

Coordinating CDBG with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act in the State of Louisiana

PRESENTED BY:

FENISHIA FAVORITE

POLICY AND PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

President Biden signed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) on November 15, 2021. It includes more than \$50 billion to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to strengthen the nation's drinking water and wastewater systems. The BIL also includes a total of \$5 billion in fiscal years (FY) 2022-2026 for the Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities (EC-SDC) grant program, which focuses on addressing emerging contaminants in drinking water served by public water systems in small or disadvantaged communities.

FY 2022 and FY 2023 BIL Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities Grant Allotments totaled \$1.891 billion – Louisiana was awarded \$26,300,000

The governor's office selected the Office of Community Development – Local Government Assistance to administer these funds.

Which communities will be funded?

The Office of Community Development (OCD) is currently working with the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) to determine which water systems have the greatest need.

- LDH is completing testing on systems throughout the State to identify systems that have contaminant issues.
- Once testing is complete LDH and OCD will work together to identify systems with the greatest need of funding. This will be based on the system's rating by LDH and also the availability of funds from other sources.












Louisiana Department of Health Grading System

Water system grades evaluate community water systems' long-term sustainability to provide safe drinking water to Louisiana residents. Seven standards (categories) are evaluated for the water grade:

- federal water quality
- state violations
- financial sustainability
- operation and maintenance
- Infrastructure
- customer satisfaction
- secondary contaminants

Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) maintains data for all standards except standards financial sustainability and customer satisfaction. Water systems are required to submit data for financial sustainability and customer satisfaction standards by January 31, 2023.

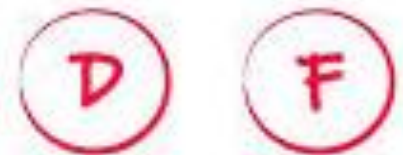
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RIVER RIDGE ESTATES WATER SYSTEM Parish: ST MARTIN PWSID: LA1099023 2022 Water Grade		
 Federal Water Quality <small>Max of 30 points</small>	Points deducted for federal violations, which include Treatment Technique and Maximum Contaminant Level Violations, may pose a public health risk over an extended period of time.	-30
 State Water Quality <small>Max of 10 points</small>	Points deducted for state violations, which include no water operator, inadequate water disinfection, and boil notices and water outages, may lead to other issues of concern if not resolved.	-9
 Financial Sustainability <small>Max of 10 points</small>	Points deducted for lack of financial sustainability which can affect operations and maintenance of the water system. An effective water rate can provide for the repair, maintenance, and future replacement of infrastructure.	-10
 Operations & Maintenance <small>Max of 15 points</small>	Points deducted for operation and maintenance deficiencies noted during water system inspections, which may affect the water quality being distributed to consumers.	-0
 Infrastructure <small>Max of 20 points</small>	Points deducted for infrastructure deficiencies noted during water system inspections, which may lead to unsafe drinking water and/or water service disruption.	-15
 Customer Satisfaction <small>Max of 10 points</small>	Points deducted for customer complaints received by the water system and/or the Louisiana Department of Health, which are confirmed to be a water quality or quantity issue in the water system.	-10
 Secondary Contaminants <small>Max of 5 points</small>	Points deducted for levels of iron and/or manganese greater than the secondary maximum contaminant levels. These levels do not pose a health risk but may cause undesirable water quality issues.	-5
 BONUS <small>Max of 10 points</small>	Points granted for having an asset management plan; a storage assessment and maintenance program; well assessment & maintenance program; participation in management training; or participation in a capacity development program.	+0

Grading System

For water systems with a grade of D or F, LDH is working with those water systems to return to compliance with regulations through the enforcement process, upgrade or replace infrastructure through loans/grants, and/or consolidate with another water system that is sustainable. In dire cases, LDH may seek receivership for the water system where the enforcement process has not yielded timely compliance with regulations.

Approximately 33% of the water systems with a grade of D or F have applied or have funding through the Water Sector Program and/or LDH Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund Program to address their issues.

Also, for water systems with a grade of D or F, LDH must notify State Bond Commission, Louisiana Public Service Commission, Louisiana Legislative Auditor, and Attorney General to assist with oversight of funding, new debt and revenue spending.



Greatest Need

For a project to be eligible for funding, the project must be located in a small or disadvantaged community.

When determining the greatest need OCD will also review the communities other available funding sources. Communities that can not secure funding from other sources will be given priority.



Advantages

OCD currently works with EPA to administer funds under the WIIN 2104 funding and we use the same procedures as our regular CDBG program. We have a working relationship with the EPA representative for our state and know what is expected.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE SUDC GRANT AND THE EC-SDC GRANT	
SUDC	EC-SDC
Authorized Under WIIN	Authorized and appropriated under BIL
10% cost share	0% cost share
Requires the community be underserved ²	Does not require the community to be underserved ²
Focuses on compliance and access to drinking water services	Focuses on emerging contaminants

Louisiana Infrastructure Technical Assistance Corporation - LITACorp

A non profit organization with three key goals:

1. Equip political subdivisions located in rural and economically distressed areas with the tools and resources they need to identify, apply for, and administer federal grants funded through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).
2. Minimize barriers for political subdivisions to access federal resources by assisting them with meeting local cost share requirements of federal grant programs funded through IIJA.
3. Acquire federal grant funds through IIJA to construct, improve, or repair public infrastructure – water and sewer systems, roads, bridges, railways, ports, broadband, etc. – in rural and economically distressed communities throughout Louisiana.

Established by ACT No. 497 in the 2022 Regular Session, the Louisiana State Legislature authorized the Political Subdivision Federal Grant Assistance Fund (§100.192) “to assist political subdivisions with competitive federal grant opportunities made pursuant to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

Questions

Contact Information

- Fenishia.Favorite@la.gov
- 225-342-5884