

CLEAN WATER



Federal FY 2026
CWSRF
General Supplemental Grant
Intended Use Plan
For State FY 2027

FINAL

June 26, 2026

D E S . S C . G O V / S R F



SC DEPARTMENT of
ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES

SCDES
Bureau of Water
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201

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I. Introduction

In 1987, Congress amended the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) authorizing the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), a low interest loan program, to assist public entities with the financing of publicly owned treatment facilities (Section 212) and non-point source management activities (Section 319). The 1987 CWA Amendments authorized the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to award capitalization grants to states to provide seed money for the low interest loan program. While the 1987 Amendments only authorized funding for the first several years of the loan program, Congress continues to provide funding as part of its annual appropriations. This ongoing support for the state SRF programs is reaffirmed by the May 2025 EPA memorandum [State Revolving Funds: Back to Basics, Back to Business](#), which highlights the important role of the SRF programs in providing a foundation for water infrastructure and supporting the [Powering the Great American Comeback Initiative](#).

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 includes two new appropriations for the CWSRF, one of which is the General Supplemental appropriations. The CWSRF General Supplemental appropriations are authorized for five years starting with Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2022.

This Intended Use Plan (IUP), required under the CWA, describes how South Carolina intends to use available CWSRF funds for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2027 (July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027) provided by federal funds allocated to South Carolina through the CWSRF General Supplemental appropriations for FFY 2026. The allotment from the CWSRF General Supplemental appropriations for South Carolina in FFY 2026 is \$25,237,000. Eligibility for CWSRF loans and CWSRF program requirements, including any requirements of the applicable appropriations legislation are included in the IUP.

The South Carolina Department Environmental Services (SCDES) is the designated state agency to apply for and administer the capitalization grant for the CWSRF. The South Carolina Water Quality Revolving Fund Authority (Authority) is responsible for the financial management functions of the CWSRF, including its financial policies, and executes loan agreements with project sponsors. The South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority's Office of Local Government (RIA) conducts the staff functions of the Authority.

Once prepared, an IUP must be noticed for a period of at least 30 days to accept comments from the public. Comments on all facets of the draft IUP are accepted. After considering comments received, the IUP is finalized and posted on the SCDES SRF Reports and Publications web page at des.sc.gov/srfreports.

II. Goals

South Carolina has identified several short- and long-term goals designed to promote sustainable improvements to the infrastructure within the state and help ensure maximum environmental and public health benefits. These goals are reviewed annually and updated as needed.

A. Short Term Goals (Outputs)

1. Maintain a subcontract with a qualified vendor to provide technical assistance to small systems that have publicly owned treatment works (deliverable).

B. Long Term Goals (Outcomes)

1. Promote sustainable system capacity through consolidation of systems thereby taking advantage of the economies of scale to address technical, managerial, and financial capacity problems.
2. Assist local communities as they strive to achieve and maintain compliance with federal and state water quality standards by funding projects that improve or protect water quality by reducing pollutant loading to attain water quality standards (deliverable).
3. Use Principal Forgiveness funds to assist small and disadvantaged communities and utilities as they strive to achieve and maintain compliance with federal and state wastewater and stormwater regulations and meet state water quality standards (deliverable).
4. Maintain a working relationship with other infrastructure funding authorities within the state to coordinate water quality funding.
5. Work collaboratively to direct CWSRF funds to areas where additional SCDES and EPA resources are already invested (i.e., Priority Watersheds and Section 319 grants).
6. Support the use of green practices and investment in green infrastructure, water and energy efficient improvements and environmentally innovative projects.
7. Maintain the fiscal integrity of the CWSRF to ensure the perpetuity of the fund.

III. Transfer of Funds From/To the Clean Water State Revolving Fund

The SC SRF Program reserves the ability to transfer funds between the CWSRF and Drinking Water (DW) SRF as provided for by federal law. Fund transfers from the CWSRF to the DWSRF or from the DWSRF to the CWSRF will be done to assist in meeting the funding demands in the CWSRF and DWSRF. The law allows the SRFs to transfer an amount equal to 33% of each annual Drinking Water capitalization grant. SC SRF would transfer non-federal funds made available by loan repayments. The EPA will receive written notification prior to any transfers occurring.

For SFY 2027, the SC SRF has no plans to transfer funds between the CWSRF and DWSRF but reserves the right to do so if needed to meet demand in either the Clean Water or Drinking Water General Supplemental capitalization grant programs.

IV. Cross Collateralization

The SC CWSRF fund is not leveraged and CWSRF funds will not be used for debt security. There is no cross-collateralization of programs.

V. Provisional Projects List

The Clean Water Provisional Projects List (PPL) (Appendix A) identifies projects that are considered to be eligible and ready to proceed in the SFY 2027.

All loan projects on this list must complete the process detailed in Section VI.C. to receive funding.

Final funding decisions for each project are contingent on a review of the technical and managerial capacity of the project sponsor, a completed environmental review of the proposed project, issuance of a SCDES construction permit (or construction approval letter) that meets SRF requirements, and a successful final credit review by RIA for the Authority for projects receiving loans. The availability of a loan from the Authority will be based on the financial capacity of the project sponsor and its ability to afford repayment on the requested amount of debt.

The Provisional Projects List includes projects that have been identified to receive principal forgiveness funds. These funds are only available if the FFY 2026 CWSRF General Supplemental Grant is awarded by EPA and accepted by SCDES. Project listing is not a commitment of funding.

VI. Method for Selecting Projects and Distribution of Funds

A. Priority Ranking System

SCDES SRF uses an integrated priority system for ranking Section 212 treatment work projects as well as eligible nonpoint source projects. A copy of the ranking system used to score and rank projects can be found on the SRF Reports and Publications web page at des.sc.gov/srfreports. The priority ranking system is reviewed on an annual basis and updated as needed.

