



# DRINKING WATER EMERGING CONTAMINANTS

2024 CALL FOR PROJECTS WEBINAR

January 23, 2024 1:30 p.m.



# TODAY'S SPEAKERS

**Wayne Shealy, P.E.**

SRF Division Director  
Department of Health and  
Environmental Control



**Noel Hebert, CPA**

Assistant Loan Programs Director  
Rural Infrastructure Authority



# Webinar Agenda

---

- Overview and Funding Available
- Who is Eligible?
- What is Required?
- Understanding the Process
- Financial Requirements
- Q&A



# Partnership in SRF Program Management

---



DHEC is the EPA grantee and manages the technical aspects of the SRF program

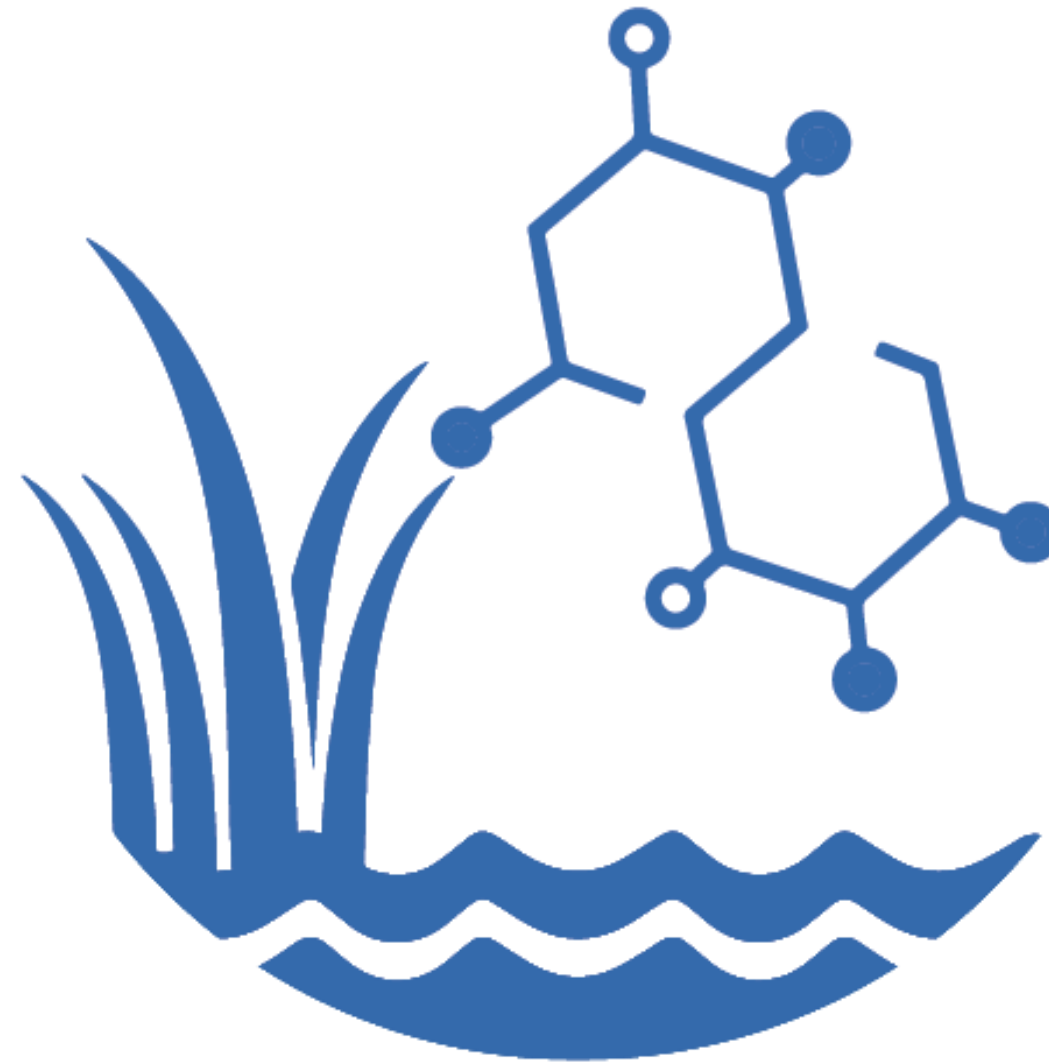
RIA's Office of Local Government (OLG) handles the financial responsibilities of the SRF program



# Emerging Contaminants for Small or Disadvantaged Communities Grant

## • EC-SDC •

New grant program managed by DHEC.  
Program guidance under development.



