Other Specialized Funding Also Available for PFAS and LSLR

**PQs available at des.sc.gov/SRFcall
Due by March 20, 2026**

QUESTIONS?

LOOK FOR THE CHAT BUTTON:



Contact Us:



Visit Our Website:
des.sc.gov/SRF



Email Us Questions:
SRF-Info@des.sc.gov