B. Comprehensive Priority List of CWSRF Projects

For a project to be considered for funding by the CWSRF, it must appear on the State Comprehensive Priority List of CWSRF Projects. To be included in this list, an eligible project sponsor (municipalities, counties, or special purpose districts) must complete a Project Questionnaire (PQ), DES 3561 or a similar funding request application approved by SCDES. The DES 3561 form can be found on the SRF Forms web page at des.sc.gov/srfforms. A project sponsor may submit a completed PQ to the SRF Division of the SCDES Bureau of Water at any time. Once the PQ is received, SCDES staff will

evaluate the project based on the CWSRF Priority Ranking System and assign the project a numeric score. The project is then added to the Comprehensive Priority List of CWSRF Projects in rank order. Any projects with the same numerical score are ordered based on how the project addresses water quality priority issues in the following order: 1) first – score for “implement an approved TMDL” and 2) second – score for “impairment(s) addressed on current 303(d) list” and then by date the project questionnaire was received. SCDES maintains an updated Comprehensive Priority List on the SRF Reports and Publications web page at des.sc.gov/srfreports.

If a project remains on the Comprehensive Priority List for two years and does not proceed, the project will be removed from the list unless the sponsor provides an updated PQ.

C. Selection of Projects and SRF Funding

The selection of projects for the Provisional Projects List (Appendix A) is based on the project rank and cost, availability of funds, and the indicated readiness to proceed with a project by the sponsor during SFY 2027. Ready to proceed in SFY 2027 means that a project will be in compliance with the SRF schedule for submission of an acceptable preliminary engineering report and construction permit application as well as a complete SRF loan application to RIA. The selection process for sponsors and projects that may receive Additional Subsidies (i.e., 100 percent principal forgiveness for this grant) are discussed in Section X.B.

The successful completion of a preliminary financial review should occur before a project sponsor proceeds with meeting the technical requirements for a loan. Based on the schedule established for a project, RIA will send the sponsor a loan application package. To proceed as an SFY 2027 SRF project, a project must receive a construction permit, or letter of approval to construct, and submit a complete loan application to RIA by July 31, 2027. For large projects, SCDES and RIA reserve the right to impose a limit on the amount of any given CWSRF loan, regardless of ranking, and to consider the ability of a sponsor to obtain financing from other sources and to make SRF funds available to a larger number of eligible sponsors.

When conducting outreach to solicit CWSRF projects, SCDES will emphasize the importance of resiliency, security, and sustainability projects, convey that projects to address these issues are eligible for CWSRF funding, and target disadvantaged communities. Disadvantaged communities are targeted through email, webinars, and conferences, as well as contacted through trade and technical assistance organizations.

The CWSRF does not provide funding for emergencies. These funds may be made available to utilities by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or through other federal supplemental disaster appropriations.

D. Bypass Procedure

When selecting projects for funding, SCDES may bypass projects on the Comprehensive Priority List as follows:

1. To fund a project where a viable system owner has or is willing to assume ownership or receivership of a non-viable or abandoned system;
2. To select Green Project Reserve eligible projects or portions of projects that equal at least \$2,523,700 (10% of the expected capitalization grant amount);
3. To address an imminent hazard to public health as determined by SCDES;
4. To address an imminent release of untreated wastewater directly to a surface water body as determined by SCDES or correct violations of effluent discharge limitations, facility deficiencies, sanitary sewer overflows, or collection system issues;
5. To fund projects that will eliminate a point source discharge, which is violating effluent limits, by a connection to a regional system;
6. To fund projects that support consolidation or regionalization of systems to enhance the sustainability, regulatory compliance and/or quality of service of the systems involved;
7. To fund projects for eligible sponsors that have not previously received CWSRF funding;
8. To fund an equitable geographic distribution of projects;
9. To fund a project for an eligible sponsor that is not receiving SRF funds, especially principal forgiveness funds, from some other FFY 2026 CWSRF or DWSRF grant. The purpose of this bypass is to facilitate the distribution of SRF funds to a larger number of eligible sponsors, especially sponsors receiving principal forgiveness funds;
10. To fund projects to meet federal equivalency requirements;
11. To fund projects allowing the SRF to meet the federal expeditious and timely use of funds requirement;
12. To preserve or improve the pace of the SRF when a sponsor with an active project, particularly an active principal forgiveness project, has not met established timeliness criteria; and,
13. To fund projects that do not receive direct federal allotments in order to distribute funds more evenly. Additionally, the SRF may choose to not fund projects that appear on the PPL that later receive a direct federal allotment.

E. Expeditious Use of Funds

To promote timely commitment and use of SRF funds, SCDES will determine milestones for each project related to the completion of the PER and submission of plans and specifications to obtain a construction permit or letter of approval to construct. For the projects listed on the PPL, the project sponsor should meet these milestones to ensure funds will not be committed to other projects. SCDES will take into account the complexity

of the project and work with project sponsors in setting, and revising if appropriate, project milestones. This may result in a need for a project sponsor to separate a project into multiple projects with each funding the completion of a specific phase of the greater project. For example, planning and design aspects may be funded as an initial project, with construction funding being applied for in a subsequent state fiscal year as a separate project.

It is the goal of the program to have projects on the PPL that have a signed loan agreement or loan assistance agreement (PF projects) within 12 months of the date of each quarterly payment in the EPA grant award. With current resource shortages for materials and qualified engineers and contractors, SCDES realizes that it may be challenging for sponsors to meet this goal. Additionally, sponsors with active PF projects that have not met established timeliness criteria may be bypassed as discussed in Section VI.D. Any such sponsor may continue to forfeit future consideration until, at minimum, all projects in progress by that sponsor have sufficiently moved forward towards execution of an agreement.

Project design and construction costs are increasing, often at a rapid pace. Therefore, sponsors with projects on the PPL will be encouraged to bid project alternatives, if feasible. Some or many projects on the PPL may still exceed the SRF project budget shown on the PPL. To address this possibility, projects on the PPL may receive additional funding if justified, funds are available, and the additional amount is approved by SCDES. Once the total PF funds under binding commitments for PF projects on the PPL reaches the 49% grant requirement, PF projects on the PPL without a binding commitment when the requirement is met will be addressed as follows: 1) projects with a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) that has been approved by the SCDES SRF Program will be moved to the IUP and PPL for the General Supplemental grant of the next fiscal year; and, 2) projects without an approved PER will need to be resubmitted to the SRF Program for future funding consideration. Available funds and loan budgets are discussed in Section VIII.E.