# Funding Opportunities for Drinking Water Emerging Contaminants

---

## SRF Emerging Contaminants Funding (SRF-EC)

100% Principal  
Forgiveness

**\$11 Million Available**

---

---

## Emerging Contaminants Small or Disadvantaged Communities Grant (EC-SDC)

100% Grant Funding

**\$44 Million Available**

---

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

# Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) SRF-EC

Significant increases for SRF loans and principal forgiveness funds for 5 years

Funding provided for:

1. All SRF-eligible drinking water, wastewater and stormwater projects
2. Lead service line replacement
3. Emerging contaminants

EPA BIL Memo:

[www.epa.gov/dwsrf/bipartisan-infrastructure-law-srf-memorandum](https://www.epa.gov/dwsrf/bipartisan-infrastructure-law-srf-memorandum)



# Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) EC-SDC

---

- Competitive Grant
- \$44 million estimated for grant funding
- Small or disadvantaged water providers are eligible







Drinking Water Emerging Contaminants

# Eligible Sponsors

## SRF-EC

---

Assistance for Public Entities:

- Municipalities
- Counties
- Special Purpose Districts
- Joint Regional Entities
- Non-profit community water systems

Funding is available to both large and small systems

# Eligible Sponsors

## EC-SDC

- Community Water Systems owned or operated by public entities
- Most privately owned water systems that have at least 15 connections
- All systems must be small (population less than 10,000 served)



Drinking Water Emerging Contaminants

# Eligible Contaminants

**SRF-EC & EC-SDC**

---

- PFAS
- Contaminants listed on EPA's Contaminants Candidates Lists CCL1 through CCL5 ([www.epa.gov/ccl](http://www.epa.gov/ccl))



