



Ask Me Anything: What is Readiness to Proceed?

March 17, 2025



About Us

The **Environmental Finance Center Network (EFCN)** is a university- and non-profit-based organization creating innovative solutions to the difficult how-to-pay issues of environmental protection and water infrastructure.

The EFCN works collectively and as individual centers to address these issues across the entire U.S, including the 5 territories and the Navajo Nation. The EFCN aims to assist public and private sectors through training, direct professional assistance, production of durable resources, and innovative policy ideas.



What has been covered?

What are the SRFs?

December 4, 2024

What is Predevelopment Funding?

December 16, 2024

I'm Confused, where do I start?

January 8, 2025

What is an IUP?

January 13, 2025

DWSRF Eligibilities

February 5, 2025

CWSRF Eligibilities

February 10, 2025

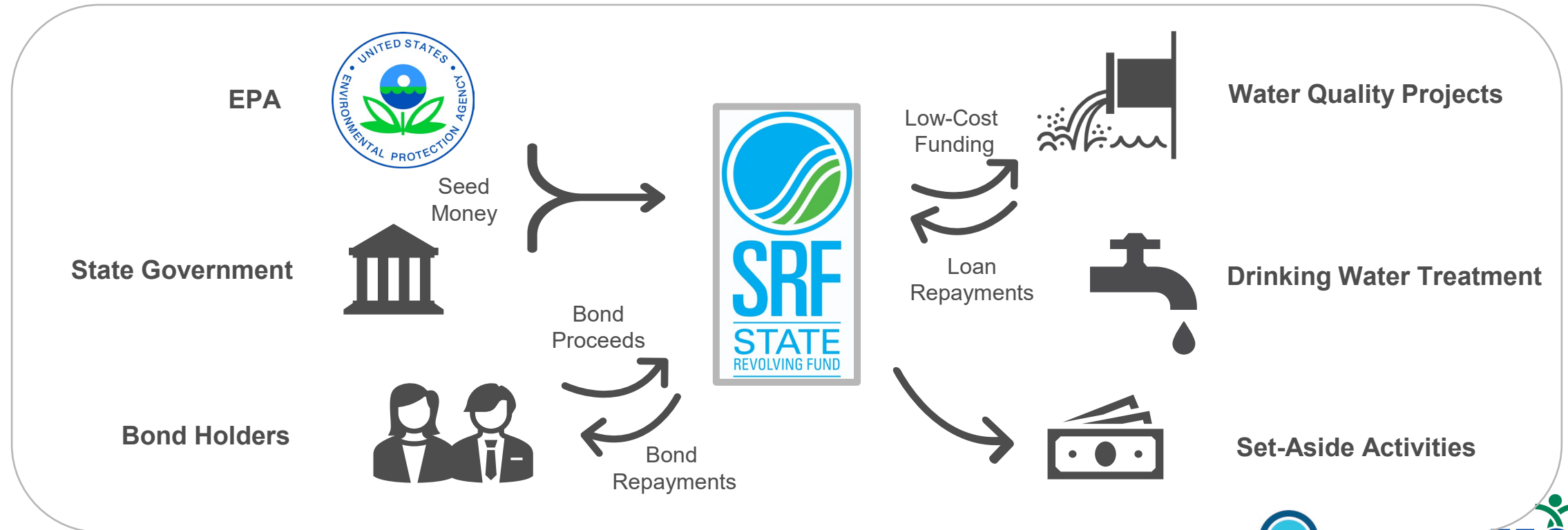
What is the Green Project Reserve (GPR)?

March 5, 2025

For more information and to find past training PPTs and summaries:
<https://efcnetwork.org/event/virtual-office-hours-ask-me-anything-srf-technical-assistance-open-discussion/>

What are the SRFs?

