WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

Help us decide how we prioritize drinking water infrastructure funding in our state!

Access to safe and reliable drinking water is essential to public health. The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) is a financial assistance program funded through the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), helping water systems build and maintain drinking water infrastructure. You can learn more about this work at the DWSRF website.

The DWSRF offers grants and loans to eligible infrastructure projects for improvements including treatment, distribution (fixing leaky or old pipes), improving source of water supply, replacing or constructing finished water storage tanks, and other projects needed to protect public health.

Under the DWSRF, public water projects that qualify as a serving a "disadvantaged community" are eligible for specific types of grants and loan forgiveness for drinking water infrastructure. The EPA requires a portion of funding to go to "disadvantaged communities," and states must develop a definition and criteria for how projects may qualify. We are currently updating this definition and criteria in law.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

There are three ways you can get involved:

1. Share input through this brief survey: bit.ly/DOHDrinkingWaterSurvey-English
2. Attend a virtual listening session (register at bit.ly/DOHDrinkingWaterCall):
   - Wednesday, October 4 from 4:30-6:30pm
   - Wednesday, November 1 from 4:30-6:30pm
   - Wednesday, December 6 from 4:30-6:30pm
3. Email us directly at DWSRF@doh.wa.gov or call 564-233-1799.

You can also sign up on our website to receive updates about this rulemaking, including more information about community engagement opportunities.

WHY YOU SHOULD GET INVOLVED

We believe that the people and communities who might be most impacted by a decision should be part of that decision-making process. This is an opportunity to help shape state drinking water policy and support equitable access to drinking water infrastructure for communities across Washington.

We are specifically trying to reach people and communities served by public water systems who may experience hardship in affording or accessing safe and reliable drinking water due to

existing and ongoing systemic inequities. These include, but are not limited to:

- Communities of color;
- Rural communities;
- Tribal communities or communities on tribal lands;
- People who are low-income;
- Migrant workers; and
- People with chronic health conditions or sensitivities that put them at higher risk of impacts.

If you identify as a member of one or more of these groups and would like to share your thoughts, please contact as at DWSRF@doh.wa.gov or see above for ways to get involved.