# Eligible Activities

## SRF-EC & EC-SDC

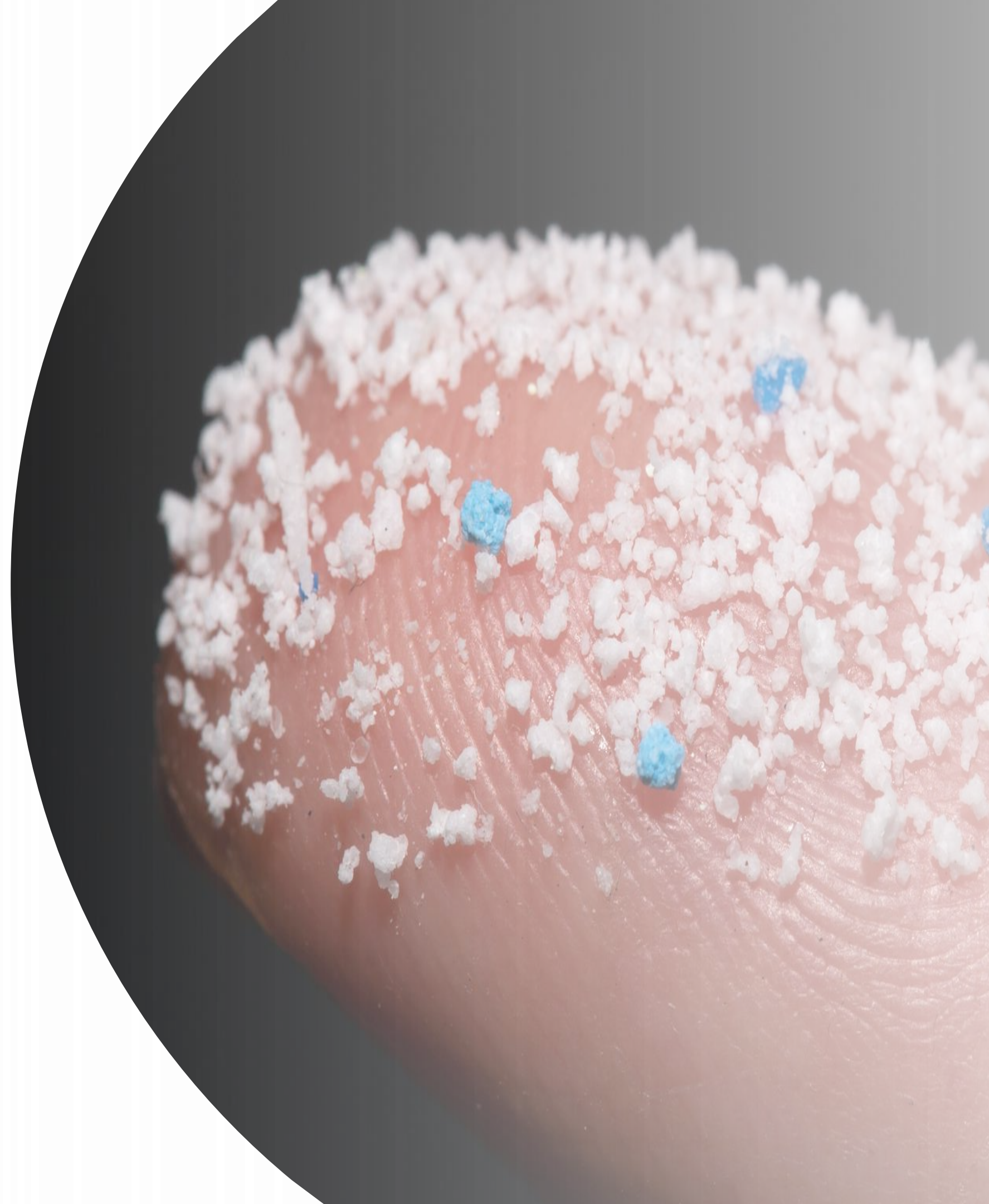
---



- Construction activities to address emerging contaminants, such as:
  - Upgrades to an existing treatment facility
  - Development of a new water source (well, intake, etc.)
  - Consolidation or interconnection with another water system
  - Extension of water lines to privately owned wells with contamination due to emerging contaminants
- Planning and Design Engineering (including stand-alone Planning and Design Engineering projects)
- Construction Engineering and Inspections

# Clean Water SRF

- Limited funding available for Clean Water emerging contaminants projects
- Clean Water SRF Eligible Activities:
  - PFAS and other persistent organic pollutants
  - Biological contaminants and microorganisms as defined by EPA
  - Some compounds found in pharmaceutical and personal care products
  - Nanomaterials
  - Microplastics/Nanoplastics
- Funding is 100% principal forgiveness
- Available to small and large systems



# Program Requirements

## SRF-EC

- All projects must meet SRF Equivalency requirements including:
  - Build America, Buy America (BABA)
  - Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)
  - BIL Signage
  - Davis-Bacon Wage Rates

## EC-SDC

- All projects must meet EC-SDC Federal requirements including:
  - Build America, Buy America (BABA)
  - Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)
  - BIL Signage
  - Semi-annual Reporting

# Build America, Buy America (BABA) Requirements SRF-EC & EC-SDC

- BABA applies to both SRF-EC and EC-SDC projects:  
“...none of the funds made available for a Federal financial assistance program for infrastructure...may be obligated for a project unless all of the iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States.”
- Published implementation guidance from EPA on November 3, 2022 (Q&A format)
- <https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/build-america-buy-america-baba>





# Davis-Bacon Act

## SRF-EC

- Administered by U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)
- Establishes local prevailing wages for laborers and mechanics on public works projects
- Applies to all contracts > \$2,000
- Applies to entire project regardless of any other funding sources
- Find and include the correct Wage Determination (WD) online at [sam.gov/content/wage-determinations](https://sam.gov/content/wage-determinations)



# Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Compliance

## SRF-EC & EC-SDC

- All projects should encourage use of small and disadvantaged businesses (including women and minority-owned businesses)
- Sponsors and contractors must:
  - Follow the Six Good Faith Efforts
  - Create and maintain a bidders list
  - Submit required DBE documentation for bid approval
  - Supply required reports during project implementation



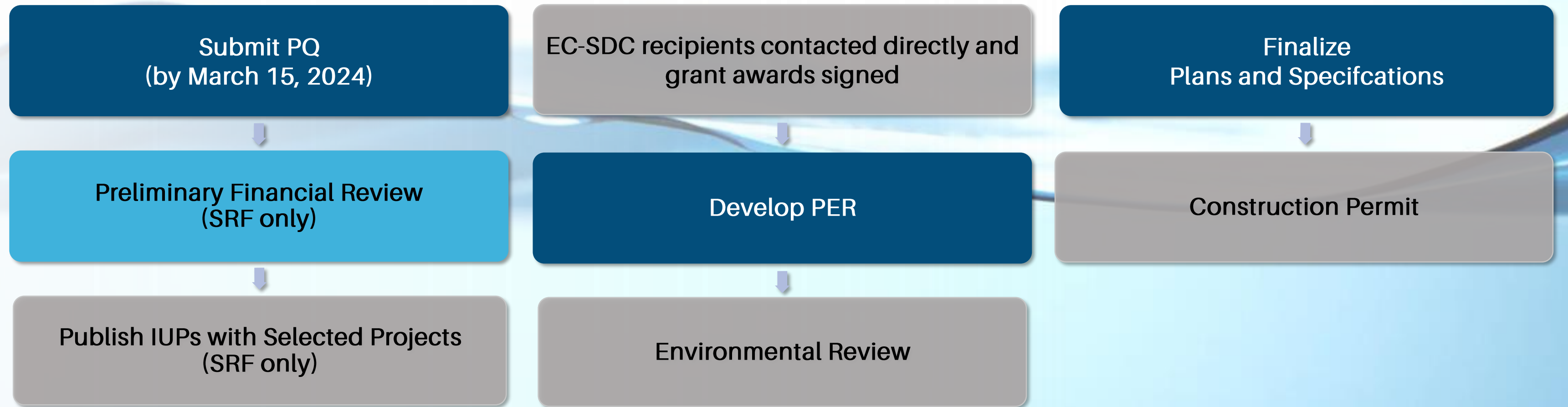
# The Process

Key:

