

North Carolina Water and Wastewater Funding Sources

Compiled by the Environmental Finance Center Network, April 2020

Organization	Program (key words)	Gov. Entity	Non- Profit	For- Profit	Purpose or Use of Funds	How to Apply	Website	Contact
North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality	Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) <i>(water)</i>	✓	✓	✓	The DWSRF provides low interest loans to local government units and certain non-profit water corporations for projects to provide safe drinking water.	There are two funding cycle per year, typically in April and September. Applications and guidance concerning the funding process can be accessed on the website.	https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-infrastructure/i-need-funding/drinking-water-state-revolving-fund	Vincent Tomaino vincent.tomaino@ncdenr.gov 919-707-9058 512 North Salisbury Street Raleigh, North Carolina 27604
	Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) <i>(sewer)</i>	✓			The CWSRF provides low interest loans to local government units to fund wastewater collection and treatment facilities as well as programs associated with estuary and non-point sources.		https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-infrastructure/i-need-funding/clean-water-state-revolving-fund	Anita Robertson anita.robertson@ncdenr.gov 919-707-9174 512 North Salisbury Street Raleigh, North Carolina 27604
	Community Development Block Grant- Infrastructure (CDBG) <i>(water, sewer)</i>	✓			Provides grants to local government units to address water and wastewater infrastructure needs in HUD qualified low to moderate income communities.	There is one funding cycle per year, typically in September. Applications and guidelines concerning the funding process can be accessed on the website.	https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-infrastructure/i-need-funding/community-development-block-grant-0	Julie Haigler Cubeta julie.cubeta@ncdenr.gov 919-707-9189 512 North Salisbury Street Raleigh, North Carolina 27604
	State Wastewater and Drinking Water Reserve Programs <i>(wastewater, water)</i>	✓			The State Wastewater Reserve and Drinking Water Reserve Programs provide grants and loans for planning, design and construction of critical water infrastructure. Grant dollars are awarded according to affordability criteria developed based on the definition found in NCGS 159G-20.(1).	There is one funding cycle per year, typically in September. Application forms and guidelines concerning the funding process can be accessed online on the NCDWI website.	https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-infrastructure/i-need-funding/state-wastewater-and-drinking-water-reserve	Vincent Tomaino vincent.tomaino@ncdenr.gov 919-707-9058 or Anita Robertson anita.robertson@ncdenr.gov 919-707-9174 512 North Salisbury Street Raleigh, North Carolina 27604
	Merger/Regionalization Feasibility Grants <i>(water, wastewater)</i>	✓	✓		The Merger/Regionalization Feasibility grants were created in Session Law 2015-241, with the changes made to NCGS 159G, to broaden the use of grant funds to encourage water and wastewater utilities to become viable and more proactive in the management and financing of their systems.		https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-infrastructure-draft/i-need-funding/mergerregionalization-feasibility-grants	Amy Simes amy.simes@ncdenr.gov 919-707-9192 512 North Salisbury Street Raleigh, North Carolina 27604
	Asset Inventory and Assessment Grants <i>(water, wastewater)</i>	✓	✓		The Asset Inventory and Assessment grants were created in Session Law 2015-241 in the changes made to NCGS 159G, to broaden the use of grant funds to encourage water and wastewater utilities to become more viable and more proactive in the management and financing of their systems.	https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-infrastructure-draft/i-need-funding/asset-and-inventory-assessment-grants		

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation <i>(water, wastewater)</i>	✓	✓	✓	The Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (WIFIA) established the WIFIA program, a federal credit program administered by EPA for eligible water and wastewater infrastructure projects. The WIFIA program offers loans with low, fixed interest rates and flexible financial terms. The minimum project size for small communities, population of 25,000 or less, is \$5 million.	The WIFIA application process is two phases. Prospective borrowers must submit a letter of interest for their project to the WIFIA program by the announced annual deadline. For each selected projects, the prospective borrower may submit an application, negotiate loan terms, and close its loan. Please check the WIFIA website for more information about program deadlines.	https://www.epa.gov/wifia	Arielle Gerstein wifia@epa.gov 202-566-1868 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest Mailcode 4201T Washington, District of Columbia 20460
	Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act: Assistance for Small and Disadvantaged Communities Drinking Water Grant <i>(water)</i>	✓			The program supports drinking water projects and activities in underserved, small, and disadvantaged communities that are unable to finance projects to comply with drinking water regulations under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Projects and activities eligible for assistance can include infrastructure projects; technical, managerial, and financial capacity building activities; and activities necessary for a state to respond to a contaminant.	Communities will apply to their respective state program for assistance. Deadline for participating states to submit their final application package to www.Grants.gov is September 30, 2020	https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/water-infrastructure-improvements-nation-act-wiin-act-grant-programs	For state contact information visit: https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/water-infrastructure-improvements-nation-act-wiin-act-grant-programs
USDA Rural Development	Waste and Water Disposal Direct Loans and Grants <i>(water, sewer)</i>	✓	✓		The purpose of this program is to develop water and waste disposal systems in rural areas with populations less than 10,000. Fixed, low interest rates. Repayment - up to 40 years. Grants may be available.	Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Paper applications are accepted, or applicants can register for and use RD Apply. Information is available here: http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rd-apply	http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-waste-disposal-loan-grant-program/nc	Garland Burnette garland.burnette@nc.usda.gov 919-873-2031 4405 Bland Road Raleigh, North Carolina 27609
	Water and Waste Disposal Guaranteed Loan Program <i>(water, sewer)</i>	✓	✓		The purpose of this program is to provide a loan guarantee for the construction or improvement of water and waste disposal projects serving the financially needed communities of rural areas. This is achieved through bolstering existing private credit structure through the guarantee of quality loans. Guarantees up to 90% available to eligible lenders.		http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-waste-disposal-loan-guarantees/nc	
	Water and Waste Disposal Predevelopment Planning Grants <i>(water, wastewater)</i>	✓	✓		This program assists low-income communities with initial planning and development of an application for USDA Rural Development Water and Waste Disposal direct loan/grant and loan guarantee programs. The service area must have a median household income below the poverty line or less than 80 percent of the statewide non-metropolitan median household income and the population for eligibility is 10,000. The maximum is \$30,000 or 75% of the predevelopment planning costs.		http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-waste-disposal-predevelopment-planning-grants/nc	

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USDA Rural Development	Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants <i>(water)</i>	✓	✓		This grant program is designed to assist rural communities that have experienced a significant decline in quantity or quality of drinking water due to an emergency, or in which such decline is considered imminent, to obtain or maintain adequate quantities of water that meets the standards set by the Safe Drinking Water Act.	Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Paper applications are accepted, or applicants can register for and use RD Apply. Information is available here: http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rd-apply	http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/emergency-community-water-assistance-grants/nc	Garland Burnette garland.burnette@nc.usda.gov 919-873-2031 4405 Bland Road Raleigh, North Carolina 27609
	Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities and Households (SEARCH) <i>(water, wastewater)</i>	✓	✓		This program helps very small, financially distressed rural communities with predevelopment feasibility studies, design assistance, and technical assistance on proposed water and waste disposal projects. The service area must have a median household income below the poverty line or less than 80 percent of the statewide non-metropolitan median household income and the population for eligibility is 2,500. The maximum is \$30,000.	Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Paper applications are accepted, or applicants can register for and use RD Apply. Information is available here: http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rd-apply	http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/search-special-evaluation-assistance-rural-communities-and-households/nc	
	Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan <i>(small business)</i>	✓	✓	✓	This program improves the economic health of rural communities by increasing access to business capital through loan guarantees that enable commercial lenders to provide affordable financing for businesses in eligible rural areas. Lenders such as federal or state-chartered banks, savings and loans, farm credit banks, and credit unions can apply for the program. Businesses can qualify for loan guarantees.	Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and can be sent via mail. Contact your local state office to apply.	https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-industry-loan-guarantees/nc	Bruce Pleasant bruce.pleasant@usda.gov 919-873-2031 4405 Bland Road, Suite 260 Raleigh, North Carolina 27609
	Water and Waste Disposal Revolving Fund <i>(water, wastewater)</i>			✓		This program helps qualified nonprofits create revolving loan funds that can provide financing to extend and improve water and waste disposal systems in rural areas.	Contact the Rural Development program specialist in your state or see contact information.	https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-waste-disposal-revolving-loan-funds/nc
Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce	Public Works <i>(water, sewer)</i>	✓	✓		Empowers distressed communities to revitalize, expand, and upgrade their physical infrastructure, and generate or retain long-term, private sector jobs and investment.	Application packages are available at www.grants.gov . Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis until the publication of a new Economic Development Administration Programs Federal Funding Opportunity.	https://www.eda.gov/funding-opportunities/	Hillary Sherman hsherman@eda.gov 404-730-3013 401 West Peachtree Street, Northwest, Suite 1820 Atlanta, Georgia 30308
	Economic Adjustment <i>(water, sewer)</i>	✓	✓		Assists state and local interests in designing and implementing strategies to adjust or bring about change to an economy. The program focuses on areas that have experienced or are under threat of serious structural damage to the underlying economic base.			
National Rural Water Association	NRWA Revolving Loan Fund <i>(water, wastewater)</i>	✓	✓		The Rural Water Loan Fund (RWLF) is a funding program specifically designed to meet the unique needs of small water and wastewater utilities. The RWLF provides low-cost loans for short-term repair costs, small capital projects, or pre-development costs associated with larger projects. The RWLF was established through a grant from the USDA/Rural Utilities Service, and repaid funds used to replenish the fund and make new loans.	Applications can be accessed on website and can be sent by mail or e-mail.	http://nrwa.org/initiatives/revolving-loan-fund/	Daniel Wilson danielwilson@ncrwa.com 336-731-6963 P.O. Box 540 Welcome, North Carolina 27374

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Southeast Rural Community Assistance Partnership (SERCAP)	SERCAP Individual Household Well Loan Program (individual wells)				The household water well system loan program is designed to assist low- to moderate-income individuals needing loans to construct, refurbish and service their household well systems. The purpose of the program is to target loans to the significant numbers of homeowners in the seven states whose geographically isolated households lack water service, but for whom it is not feasible to be connected to new or existing community water systems.	Applications are received year round. Applications can be accessed on website.	http://sercap.org/services/water-wastewater	Anita Hicks ahicks@sercap.org 540-345-1184 ext. 137 347 Campbell Avenue, Southwest Roanoke, Virginia 24016
	SERCAP Loan Fund Program (sewer, water)	✓	✓	✓	This program offers low-interest loans to low-income, rural communities, and businesses for water/wastewater, housing, bridge loans, guaranteed loans, matching funds, and other community development activities. There is a maximum of \$250,000, with terms of 10-30 years.			