The SRF Program may advertise the availability of loan funds throughout the state fiscal year beyond the annual call for projects period typically held during the first quarter of each calendar year. This IUP may be amended at any time to include projects with a loan component that are ready to proceed. Any potentially eligible project sponsor will be encouraged to submit a PQ for an eligible project to facilitate the commitment and timely use of funds. Projects selected for funding will be added to the PPL through an amendment to this IUP.

F. Sustainability Requirement

The CWSRF will not provide any type of assistance to a project sponsor that lacks the technical, managerial, or financial capability to operate sustainably, unless the sponsor agrees to undertake feasible and appropriate changes in operation or if the use of the financial assistance from the CWSRF will promote sustainability and compliance over the long-term.

Sponsor sustainability is evaluated using the SCDES Utility Sustainability Assessment (UtSA) (DES 0574). The UtSA is a written system assessment completed by the Sponsor and reviewed and scored by SCDES that includes operational issues, managerial issues and limited financial information. Unless an acceptable score was received on a UtSA within the previous three years, a UtSA is requested of sponsors with projects on the Provisional Projects List. Additional financial assessment is performed by RIA as part of the preliminary financial review and loan application process.

G. Interest Rates and Funding Terms for Eligible Projects

Visit the RIA Loans web page at ria.sc.gov/loans to view SRF loan rates and policies. Interest rates for SFY 2027 projects will be published by RIA in early October 2026. To receive that interest rate, a project must receive a construction permit, or letter of approval to construct, and submit a complete loan application to RIA by July 31, 2027.

Up to 30-year financing is available for all borrowers not to exceed the useful life of the project components. For example, pipe and items constructed of concrete or steel qualify for a 30-year term, while mechanical and electrical components are limited to 20 years. Blended amortizations will be provided for loans with differing terms.

For any project requesting funds for both 20- and 30-year eligibilities, the engineer will provide in the PER an estimated cost breakout in sufficient detail for SCDES to determine items that qualify for 20- or 30-year financing based on useful life. This information will be used for the final loan application; however, the 20- and 30-year eligibilities used for loan closing must be based on contractor prices.

Loans for projects with both 20- and 30-year requested construction cost items will have the 20- and 30-year cost breakdowns for the loan agreement determined once the bidding process is complete. If the successful bid by the contractor is in sufficient detail for SCDES to determine the useful life of the components, no further breakout will be needed for loan closing. However, when the successful bid by the contractor is not in sufficient detail to make the 20- and 30-year determinations, such as in a lump sum bid, the successful contractor, after the tentative award notice but before loan closing, must provide a breakout of the bid in sufficient detail for SCDES to make the necessary determinations of 20- and 30-year eligibility. So as to not delay loan closing and, in most cases, execution of the construction contract, the selected contractor needs to develop and submit the detailed 20/30-year cost breakout to SCDES at the earliest possible time.

H. Loan Application

Sponsors of Provisional Projects who successfully complete the RIA preliminary financial review may apply to the Authority through RIA for SRF loan financing by submitting a loan application approximately 30 days prior to submitting plans and specifications as required for a SCDES / SRF construction permit or letter of approval. Authorization to construct the project, either through a SCDES-issued Permit to Construct or Letter of Approval that meets SRF requirements, both of which require a completed environmental review, is required before an SRF loan application is considered complete.

Loan applications are accepted from October 1 through July 31.

VII. Eligibilities

A. Eligible Sponsors

Municipalities, counties, special purpose districts and other public entities are eligible SRF project sponsors.

B. Water Quality Management (WQM) Plans

Pursuant to Section 208 of the Clean Water Act, Section 212 CWSRF projects must not conflict with the applicable Water Quality Management (WQM) plan. The sponsor of a CWSRF project must be a designated management agency, which is any municipality, county or special purpose district that accepts the responsibilities associated with implementing an applicable WQM plan. The management agency designation process may be pursued concurrently with the CWSRF project if necessary. More information about management agency responsibilities and the designation process can be found in the 208 Water Quality Management Plan for the Non-designated Area of South Carolina found at des.sc.gov/programs/bureau-water/wastewater/208-wastewater-water-quality-management.

C. Land

Land needed in support of construction and for collection, transport, treatment and stormwater projects, is eligible for CWSRF loan participation. Assistance may also be provided to any eligible borrower for land conservation projects that implement a Section 319 NPS management program or Section 320 Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan or manage, reduce, treat, or recapture stormwater; or to any municipality or municipal entity to develop or implement watershed partnerships to address nonpoint sources of pollution. Funding for land conservation projects are contingent on a determination by the South Carolina Nonpoint Source (NPS) Program that the project is consistent with the currently approved state NPS management program plan. Land conservation projects are limited to \$10,000,000 per state fiscal year and must not exceed 10% of the estimated total funds available for SFY 2027 loans. The purchase price of all land, rights-of-ways, and easements, not to exceed the appraised value, may be included in the loan when: 1) the land is obtained less than one year prior to the date of a complete loan application, and 2) an appraisal, prepared by a qualified appraiser, is submitted on each parcel, right-of-way and easement with the loan application. For land with structures or other improvements, only the appraised value of the land is CWSRF loan eligible, not the appraised value of the land with the structures or improvements. In the CWSRF Program, land may be acquired under proper eminent domain procedures when necessary.

D. Planning and Design Costs

A CWSRF loan may include the costs of project planning and services incurred prior to construction (e.g., costs associated with preparing the PER, plans and specifications, advertising, pre-bid conference, bidding procedures, pre-construction conference, loan application, administration, or creating a watershed-based plan). Only those costs for which there is clear documentation of expenses incurred solely for the proposed project and are dated no earlier than 36 months prior to the date of a complete loan application to RIA are eligible for funding under the CWSRF Program.

E. Legal and Appraisal Fees

In general, legal and appraisal costs associated with obtaining land (rights-of-way and easements) and attorney fees associated with the SRF loan application and loan closing process are eligible. Legal and appraisal costs associated with obtaining land are not eligible for funding under the CWSRF Program if incurred earlier than one year prior to the date of a complete loan application to RIA.

F. Construction Costs

Construction costs include the costs associated with the construction of the project by a contractor. The CWSRF may provide assistance for the costs associated with engineering services during construction, such as inspections, change orders, oversight of contractors, shop drawings, record drawings, concrete or soil testing, Davis-Bacon, American Iron and Steel and Build America, Buy America administration (as needed), and draw requests.