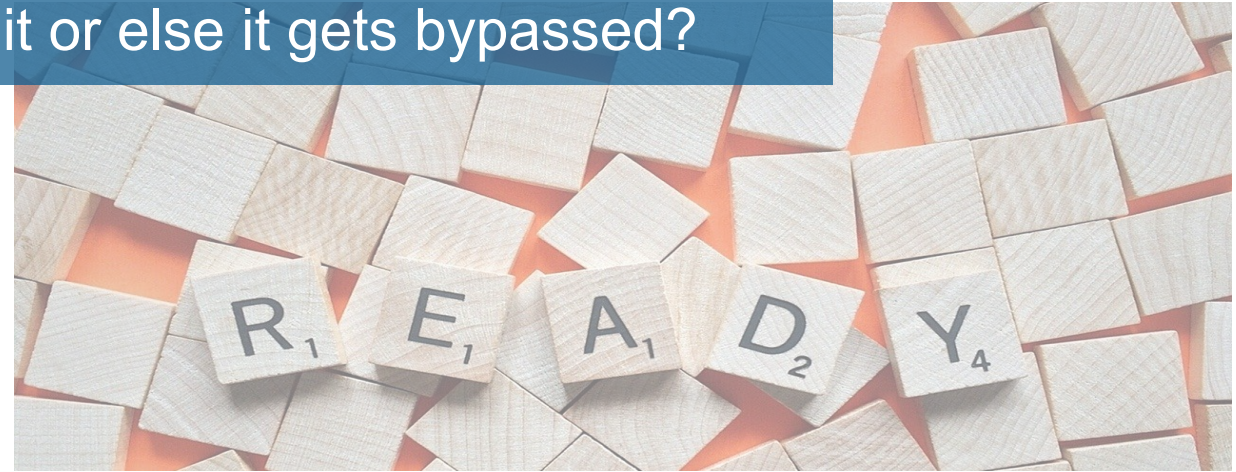
- Low interest revolving loan program with subsidies for targeted projects and communities
- Money comes from EPA/Federal Government, state match, loan repayments, interest, bond proceeds



RTP + Ranking

Readiness to Proceed

- How ready does a project need to be to get ranked?
- Does the state offer planning funds to get projects ready for construction?
- Can the project create a schedule to get to construction within a year?
- Are there milestones that the project must hit or else it gets bypassed?



Most states prioritize funding RTP projects above anything else

RTP: Texas

Section 12. READINESS TO PROCEED TO CONSTRUCTION (Continued).

D. Environmental Review			Yes	No
Only provide information to <u>ONE</u> of the following questions:	Have you received a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI), Categorical Exclusion (CE), a Record of Decision (ROD), or an environmental determination prepared by another entity in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for this project? For projects that may qualify for a FNSI, please review 31 TAC §375.64 ; or that require a CE, review 31 TAC §375.63 ; or that require a ROD, review 31 TAC §375.69 ; or that have a determination by another entity, review 31 TAC §375.71 .		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	If "Yes," provide Issuer (Agency) and date of issuance(s):	Issuer	Date of Issuance (mm/dd/yyyy)	
	If an environmental finding has not been issued, does your project meet the criteria to receive Categorical Exclusion as defined by 31 TAC §375.62 ?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Can you submit an environmental report with the completed financial assistance application that documents coordination with agencies has proceeded sufficiently to determine that no major issues remain?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Will the environmental review be initiated after the TWDB releases planning funds for this project?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. Construction Phase (Estimated start date for first contract and estimated completion date for last contract)		Start Date (mm/dd/yyyy)	Completion Date (mm/dd/yyyy)	
F. Project Bidding and Contracts			Yes	No
Will the proposed project be ready to advertise for construction bids immediately following a funding commitment for construction costs?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If you are seeking reimbursement for eligible planning and/or design costs, was the work performed in compliance with applicable state law and federal crosscutters, including procurement following Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) requirements (as applicable for the specific programs)? For more information on DBE, please visit www.twdb.texas.gov/financial/programs/DBE/index			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
How many months will it take to close the financial assistance application and for the project to be ready to proceed to construction must be able to obtain funding commitment.				

Readiness to Proceed

The Executive Administrator may bypass projects to include those deemed ready to proceed to construction.

Readiness to Proceed

The TWDB defines readiness to proceed to construction as projects having no significant permitting, land acquisition, social, contractual, environmental, engineering or financial issues that would keep the project from proceeding in a timely manner to construction. Readiness to proceed will be used in determining which projects will receive an invitation and which project phases are eligible for funding during the fiscal year.

RTP: Oklahoma

1. Project Type Factor: Treatment works on water bodies	Max: 70	} Max 200 Points
2. Water Quality Restoration Factor – Restorative measures on waterbodies not meeting "beneficial uses"	Max: 20	
3. Water Quality Protection Factor – Preventative measures against water quality degradation of waterbodies meeting beneficial uses and "high quality" water bodies	Max: 10	
4. Programmatic Priority Factor (Points are additive)	Max: 100	

5. Readiness to Proceed Criteria

Max: 400

A completed loan application has been <u>submitted</u> and Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality or Oklahoma Conservation Commission has approved the project, including the appropriate technical plans and specifications necessary to implement the project or the project is for planning and design.	400
A completed loan application has been <u>submitted</u> and preliminary planning documents have been <u>submitted</u> to ODEQ or OCC and OWRB.	300
Preliminary planning documents have been <u>submitted</u> to ODEQ or OCC and OWRB.	200
A request to be considered for funding within the 5-year planning period has been <u>submitted</u> to the OWRB.	100

RTP: Vermont

Vermont DWSRF Guidance Document #2: Priority List Development

replacement and service line inventories, or general funding). Only projects that have previously submitted an administratively complete Preliminary Engineering Report (PER), Permit to Construct (PTC), or an adequate equivalent as determined by the DWGPD, will be scored and ranked for potential construction loan (step 3) funding. Continuing projects are defined in 10.1.1