CoBank	Rural Water and Wastewater Lending (water, wastewater)	✓	✓	✓	CoBank works with rural water and wastewater not-for-profit systems, municipalities, and investor-owned utility companies to provide interim and bridge financing, refinancing of existing debt, term financing for system upgrades, and lines of credit.	Applications are accepted continuously. Send inquiries to water@cobank.com	https://www.cobank.com/corporate/industry/water	Julia McCusker mccuskj@cobank.com 303-694-5858 6340 South Fiddlers Green Circle Greenwood Village, Colorado 80111
Live Oak Bank	Water and Environmental Programs (water, wastewater)	✓	✓	✓	Live Oak Bank provides USDA-guaranteed funding for rural communities and utilities looking to construct, enlarge, extend or otherwise improve rural drinking water, sanitary sewage (wastewater), solid waste disposal and stormwater drainage facilities. USDA guaranteed loans support rural communities with populations up to 50,000, which was increased from 10,000 in the 2018 Farm Bill. USDA-guaranteed loans provide fixed rates and terms up to 40-years, along with federal 1926(b) protection against unauthorized annexation. Live Oak Bank was named the 2019 Commercial Lender of the Year by USDA Rural Development, and is based in Wilmington, NC.	Contact the program specialist to apply.	https://www.liveoakbank.com/energy-infrastructure-loans/water-wastewater-financing/	Matt Peeler matt.peeler@liveoak.bank 910-790-5867 1741 Tiburon Drive Wilmington, North Carolina 28403
NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund	Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) Grants (water)	✓	✓		The Clean Water Management Trust Fund provides grant assistance to conservation non-profits, local governments and state agencies for the protection of surface waters in North Carolina. CWMTF receives a direct appropriation from the General Assembly in order to issue grants to local governments, state agencies and conservation non-profits to help finance projects that specifically address water pollution problems.	See website for funding application deadlines. Applications can be accessed on website.	http://www.cwmtf.net/	Walter Clark walter.clark@ncdcr.gov 919-707-9120 1651 Mail Service Center Raleigh, North Carolina 27699
NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Soil and Water Conservation	Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP) (wastewater)	✓	✓		CCAP is a voluntary, incentive-based program designed to improve water quality through the installation of various best management practices (BMPs) on urban, suburban and rural lands not directly involved with agriculture production.	Contact your local soil and water conservation district for more information concerning the application process.	http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/costshareprograms/CCAP/index.html	Tom Hill thomas.hill@ncagr.gov 919-707-3778 216 West Jones Street Raleigh, North Carolina 27603

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NC Department of Commerce, Rural Economic Development Division	Community Development Block Grant, Economic Development Program <i>(water, sewer)</i>	✓			Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds are available to local municipal or county governments for projects that will lead to the creation of new, full-time jobs made to low to moderate income individuals. Projects include upgrades or repair of drinking water or wastewater treatment plants or upgrades, extensions, or repair of public water or sewer lines.	Applications can be accessed on website.	https://www.nccommerce.com/about-us/divisions-programs/rural-economic-development/community-development-block-grants-cdbg	Libby Smith libby.smith@nccommerce.com 919-814-4677 301 North Wilmington Street Raleigh, North Carolina 27699
	Economic Infrastructure Program <i>(water, sewer)</i>	✓			Funds are available to local governments to assist with infrastructure projects that will lead to the creation of new, full-time jobs. Projects include upgrades or repair of drinking water or wastewater treatment plants or upgrades, extensions, or repair of public water or sewer lines.	Awards are granted in two month cycles. See website for deadlines. Applications can be accessed on website.	http://www.nccommerce.com/rgp	Melody Adams melody.adams@nccommerce.com 919-814-4661 301 North Wilmington Street Raleigh, North Carolina 27601
	Industrial Development Fund Utility Account <i>(water, sewer)</i>	✓			Funds are available to local governments to assist with infrastructure projects where there is a reasonable expectation that the project will lead to the creation of new, full-time jobs. Projects include upgrades or repair of drinking water or wastewater treatment plants or upgrades, extensions, or repair of public water or sewer lines.	Potential applicants should contact the program manager to request a pre-application package.	https://www.nccommerce.com/grants-incentives/public-infrastructure-funds/utility-account	Mark N. Poole mpoole@nccommerce.com 919-814-4616 301 North Wilmington Street Raleigh, North Carolina 27601