Equipment that is directly purchased by the sponsor for the project, such as pumps, generators, etc., is eligible.

Materials such as pipe, valves, brick, mortar, etc., that are directly purchased by the sponsor are eligible. The materials may be installed either by a contractor or by the sponsor using its own employees and equipment. Eligibility is limited to the costs of materials. The costs of supplies such as fuel, oil and tools used by the sponsor to install the materials are not eligible for funding under the Clean Water SRF Program. Additionally, force account labor is not eligible.

Service connections are eligible for funding from the SRF but only that portion of a service connection that will be owned and maintained by the project sponsor and installed as part of an SRF funded sewer line project.

G. Contingency

The SRF Program allows a contingency on eligible construction costs funded by the SRF for loan projects as follows: ten percent (10%) of the SRF construction line item for the first \$10 million dollars of construction costs and five percent (5%) for the SRF construction amount that exceeds \$10 million.

The SRF Program allows a contingency of two and a half percent (2.5%) for materials that are directly purchased by the sponsor.

There is no contingency allowed on equipment.

H. Phasing of a CWSRF Project

To make construction and/or funding more manageable, a project may be divided into separately funded phases or segments, at the option of the sponsor. However, to be CWSRF-eligible, any such phase or segment must be of reasonable scope and, when constructed, must have the capability of being placed into immediate full operation, without its full operation being dependent on a subsequent project phase or segment or another outside operation yet to be completed. After a given project phase is funded, subsequent phases must stand separately in competing with other projects for priority list ranking in later fiscal years.

I. Projects Not Eligible for Funding

The CWSRF will not provide funding assistance for the following projects and activities:

1. Projects for systems that lack adequate technical, managerial and financial capability (i.e., non-viable systems), unless the project is needed to address a high-priority environmental or human health concern or will promote sustainability and compliance over the long-term;
2. Projects exclusively correcting operation and maintenance deficiencies;
3. Projects for systems in NPDES noncompliance, unless funding will help a system achieve compliance; or
4. Projects for systems when consolidation or regionalization is the most feasible alternative for a system to maintain sustainability unless the project addresses or supports consolidation or regionalization.

VIII. Funds Available

A. Amount of Capitalization Grant

The FFY 2026 CWSRF General Supplemental Capitalization Grant allotment for South Carolina is \$25,237,000.

B. State Match Requirement and Cash Draw

One condition of receiving the annual capitalization grant allotment is the State must deposit into the CWSRF a match equal to at least twenty percent (20%) of the total amount of the expected federal grant. RIA will deposit the full state match of \$5,047,400 into the CWSRF from state appropriations and other resources available to RIA prior to receiving the capitalization grant. It will fully expend the state match before the first draw of funds from the capitalization grant with subsequent federal draw at 100%. The State will draw funds from the capitalization grant according to the payment schedule (timeline) submitted with the grant application and presented in the grant award.

C. Administration of the CWSRF Program

The CWA allows each state to use an amount equal to four percent (4%) of its capitalization grant to fund the administration of the CWSRF Program. SCDES plans to retain the authority to use \$1,009,480, or approximately 4.0%, of its expected capitalization grant amount for program management, including funding staff, paying operational expenses, providing technical assistance to potential loan applicants, and to procure a contractor to execute the upcoming Clean Watershed Needs Survey (CWNS). Administrative expenses will be paid for using recycled funds and will be accounted for on the FFY 2026 CWSRF Base IUP.

D. Technical Assistance

The CWA allows states to reserve up to two percent (2%) of each capitalization grant to fund technical assistance (TA) services to rural, small, and tribal publicly owned treatment works. For FFY 2026, \$200,000, or approximately 0.6%, of the grant will be used for TA. SCDES anticipates that the TA funds (\$200,000) will be used to fund an existing TA contract with the South Carolina Rural Water Association to help small public sewer systems address technical, managerial, and financial capacity. Priority for contracted TA is given to those entities that have requested financial assistance from the SRF Program but currently lack the technical, managerial, and/or financial capacity to ensure long-term sustainability and/or the necessary resources to apply for SRF assistance. TA will be paid for using recycled funds and will be accounted for on the FFY 2026 CWSRF Base IUP.

E. Estimated Funds Available — State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2027

FFY 2026 General Supplemental Capitalization Grant	\$25,237,000
State Match for FFY 2026 General Supplemental Capitalization Grant	\$5,047,400
Transfers between CWSRF and DWSRF	\$0
Estimated Total Funds Available for SFY 2026 General Supplemental Loans	\$30,284,400

Note: The project funding needs that are identified in the PPL exceed the estimated total funds available for projects on the FFY 2026 CWSRF General Supplemental Capitalization Grant. The additional money required to fund projects on the PPL may come from recycled CWSRF funds, resources provided by the project sponsor, or some combination thereof. All available CWSRF funds, including recycled funds, will be accounted for in the FFY 2026 CWSRF Base Capitalization Grant IUP. In addition, equivalency projects that do not have a construction permit (or letter of approval) and a closed loan by July 31, 2027 may be moved to the next available IUP.

F. Equivalency to Account for Federal Funds

SCDES will use equivalency projects to account for the federal funds awarded to the SC CWSRF Program through this capitalization grant. The amount that must be accounted for includes the total federal grant award. The potential equivalency projects are noted on the PPL. When possible, SCDES will select projects for equivalency that are

straightforward to construct, require a relatively limited range of construction materials and equipment to complete, and are requesting a large CWSRF loan. The equivalency projects will be required to meet all of the federal requirements listed in Section X.A.

The equivalency projects that have binding commitments (signed loan agreements) and are selected to account for the federal funds received from this capitalization grant will be identified in the CWSRF Annual Report (deliverable) and reported to the federal government (deliverable) pursuant the requirements of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA).

G. Fee Income

A loan closing fee will be charged on all loans, but such fees will not be assessed on any principal forgiveness projects or principal forgiveness portions of loan projects. The loan fee is found in the CW Loan Policies on the RIA Loans web page at ria.sc.gov/loans. The entirety of loan fees collected are used to conduct the financial functions of the SRF Program assigned to RIA under state law. Program income generated from direct capitalization grant funds and non-program income generated from repayment funds, will be collected and accounted for separately. Guidance on the use of fees can be found at federalregister.gov/documents/2005/10/20/05-21014/guidance-on-fees-charged-by-states-to-recipients-of-clean-water-state-revolving-fund-program.