Sponsor/Engineer

DHEC

RIA



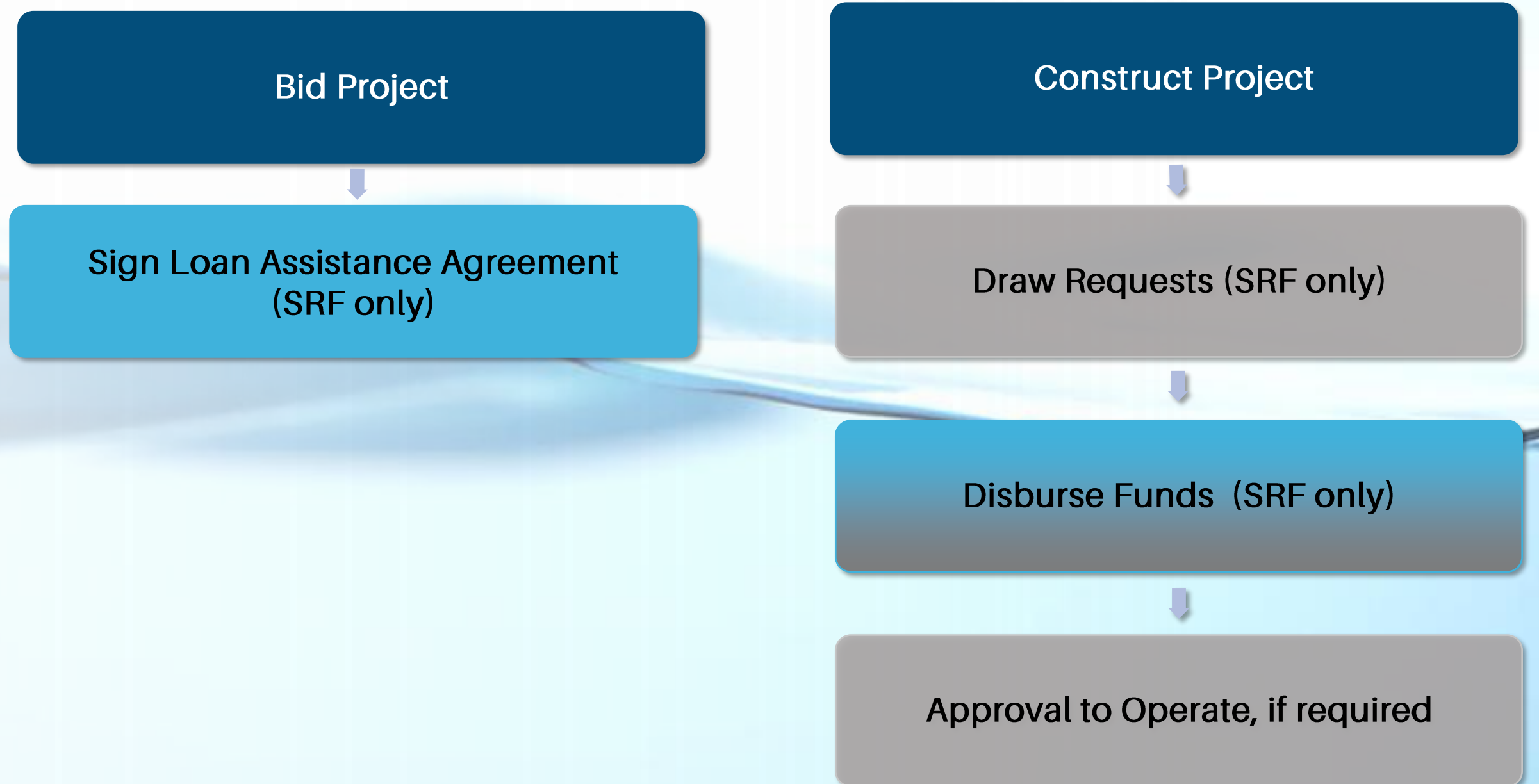
# The Process

Key:

Sponsor/Engineer

DHEC

RIA



April – June 2025

July 2025  
(6 – 24 months)

# Project Questionnaires & Selection Process SRF-EC & EC-SDC



---

- PQs
- Intended Use Plan (for SRF-EC only)
- Selected Projects



# Project Questionnaires (PQ) SRF-EC & EC-SDC

- Submit a two-page Project Questionnaire (PQ) to DHEC
- Available at: [scdhec.gov/SRFcall](https://scdhec.gov/SRFcall)
- PQs are due by March 15, 2024
- Email completed PQs to [SRF-Info@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:SRF-Info@dhec.sc.gov) and include any supporting documentation

	<b>Project Questionnaire</b> Drinking Water State Revolving Fund	
		SCDHEC Use Only SRF - _____
<b>GENERAL INFORMATION</b>		
1. Project Sponsor _____		
2. Sponsor Address _____		
3. Sponsor Contact _____ Title _____		
Contact Phone _____ Email _____		
4. Consultant (if known) Firm _____ Engineer _____		
Engineer Phone _____ Email _____		
5. PQ submitted by <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor <input type="checkbox"/> Consultant <i>If a consultant submits this form, include a letter indicating the sponsor's consent for the project.</i>		
6. Date Submitted _____		
<b>PROJECT INFORMATION</b> (Please refer to instructions.)		
7. Project Title _____		
8. County where project takes place _____		
9. Describe and define the project location. Please supply any <b>coordinates or street addresses</b> . <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.		
11. Describe in specific detail how the project will protect / improve public health or achieve / maintain compliance with drinking water standards. (Attach evidence of deficiencies.)		
DHEC 3463 (10/2023) SC Department of Health and Environmental Control Page 1		

