



NEWS RELEASE

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AUTHORITY

Arizona's water and wastewater funding source

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WIFA Announces Request for Grant Applications for Planning and Design Projects

PHOENIX (July 2, 2013) – The Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) of Arizona announced today a Request for Grant Applications for the latest round of WIFA's Planning and Design Assistance grants. These grants provide funding for water infrastructure planning or design projects and prepare communities for construction of capital improvements.

Funding up to \$35,000 per project is available for drinking water, wastewater and stormwater projects. Eligible applicants include political subdivisions and private drinking water companies regulated by the Arizona Corporation Commission. Some examples of the types of grant projects (WIFA funds) are feasibility studies, preliminary engineering reports, final design reports and environmental assessments.

Total funding available for this grant cycle is \$150,000 for drinking water projects and \$150,000 for wastewater and stormwater projects. Recipients are required to contribute a 40% match unless the project qualifies as "green." WIFA will waive the match requirement for a green project designed to improve water or energy efficiency or incorporate green stormwater infrastructure.

"Obtaining funding for the planning and design phase of a project can be difficult. WIFA can help by providing grant funds to communities to start the first phase of a project," said WIFA Executive Director, Sandy Sutton. After the planning phase is complete, WIFA can provide additional financial assistance through low-interest loans designed to ensure safe, reliable drinking water and proper wastewater treatment. Grants are awarded twice a year, while WIFA's low-interest financing is available year-round in any amount.

Interested parties can apply online at www.azwifa.gov/application. Applications must be received by 3 p.m. on Friday, August 30, 2013. WIFA will post grant awards on October 16, 2013. For more information on eligible projects, evaluation criteria, and grant terms and conditions, please refer to the Request for Grant Applications at www.azwifa.gov/grant-programs.

WIFA's Planning and Design Grant Program funds roughly \$450,000 per year in infrastructure planning and design projects. Funding comes from Clean Water and Drinking Water Revolving Funds, which WIFA manages for the state of Arizona. The grant program is designed to complement WIFA's low-interest loan program.

Low-interest loans are available year-round for a wide variety of drinking water, wastewater, water reclamation and stormwater projects. WIFA also offers funding for projects like nonpoint source pollution control, water conservation and reuse and watershed protection or restoration.

For more information on WIFA's programs, please visit www.azwifa.gov.

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