IX. Assurances and Specific Proposals

SCDES has provided assurances and specific proposals as part of the Operating Agreement between South Carolina and EPA. The Operating Agreement provides a framework of procedures for operation and administration of the CWSRF including:

1. Environmental Reviews: The State will conduct environmental reviews according to the procedures identified in its Operating Agreement.
2. Binding Commitments: The State will enter into binding commitments for 120% of the amount of each quarterly payment under the capitalization grant within one year of each such payment.
3. Expeditious and Timely Expenditures: The State will expend all funds in the CWSRF in an expeditious and timely manner as previously discussed.

X. Additional Information / Requirements

A. Federal Requirements

Sponsors will be notified of all environmental and social cross-cutter requirements, as well as other applicable federal requirements once their project is identified as a candidate for funding. Guidance on federal requirements can be found at des.sc.gov/srfguidance. Several federal requirements are required of all SRF loan recipients as follows:

- Environmental review of the project
- Compliance with Civil Rights Laws
- Davis-Bacon prevailing wage rates
- American Iron and Steel
- Fiscal sustainability plans for project components
- SRF Signage (for construction projects)
- Cost and effectiveness analysis of the project

Additional federal requirements are tied to the capitalization grant and will be required of any project receiving a loan designated as being made with federal capitalization funds. These requirements include but are not limited to:

- Build America, Buy America Act provisions
- Disadvantaged Business Enterprise compliance (DBE)
- Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards: Title 2 CFR, Parts 200 and 1500 (“Uniform Guidance” – governs single audit requirements)
- Architectural and Engineering Procurement
- Telecommunications and video surveillance prohibition

The projects that meet these federal requirements will be identified in the CWSRF Annual Report (deliverable).

B. Additional Subsidies

The FFY 2026 General Supplemental appropriation requires that 49% of the capitalization grant (\$12,366,130) shall be used to provide additional subsidy to CWSRF projects and that all additional subsidies must be in the form of assistance agreements with 100% forgiveness of principal or grants. South Carolina will use assistance agreements with 100% forgiveness of principal to satisfy this requirement. Section 603(i) of the CWA, outlines conditions under which additional subsidy may be offered to a project. The affordability criteria that South Carolina uses to provide principal forgiveness is a small system (population less than 10,000) with an MHI less than the State MHI that cannot qualify for an SRF loan. RIA staff conduct a thorough financial review of each system sponsor to determine if they can afford an SRF loan.

EPA expects the SRF Program to ensure that systems and project sponsors that receive additional subsidy have the technical, managerial, and financial capacity to maintain compliance with federal and state regulations. The Utility Sustainability Assessment mentioned in Section VI.F. above is one tool used by the SRF to evaluate the technical, managerial, and financial capacity of a potential SRF additional subsidy recipient. Systems that do not have adequate technical, managerial, and financial capacity may receive additional subsidy funds if the system/sponsor agrees to undertake needed changes in operation that will promote sustainability or if the use of the financial assistance from the CWSRF will promote sustainability and compliance over the long-term. The sponsor may not be eligible for additional subsidies on future projects until the agreed upon operational changes have been fully implemented. Systems that ask to be considered for

principal forgiveness funds must not be delinquent on the submission of annual financial audits. Counties and municipalities must submit an audit annually to the Office of the State Treasurer, while special purpose districts submit an annual audit to the county or counties in which they reside, each as required by SC state law. RIA staff conduct a thorough financial review of each system sponsor to determine if they can afford an SRF loan.

The SRF Program plans to utilize additional subsidy funds, provided as principal forgiveness (PF), for ready-to-proceed projects, to encourage sustainability through project planning, design, and construction. This includes projects:

- That enhance the sustainability of small systems (population less than 10,000) by fixing existing infrastructure;
- Where a sustainable system owner has or is willing to assume ownership or receivership of an unsustainable or abandoned system; or,
- To provide a long-term solution to ongoing surface water or groundwater contamination problems from the discharge of treated or untreated wastewater or sludge.

Eligible sponsors with eligible projects that may receive PF assistance are as follows:

- Small systems (population less than 10,000) with a Median Household Income (MHI) less than the State MHI that cannot qualify for a CWSRF loan, or
- A sustainable system owner who has or is willing to assume ownership or receivership of an unsustainable or abandoned system.

To make maximum benefit of PF funds for SFY 2027, no one sponsor may receive more than \$2,000,000 for additional subsidy unless PF funds remain unassigned or are not committed to an identified project as expected.

Appendix A indicates the amount of PF that has been assigned to projects for SFY 2027 on a preliminary basis. The SRF Program reserves the right to adjust PF amounts. PF funds are only available if EPA awards the FFY 2026 CWSRF General Supplemental Capitalization Grant and it is accepted by SCDES. Project listing is not a commitment of PF funding.

If a sponsor requests PF assistance for a project, but the sponsor and project are eligible for a conventional SRF loan, the sponsor will be offered a conventional SRF loan in lieu of PF assistance (see the principal forgiveness loan eligibility criteria discussed above); the exception being a sustainable system owner who has or is willing to assume ownership or receivership of an unsustainable or abandoned system. The PF assistance requirements are reviewed on an annual basis and updated as needed.

C. Green Project Reserve (GPR)

The Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act, 2026 requires to the extent there are eligible projects, not less than 10% of the expected FFY 2026 CWSRF General Supplemental allotment for each state be used for green infrastructure, water or energy efficiency improvements, or

other environmentally innovative activities. The minimum Green Project Reserve (GPR) requirement for South Carolina is \$2,523,700. SCDES publishes its *Guide to Green Project Reserve Eligible Projects* on the SRF Guidance web page at des.sc.gov/srfguidance.

In the SFY 2027 annual report for this grant, SCDES will identify the projects with binding commitments that will be used to satisfy the 10% GPR requirement for the grant. To make this determination, SCDES will use EPA GPR guidance and best professional judgement in accordance with the EPA Memorandum dated February 21, 2017, "[Change to Clean Water State Revolving Fund Green Project Reserve Guidance](#)."