Vermont DWSRF FFY25 Priority List Application

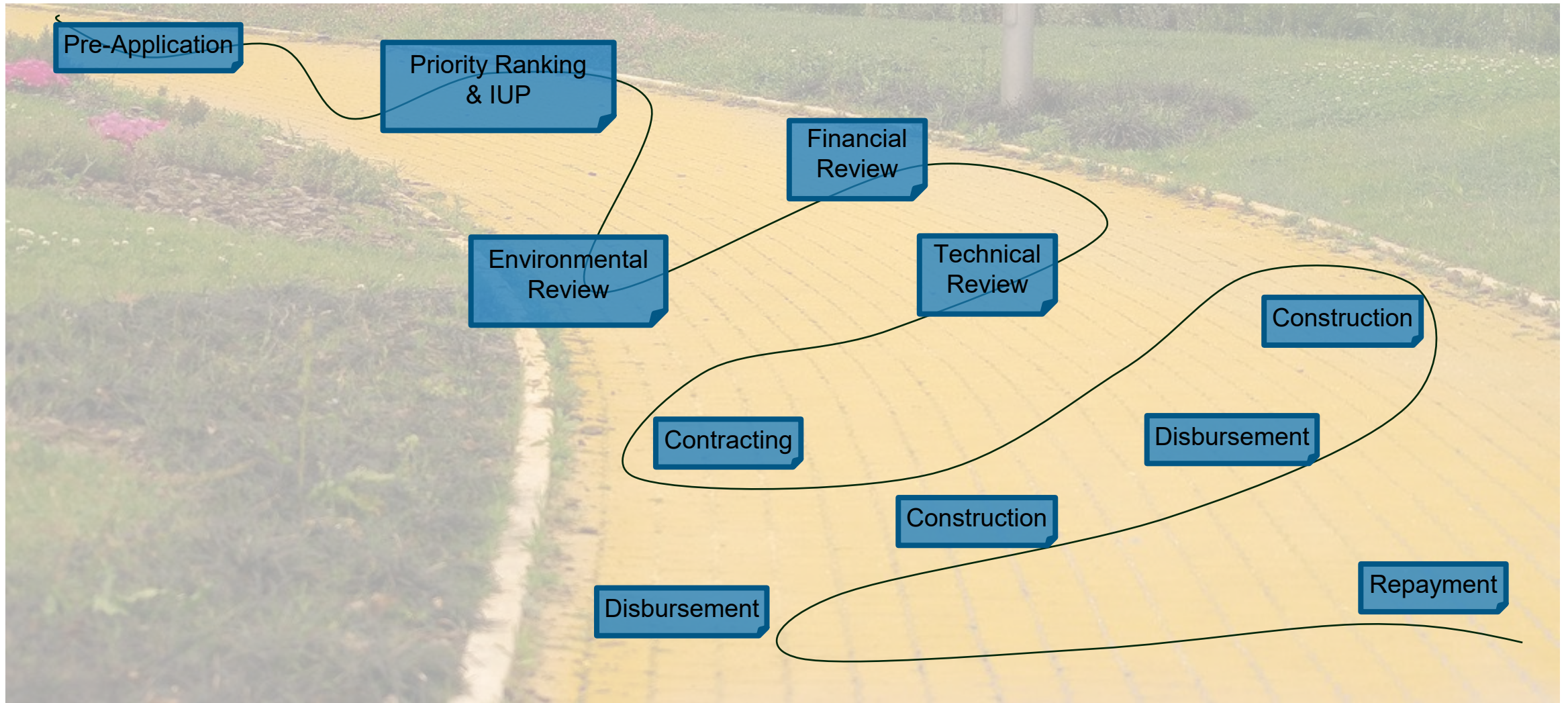
Construction (Step 3) – Project will require Individual Permit to Construct, will apply for construction funding by June 2026. To be scored and ranked for construction funding, a 90% Preliminary Engineering Report (PER, USDA Bulletin 1780-2) or a PER-equivalent relevant to the project must have been submitted to DWGPD by 2/14/2025.