	Appalachian Regional Commission Area Development Fund <i>(water, sewer)</i>	✓			Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grants are administered either by ARC or by a federal agency selected by the grantee. The Commission administers most grants where the funds are for technical assistance, program operating costs, or equipment purchase, with no construction costs involved. ARC provides funds for basic infrastructure services, including water and sewer facilities, that enhance economic development opportunities or address serious health issues for residential customers.	Potential applicants should contact their state ARC program manager to request a pre-application package.	http://www.nccommerce.com/rd/arc	Olivia Collier ocollier@nccommerce.com 919-814-4656 4313 Mail Service Center Raleigh, North Carolina 27699
Golden LEAF Foundation	Economic Catalyst Program, Open Grants Programs, Community Based Grants Initiative <i>(water, sewer)</i>	✓	✓		Funds are available to support public infrastructure projects in rural, tobacco-dependent, and economically distressed communities where support from other funders is not available or sufficient and job creation opportunities are at risk without Golden LEAF support.	For Economic Catalyst and Open Grants Program, rolling deadline, see website for details and applications. CBGI is a regional program that works with projects in one to two Prosperity Zones of NC each year.	http://www.goldenleaf.org	Ted Lord tlord@goldenleaf.org 252-442 7474 301 North Winstead Avenue Rocky Mount, North Carolina 27804

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Small Business Administration (SBA)	504 Fixed Asset Program (Certified Development Company) <i>(small business)</i>			✓	The 504 Loan Program provides approved small businesses with long-term, fixed-rate financing used to acquire fixed assets for expansion or modernization. 504 loans are made available through Certified Development Companies (CDCs), SBA's community based partners for providing 504 Loans.	For additional information on eligibility criteria and loan application requirements, please contact your local Certified Development Company (CDC) at: https://www.sba.gov/offices/headquarters/ofa/resources/4049	https://www.sba.gov/offices/headquarters/ofa/resources/4049	Mike Arriola nc@sba.gov 704-344-6563 6302 Fairview Road, Suite 300 Charlotte, North Carolina 28210
	7(a) Loan Guarantee <i>(small business)</i>			✓	The 7(a) program is a flexible tool that can be used to finance a variety of business purposes. The proceeds of a 7(a) guaranteed loan may be used to purchase machinery, fixtures, and supplies; make improvements to land and buildings; finance receivables and augment working capital; acquire and start businesses; and refinance existing debt under certain conditions. The regular 7(a) program's maximum loan amount is \$5 million. There is no minimum amount. Other, more specialized 7(a) programs have different terms and guaranty amounts.	Borrowers must submit SBA Form 1919 for a 7(a) business loan to private lenders. The lender will review the application, complete SBA Form 1920, and then submit it to the SBA's Loan Guaranty Processing Center through SBA's E-Tran website.	https://www.sba.gov/partners/lenders/7a-loan-program/types-7a-loans#section-header-16	
	Community Advantage Pilot <i>(small business)</i>			✓	Community Advantage is a pilot initiative aimed at increasing the number of SBA 7(a) lenders who reach underserved communities, targeting mission-focused financial institutions which were previously not able to offer SBA loans. The maximum loan size is \$250,000. Guarantee can be up to 85 percent for loans up to \$150,000 and 75 percent for those greater than \$150,000.	All small business applicants must complete SBA Form 1919, Borrower Information Form, and 2449, Community Advantage Addendum. Lenders must complete SBA Form 1920.		
	Microloan Program <i>(small business)</i>			✓	The purpose of the Microloan Program is to assist women, low income, veteran, and minority entrepreneurs, and other small businesses in need of small amounts of financial assistance. Under the Microloan Program, SBA makes direct loans to Intermediaries that, in turn, use the proceeds to make small loans to eligible micro borrowers.	For additional information on eligibility criteria, loan application requirements, participating micro lenders please visit www.sba.gov/nc	https://www.sba.gov/loans-grants/see-what-sba-offers/sba-loan-programs/microloan-program%20	
Funding in Opportunity Zones	WIFIA: Opportunity zones are something WIFIA considered last round (FY 2019) when scoring projects as part of the economically stressed communities criterion. Will most likely do the same in our next round for scoring too. EDA: Has identified Opportunity Zones as an eligibility area; meaning that areas otherwise not eligible for EDA assistance can now be able to submit applications as eligible areas. Additionally, Opportunity Zones are identified as a key investment priority for the agency.							