D. Environmental Outcomes and Measures

SCDES will update the EPA SRF Data System at least quarterly to report financial information about the program and projects, loan information, and project activities and benefits.

E. Annual Reporting and Annual Review

An annual report (deliverable) will be submitted by September 30, 2026 that will quantify the results and present the milestones of the Capitalization Grants awarded for FFY 2025.

CWSRF participated in the 2025 EPA Annual Review held December 10 - 11, 2025. CWSRF anticipates receiving and responding to the EPA Program Evaluation Report (PER) for FFY 2025 funding in SFY 2026 during and following the Annual Review / PER.

F. Public Participation

Notice of this draft IUP is emailed to each project sponsor on the Comprehensive Priority List of CWSRF Projects and other interested parties.

During the public notice period (30-day minimum), the Draft IUP notice and Draft FFY 2026 CWSRF General Supplemental IUP are available from the SCDES Reports and Publications web page at des.sc.gov/srfreports. Revised IUPs with significant changes must also have a public notice period (14 day minimum). Interested parties are invited to review the documents and submit written comments by the deadline established in the Draft IUP notice. Major comments received on this Draft IUP during the public notice period will be addressed within the Final FFY 2026 CWSRF General Supplemental Capitalization Grant IUP.

The Draft FFY 2026 CWSRF General Supplemental Capitalization Grant IUP was posted to the SCDES website on May 27, 2026. Notice of the draft IUP was emailed to SRF contacts, Rural Infrastructure Authority contacts, SCDES watershed stakeholders, and included in communications to members of the SC Rural Water Association, the South Carolina Association of Counties, and the Municipal Association of South Carolina. Comments were accepted until 5:00 PM on June 25, 2026. No comments were received; however, three edits were made to the IUP during the public comment period:

- In Appendix A, the Renewable Water Resources Georges Creek Onsite EQ project (SRF Project Number 370-121) was removed from the FFY 2024 CWSRF General

- Supplemental Capitalization Grant IUP and added to this FFY 2026 CWSRF General Supplemental Capitalization Grant IUP to account for equivalency requirements.
- In Appendix A, the Rock Hill, City of Standard Mill Gravity Sewer Relocation project (SRF Project Number 393-40) was removed from the FFY 2025 CWSRF General Supplemental Capitalization Grant IUP and added to this FFY 2026 CWSRF General Supplemental Capitalization Grant IUP to account for equivalency requirements.
 - In Appendix A, the Charleston County Sandy Hill Land Conservation Project (SRF Project Number 826-01) was requested to be withdrawn by the project sponsor. As such, the project was removed from this FFY 2026 CWSRF General Supplemental Capitalization Grant IUP.

CWSRF SFY 2027 General Supplemental Provisional Project List¹

Rank	Sponsor & Project Name	SRF Project Number	Project Description	NPDES, SSS, or ND Permit Number	Estimated Total Project Cost	Estimated SRF Loan Amount	Estimated Principal Forgiveness Assistance ²	Estimated Green Project Reserve Amount ³	Total Points
1	Saluda Commission of Public Works - N. Bouknight Ferry Road Area Sewer Rehab	815-02	The proposed project includes the rehabilitation and/or replacement of approximately 5,875 linear feet of existing clay sewer. The existing 6-inch sewer will be upsized to 8-inch to serve approximately 80 customers. A 16-inch sewer main will be rehabilitated to convey the full CPW system flow to the WPCP. Service laterals will be replaced to the right-of-way. One sewer segment will be realigned to avoid placement beneath existing houses, requiring acquisition of one easement.	ND0073220 SSS040100	\$ 2,039,545	\$ -	\$ 1,883,800		80
2	Renewable Water Resources - Georges Creek Onsite EQ ⁴	370-121	New on-site 3.0 MG influent wet weather equalization basin, modifications to the Headworks effluent distribution box, new RAS flow distribution box, addition of anoxic zone flow control gates, new redundant influent pump and associated controls, and new 2,500 square foot storage building.	SC0047309	\$ 11,400,000	\$ 5,200,000	\$ -		70
3	Renewable Water Resources - Augusta Grove Regional PS (Planning & Design) ⁴	370-145	This project includes planning and design engineering services for a regional pump station with equalization to divert a large portion of the Grove Creek sewer basin from the Piedmont WRRF over to the Mauldin WRRF. The project will include a PS, FM to Mauldin WRRF, and equalization tank for wet weather flow.	SC0048470 SC0041211	\$ 33,700,000	\$ 2,749,245	\$ -		70
4	Renewable Water Resources - Augusta Grove Regional PS (Construction)	370-147	This project includes the construction of a regional pump station with equalization to divert a large portion of the Grove Creek sewer basin from the Piedmont WRRF over to the Mauldin WRRF. The project will include a PS, FM to Mauldin WRRF, and equalization tank for wet weather flow.	SC0048470 SC0041211	\$ 33,700,000	\$ 30,950,755	\$ -		70
5	Aiken County Public Service Authority - Sludge Dryer Replacement (Planning & Design) ⁴	321-32	The existing dryer at the facility was severely damaged by a fire in August 2025 and is currently inoperable. The proposed project includes planning and design engineering services to replace the 5 ton dryer with a 6 ton dryer that is required as part of a future 6 MGD expansion.	SC0024457	\$ 2,865,000	\$ 2,865,000	\$ -		60
6	Greer Commission of Public Works - BMW Forcemain Phases 1, 2, and 3 Replacement ⁴	463-15	The project consists of 12,300 LF of 14 inch DIP replacement with 16 inch C900. (CONSTRUCTION ONLY)	N/A	\$ 4,600,000	\$ 4,180,000	\$ -		40
7	Jonesville, Town of - Sewer System Upgrades	824-01	The project will consist of approximately 4,430 linear feet of 8-inch gravity sewer replacement and/or rehabilitation via open cut replacement, cured-in-place piping (CIPP), and HDPE pipe bursting.	N/A	\$ 1,435,000	\$ -	\$ 1,410,000		40
8	Swansea, Town of - Sewer System Rehabilitation Phase 2 Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Survey (SSES) ⁴	820-03	The proposed project will complete CCTV inspections on a portion of the system to aid in annual maintenance and rehabilitation plans.	SSS000057	\$ 338,000	\$ -	\$ 338,000		40
9	Honea Path, Town of - Chiquola and Clatworthy Subbasin - Sewer Rehab (Phase 3) ⁴	515-08	The proposed project is a continuation of previous rehabilitation projects in the Chiquola and Clatworthy subbasins. Construction will include "mixed rehab" - e.g., point repairs, manhole rehabilitation or replacement, and lateral connection improvements.	SC0020214	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000		30
10	Pendleton, Town of - Village Hills PS Replacement	472-11	The project includes demolition of the existing pump station and replacement in a new location outside of the floodplain. Approximately 1,000 LF of 8-inch gravity sewer will also be installed, along with approximately 1,550 LF of 6-inch force main.	N/A	\$ 2,065,655	\$ 2,065,655	\$ -		30