# Project Selection Notification

## SRF-EC

---



DRINKING WATER

Federal FY 2023 DWSRF  
Emerging Contaminants Grant  
Intended Use Plan  
For State FY 2024  
FINAL  
July 21, 2023

SCDHEC  
Bureau of Water  
2600 Bull Street  
Columbia, SC 29201  
[www.scdhec.gov/srf](http://www.scdhec.gov/srf)



### SRF-EC Funded Projects:

- Intended Use Plans (IUP) identifies selected projects for coming fiscal year
- Provides a 30-day public comment period
- Project Priority List is developed and sponsors are contacted

# Project Selection Notification

## EC-SDC

### EC-SDC Grant Funded Projects:

- Grantees for EC-SDC will be notified directly
- Draft Implementation Guide under development

### Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities (EC-SDC)

#### WHAT IS EC-SDC?

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) was signed into law on November 15, 2021. The law provides more than \$50 billion to strengthen the nation's drinking water and wastewater systems. Among its provisions, BIL provides a total of \$5 billion in fiscal years 2022-2026 for the Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities (EC-SDC) grant program, which focuses on addressing emerging contaminants—including perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)—in small or disadvantaged communities' drinking or source water. Projects that address any contaminant listed on any of [EPA's Contaminant Candidate Lists](#) are eligible (i.e., CCL 1, 2, 3, 4, 5).

The statutory authority for the EC-SDC grant program requirements is Section 1459A of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), which is the same authority as EPA's WIIN Small, Underserved and Disadvantaged Communities (SUDC) grant.

Communities across the country need relief from emerging contaminants, including PFAS, in drinking water. EC-SDC funding combines BIL resources and priorities to help states:

- Address PFAS and emerging contaminant [challenges](#);
- Target resources to communities most in need of assistance; and
- Administrative procedures to reduce or eliminate barriers to disadvantaged or small communities assessing these funds.

#### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

South Carolina is dedicated to addressing PFAS and other emerging contaminants in drinking water. As a requirement of the program, the state will provide funding assistance to public water systems (PWSs) that serve small or disadvantaged communities. Public water systems include existing privately- and [publicly-owned](#) community water systems and non-profit non-community water systems, including systems utilizing point of entry or residential central treatment. Community water systems have at least 15 service connections or provide water to at least 25 people for 60 or more days out of the year. A small community is defined as one that has a population of less than 10,000 served.

South Carolina will use the criteria established in the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program (SRF) Intended Use Plan to define the criteria for a disadvantaged community. The definition of a disadvantaged community is as follows:

- "A disadvantaged community is one where:
- The median household income (MHI) is below the state's [MHI](#);
  - Serves a population less than 10,000; and
  - The system cannot afford a SRF loan."

#### Project Selection

Communities with the highest PFAS levels will be prioritized for funding. Funding for design and design to address PFAS and other emerging contaminants and remediation measures will be available to PWSs at levels of contamination.

#### Eligible uses and activities

DHEC will utilize the EC-SDC grant funds for both PWSs and non-PWSs. Please see the table below for examples of eligible uses and activities.

Planning and Assessment
• Planning and design
• Scoping and identification
• Testing or sampling for baseline assessment

