American Recovery & Reinvestment Act 2009

Stimulus Funding
For Water & Wastewater Infrastructure Projects
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

DEQ
OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

OWRB
WATER RESOURCES BOARD
the water agency

USDA

Rural Development
The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, passed by Congress on February 13 and signed by President Obama on February 17, includes $62 million for “shovel ready” water and wastewater infrastructure projects in Oklahoma. Specifically, the stimulus package appropriates $31 million each for Oklahoma’s Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan programs. Congress has also set aside $70 million in stimulus funds for USDA Rural Development’s Water and Wastewater Loans and Grants.

Because the objective of the stimulus package is to promptly energize the economy and create jobs, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, and USDA Rural Development are only considering water and wastewater projects that are ready to begin construction. Stimulus projects will be reviewed and ranked according to existing programmatic procedures. The financing under these programs will be available in the form of the following:

- The Clean and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs will offer a grant/loan combination financing opportunity. As funding is available, 30% of a project’s expenditures up to $2 million will be available to communities in the form of grants, and 70% will be available in the form of loans.
- Rural Development’s Stimulus Funding will be administered in the same manner as their Water and Wastewater Loan and Grant Program. While the overall statewide goal for Stimulus Funding is to achieve a 70/30% loan/grant ratio, some communities could qualify for more (or less) grant funds based on their need.

Guidelines:

- Economic stimulus money will only be available for projects that are already listed on the OWRB’s and DEQ’s priority funding lists. Communities with projects that qualify for Rural Development funds must indicate interest to the State office. Unlisted communities will be considered only if they have shovel-ready projects.
- A goal is for states to use at least 50 percent of the funds for activities that can be initiated within 120 days of enactment.
- All federal State Revolving Fund requirements will remain in place; all Rural Development requirements will remain in place.
- At least 50 percent of the allotted State Revolving Funds must be used for additional subsidization, including forgiveness of principal, negative interest loans, and grants.
- 20 percent of the State Revolving Fund appropriation for projects that address “green” infrastructure, including water-efficiency, energy-efficiency, storm water runoff mitigation, or projects that encourage environmentally sensitive project planning, design, and construction (if there are sufficient applications for eligible projects).
- 10% of Rural Development stimulus funds is targeted to 14 pervasive poverty counties.

Eligible applicants must complete the following:
1. Applications for all necessary permits or approvals
2. Environmental clearances
3. Engineering (plans and specifications).
OWRB Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Loans

Stimulus Funding: $31 Million
Funding Agency: Oklahoma Water Resources Board
Eligible Applicants: Units of local government
Eligible Projects: Construction of new wastewater facilities or the replacement or rehabilitation of existing facilities for secondary and advanced treatment, inflow and infiltration (I&I) correction, collector and interceptor sewers, combined sewer overflow correction, and related wastewater projects, nonpoint source, brownfields, green infrastructure, and related stormwater pollution control projects.
Other Information: 20-year below market interest rate loans.
Contact Information: Oklahoma Water Resources Board
(405) 530-8800

OWRB/DEQ Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Loans

Stimulus Funding: $31 Million
Funding Agency: Oklahoma Water Resources Board
Eligible Applicants: Units of local government
Eligible Projects: Water facility expansion, replacement, improvement, and/or repair. Refinancing of existing debt obligations for such projects.
Other Information: Applicants referred to OWRB through Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality. OWRB serves as financial administrator for the program. Up to 30-year below market interest rate loans.
Contact Information: Oklahoma Water Resources Board
(405) 530-8800
Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality
(405) 702-8100

USDA Rural Development Water and Wastewater Loan and Grant Program

Stimulus Funding: $70 Million
Funding Agency: U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development
Eligible Applicants: Public bodies, tribal governments, and nonprofit corporations.
Eligible Areas: Towns up to 10,000 population and all rural areas.
Eligible Projects: Construction, installation, repair, improvement, and expansion of community water, wastewater, solid waste, and storm sewer systems including acquisition of land, water rights, legal fees, or engineering.
Other Information: Maximum loan term is useful life of facility, not to exceed 40 years. Low interest rates are fixed. The applicant’s median household income must be under $31,707 for grant consideration. Grant assistance may only be provided to financially needy communities to keep user costs at a reasonable level, but not lower than similar type systems.
Contact Information: USDA Rural Development
(405) 742-1060