CWSRF SFY 2027 General Supplemental Provisional Project List¹

Rank	Sponsor & Project Name	SRF Project Number	Project Description	NPDES, SSS, or ND Permit Number	Estimated Total Project Cost	Estimated SRF Loan Amount	Estimated Principal Forgiveness Assistance ²	Estimated Green Project Reserve Amount ³	Total Points
11	Renewable Water Resources - Lower Reedy Fine Screen Addition	370-144	The project includes design and construction of a new fine screening facility. The facility will include four (4) new fine screening channels, three (3) inclined rotary drum screens, two (2) belt conveyors, and all necessary appurtenances.	SC0024261	\$ 6,728,878	\$ 6,728,878	\$ -		20
12	Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority - River Oaks Force Main Diversion ⁴	381-88	The project includes installation of approximately 5,000' of 20" sewer force main including a 1,300' horizontal directional drill under the Intracoastal Waterway. The new sewer force main will be capable of diverting up to 5 MGD to the existing Myrtle Beach WWTP that currently operates with excess capacity. The project will add redundancy by allowing flows to be directed to different WWTP's. Once complete the project will also reduce pressures in the Carolina Forest community allowing pump stations to operate more efficiently.	SC0037753	\$ 2,700,000	\$ 2,700,000	\$ -		20
13	Rock Hill, City of - Rock Hill Manchester Creek Outfall Sewer- Phase III ⁴	393-38	The project includes the construction of a new outfall sewer to replace a section of existing gravity sewer including approximately 3,300 LF of large diameter sewer (24/30-inch sewers) and the replacement or rehabilitation of approximately 1,700 liner feet of 10" clay sewer.	N/A	\$ 8,800,000	\$ 8,150,000	\$ -		20
14	James Island Public Service District - Pump Station - 33 Force Main Capacity Upgrade - Phase 2 ⁴	543-28	This project will upgrade and replace 4,600 feet of pipe in the southern section of the PS-33 force main by Horizontal Directional Drilling. The proposed, larger HDPS force main will begin at PS-33 and extend northward within the SCDOT Secessionville Road right-of-way to Stiles Bee Drive Intersection and join with the newer, northern section of 16" HDPE force main within the Secessionville Road right-of-way installed in 2008.	SC0021229	\$ 6,895,058	\$ 6,895,058	\$ -		10
15	Lowcountry Regional Water System - Yemassee WWTP Improvements - Phase 2 (Planning and Design) ⁴	734-04	The project consists of planning and design engineering services for the Influent Pump Station upgrades including VFDs, flow meter, piping and wetwell rehab; disinfection upgrades including implementation of a new peracetic acid feed system and effluent flow meter; and new SCADA equipment.	SC0025950	\$ 1,973,000	\$ -	\$ 144,000		10
16	Rock Hill, City of - Standard Mill Gravity Sewer Relocation ⁴	393-40	This project consists of the redirection of existing wastewater flow from 6", 8", and 12" vitrified clay sanitary sewer lines installed in 1911 that serves Annafrel St. that is failing and past its service life and that numerous residential structures have been built directly over. The flow will be directed to a proposed 12" sanitary sewer that will replace the existing 6" and 8" vitrified clay sanitary sewer along Iredell St, with portions under residential dwellings being redirected to Iredell St. The project will include new piping, manholes, service laterals, and related appurtenances.	SC0020443	\$ 2,990,878	\$ 2,723,511	\$ -		0
17	Pageland, Town of - I&I Reduction and Ammonia Removal Project	238-06	This project will address Pageland's recurring ammonia violations due to excessive I&I in the SW quadrant of the collection system. A recent study discovered numerous causal factors for the elevated I&I levels including aging pipe degradation and failing manholes - particularly old brick manholes. Work will include piping and manhole degradation utilizing the prioritized repair recommendations in the study.	SC0021539	\$ 1,953,906	\$ -	\$ 1,895,330		0

