



NEWS RELEASE

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AUTHORITY

Arizona's water and wastewater funding source

1110 W. Washington St., Suite 290, Phoenix, Arizona 85007 | azwifa.gov | (602) 364-1310

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Contact: Susan Craig, Communications Director, (602) 364-1236

WIFA Announces Request for Grant Applications for Planning and Design Projects

PHOENIX (July 1, 2014) – The Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) of Arizona announced today the release of a Request for Grant Applications (RFGA) 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 necessary capital improvement projects.

Funding up to \$35,000 per project is available for drinking water, wastewater and stormwater projects. Eligible applicants include cities, towns, special districts, tribal entities, and private drinking water companies regulated by the Arizona Corporation Commission. Some examples of the type of grant projects WIFA funds are feasibility studies, capital improvement plans, preliminary engineering 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.

"Often we see that getting a project started is the biggest challenge for both small and large communities with limited budgets," said WIFA Executive Director, Sandy Sutton. "Completing the planning or design phase of an infrastructure project is essential for a successful construction project, and we're happy that WIFA can play a role in helping Arizona's communities."

Interested parties can apply online at www.azwifa.gov/application. Applications must be received by 3 p.m. on Friday, August 29, 2014. WIFA will post grant awards on October 15, 2014. 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.

Individual grants of up to \$35,000 are awarded twice a year, while WIFA's low-interest financing (loan program) is available year-round and in any amount. The grant program is designed to complement WIFA's low-interest loan program, which funds construction as well as planning and design for a wide variety of drinking water, wastewater and stormwater projects.

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

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