#### Ineligible activities/uses of grants

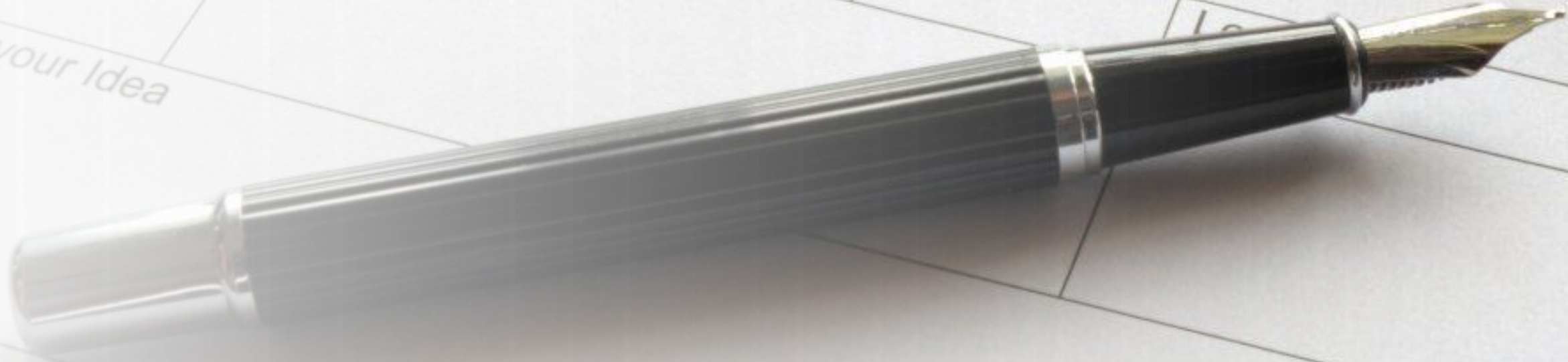
Examples of additional ineligible uses of grant funds are provided below. This list is intended to be illustrative and is not all inclusive. Other ineligible activities include the following activities:

• Funding of bottled water	• Construction or rehabilitation of dams.
• Projects whose primary purpose is not to address emerging contaminants.	• Activities needed primarily for fire protection.
• Remediation of contaminated groundwater or underlying aquifers.	• Activities needed primarily to serve future population growth.
• Operations and maintenance costs (prohibited by statute).	• Activities that have received assistance from the tribal allotment for Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages.
• Lead service line replacement.	• Costs that are unallowable (e.g., <a href="#">lobbying</a> and alcoholic beverages) under 2 CFR 200 Subpart E – Cost Principles.
• Replacement of premise plumbing.	

# SRF Financial Requirement

## LOAN APPLICATION

Name		Address		Age	Date	Le
Occupation		Address		Age	Date	Le
Note your Idea						
Monthly Income						
Order						





Drinking Water Emerging Contaminants

## Project Funding

**Eligible Project Sponsors  
will receive**

**100% Principal Forgiveness  
or  
100% Grant Funding**



# All Principal Forgiveness Funds

---

- No loan application necessary
- Submit a copy of your most recent audit (not delinquent)
- Complete your DHEC requirements first – including bidding
- DHEC will request your funding from the RIA
- The RIA will contact you regarding the necessary paperwork

Paperwork includes the adoption of a resolution with your governing body

A Loan Assistance Agreement will be drafted and signed by the official designated in your resolution

- You may draw on your funds once the Loan Assistance Agreement is fully executed by the RIA office.

# Available Resources



## WEBSITE

[scdhec.gov/srfcall](https://scdhec.gov/srfcall)



## GUIDES

Download or print



## REQUIREMENTS TABLES



## CONTACT

[srf-info@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:srf-info@dhec.sc.gov)

# DRINKING WATER EMERGING CONTAMINANTS FUNDING

APPLICATIONS DUE BY MARCH 15, 2024



## ADVANTAGES

2 Funding Programs  
+  
100% Principal Forgiveness or  
Grant Funds for all eligible  
projects  
+  
Submit only 1 PQ



## SRF-EC FUNDING

100 % Principal Forgiveness  
+  
Available to large and small  
systems  
+  
SRF Project Manager to help  
meet all federal requirements



## EC-SDC GRANT

100% Grant Funding  
+  
Available for Small or  
Disadvantaged Communities  
+  
Technical Assistance Provided



# Thank you!

---

[www.scdhec.gov/srf](http://www.scdhec.gov/srf)

[www.ria.sc.gov/loans](http://www.ria.sc.gov/loans)