CWSRF SFY 2027 General Supplemental Provisional Project List¹

Rank	Sponsor & Project Name	SRF Project Number	Project Description	NPDES, SSS, or ND Permit Number	Estimated Total Project Cost	Estimated SRF Loan Amount	Estimated Principal Forgiveness Assistance ²	Estimated Green Project Reserve Amount ³		Total Points
18	Blackville, Town of - Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements - Phase II	477-03	This project will construct a new mechanical sludge dewatering facility. The design will include a rotary press/belt press with associated shelter/structure for weather protection along with associated pumps, conveyors, platforms, piping and all other ancillary equipment. The project will also construct new aerobic sludge digester(s) to replace the existing aging and undersized digesters and to provide sufficient sludge storage and digestion time. The new digesters will include an aeration system consisting of blowers and associated diffusion equipment to provide the required aeration; decant equipment, piping, and valves to allow sludge thickening; and sludge pumps and piping to facilitate transfer of the sludge between the new digester(s) and mechanical dewatering equipment.	SC0026417	\$ 3,500,000	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000			0
19	James Island Public Service District - SFY2027 System Improvements	543-29	This project will replace three nonfunctional circa 1996 18" force main divisional valves located east of Harbor View Road Bridge abutment at the east end of the existing 18" force main beneath the James Island Creek and adjacent tidal wetlands to the CWS Plum Island WWTF, upgrade and flood proof circa 1984 PS-44 to current Charleston County flood elevation standards, and slip line 1,600 ft of former CWS 16" DIP force main currently serving PS-44 force main with 4" HDPE force main to prevent stagnant anaerobic conditions.	SC0021229	\$ 1,403,025	\$ 1,403,025	\$ -			0
20	Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority - Peachtree Sewer Booster Pump Station	381-86	The project will install an inline sewer BPS to reduce pressures in the Peachtree Area of Horry County. This is necessary to improve system capacity in the sewer transmission system and reduce system pressure to allow for regional pump stations to operate more efficiently.	SC0037753	\$ 6,000,000	\$ 6,000,000	\$ -			0
21	Lamar, Town of - Town of Lamar WWTP Improvements	443-03	The proposed project will make improvements to the WWTP in order to comply with two SCDES consent orders. Improvements include: addition of a mechanical bar screen; upgrades to the facultative lagoon to include reconfiguring and replacing the lagoon's curtains to create a fourth lagoon cell; additional surface aerators and mixers; dredging the lagoon; and improving dikes with a concrete apron.	SC0043702	\$ 3,899,780	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000			0
22	East Richland County Public Service District - Rockford Lake and East Forest Lake Trunk Sewer Line Rehabilitation	524-35	The proposed rehabilitation project includes construction repairs, primarily CIPP lining in priority areas identified in a recent areawide assessment. Lines range in size of 6" to 30" and total up to approximately 23,000 LF.	SC0038865	\$ 8,735,000	\$ 8,710,000	\$ -			0
23	Lynchburg, Town of - Phase 2 Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Survey (SSES) ⁴	813-03	The proposed project includes completing the system evaluation through a Phase 2 SSES. This will identify remaining deficiencies on the system and identify needed repairs that will allow the system to achieve greater long-term viability and maintain compliance with SCDES regulations.	SC0042676	\$ 1,997,041	\$ -	\$ 270,000			0
24	Kingstree, Town of - Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Survey (SSES) ⁴	825-02	The proposed project consist of conducting a Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Survey (SSES) of the Kingstree Sewer System to identify sources of inflow and infiltration.	SC0035971	\$ 425,000	\$ -	\$ 425,000			0

CWSRF SFY 2027 General Supplemental Provisional Project List¹

Rank	Sponsor & Project Name	SRF Project Number	Project Description	NPDES, SSS, or ND Permit Number	Estimated Total Project Cost	Estimated SRF Loan Amount	Estimated Principal Forgiveness Assistance ²	Estimated Green Project Reserve Amount ³	Total Points
25	Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority - Vereen WWTP Clarifier and Effluent Structure	381-87	This project includes the construction of an additional secondary clarifier, new effluent structure, additional 48-inch piping from secondary clarifier to effluent structure, new plant piping to plan for future expansion, and design of a new splitter box.	SC0041696	\$ 16,000,000	\$ 16,000,000	\$ -		0
Totals:					\$ 168,144,766	\$ 107,321,127	\$ 12,366,130		
Totals of SRF Loan + Principal Forgiveness Loan Amount:					\$		119,687,257		

- 1 Projects that appear on the Provisional Project List are ranked based on priority for funding. However a loan offer is dependent on the financial capacity of the sponsor, which may not have been evaluated to date.
 - 2 As discussed in Section X.B. of this IUP, the minimum required Additional Subsidy is 49% of the capitalization grant or \$12,366,130. SC uses Principal Forgiveness Assistance to satisfy the Additional Subsidy requirement. The total Estimated Principal Forgiveness Assistance is shown on the table above. Principal forgiveness funds are subject to change and are only available if the CWSRF Capitalization Grant referenced in this IUP is awarded by EPA and accepted by SCDES. Project listing is not a commitment of funding.
 - 3 FFY26 federal appropriations require that to the extent there are eligible projects, the CWSRF identify GPR eligible projects or parts of projects in an amount equal to at least 10% of the expected capitalization grant amount, or \$2,523,700, as GPR eligible (see Section X.C. of the CWSRF IUP). Projects on this Provisional Project List have not submitted documentation, but may qualify in whole or in part for the GPR. If any projects are identified as GPR eligible the project or portion of the project will be reported in the CWSRF SFY26 Annual Report.
 - 4 Equivalency project. SCDES reserves the right to modify, as needed and when appropriate, which project(s) will serve as the equivalency project(s) for this grant.
 - 5 Denotes a project where the sponsor requested a principal forgiveness (PF) loan, but the sponsor and project are eligible for a conventional SRF loan and do not meet the criteria for an offer of a PF loan (see Section X.B. Additional Subsidies).
 - 6 Funding for this project is contingent upon a determination by the State's Nonpoint Source (NPS) program that the project is consistent with the current approved state NPS management program plan, and the ability of the project to meet all financial requirements of the SRF program.
- Note: The project funding needs that are identified in the PPL exceed the estimated total funds available for projects on the FFY 2026 CWSRF General Supplemental Capitalization Grant. The additional money required to fund projects on the PPL may come from "recycled" CWSRF funds, resources provided by the project sponsor, or some combination thereof. All available CWSRF funds, including recycled funds, will be accounted for in the FFY 2026 CWSRF Base Capitalization Grant IUP. In addition, equivalency projects that do not have a construction permit (or letter of approval) and a closed loan by July 31, 2027 may be moved to the next available IUP.

The following projects will not be funded by SRF unless additional PF funding becomes available. SRF will notify the sponsor should funding become available.									
1	Swansea, Town of - Sewer System Rehabilitation Phase 2	820-02	As identified in a recent system assessment, the Town's sewer system has significant deficiencies. This project will address those by completing repairs to cleanouts throughout the town, and rehabilitating the Tavern Pump Station.	SSS000057	\$ 988,000	\$ -	\$ 988,000		40
2	Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission - Bush River Gravity Sewer Rehabilitation Project	540-17	This project includes rehabilitation of 149 manholes with CRT coating and watertight ring cover, preventing infiltration and inflow. Five gravity sewer creek crossings will be repaired to address compromised structural integrity. 47,000 LF of gravity sewer will be cleaned, reducing blockage. The rehab scope includes the major trunk lines upstream of the Bush River Rd LS and the Clinton Joanna Wastewater Treatment Plant Influent LS. Existing meter vaults will be rehabilitated, and new flow meters will be installed at each lift station, allowing for enhanced monitoring and reporting accuracy.	SC0037974	\$ 1,700,000	\$ -	\$ 1,700,000		20