RTP + Funding

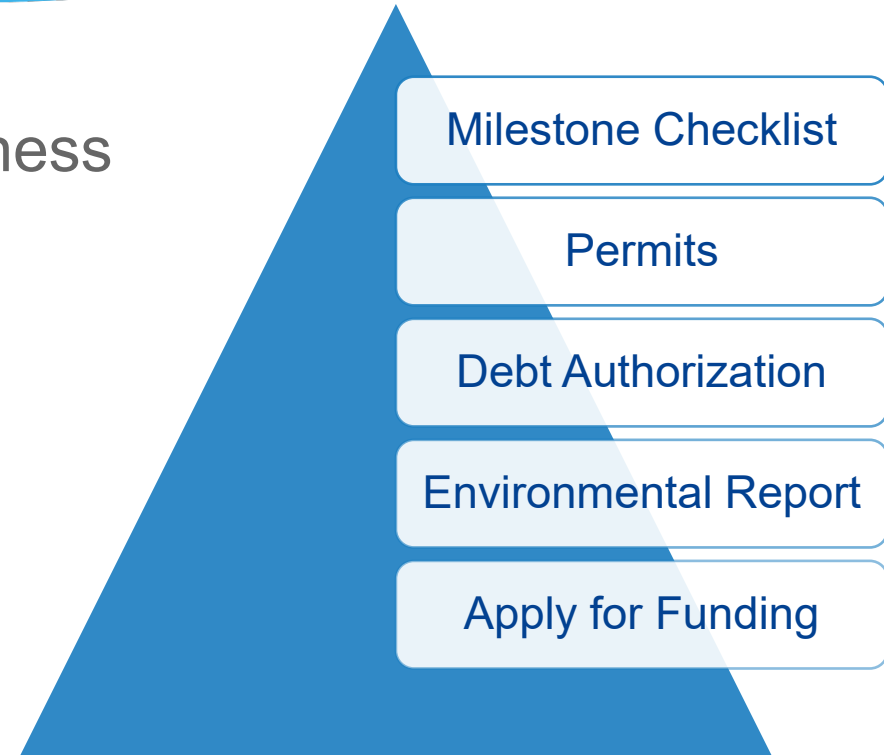


SRF Loan Process



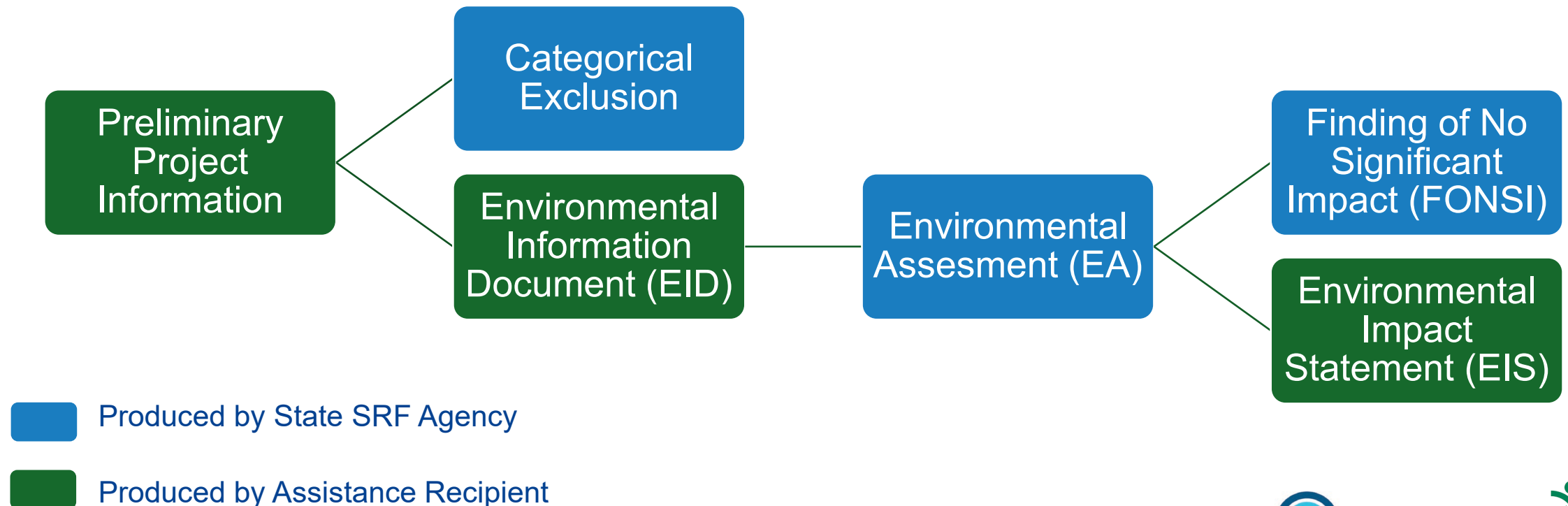
Readiness to Proceed

- States are encouraged to consider readiness to proceed when developing priority lists
 - Preliminary Engineering Report
 - Environmental documentation
 - Authorization to Incur Debt



Environmental Review

- There may also be state environmental review procedures to follow (SERP)
- Federally recognized Indian tribe notification: <https://www.bia.gov/service/tribal-leaders-directory/federally-recognized-tribes>



Engineering & Technical Review

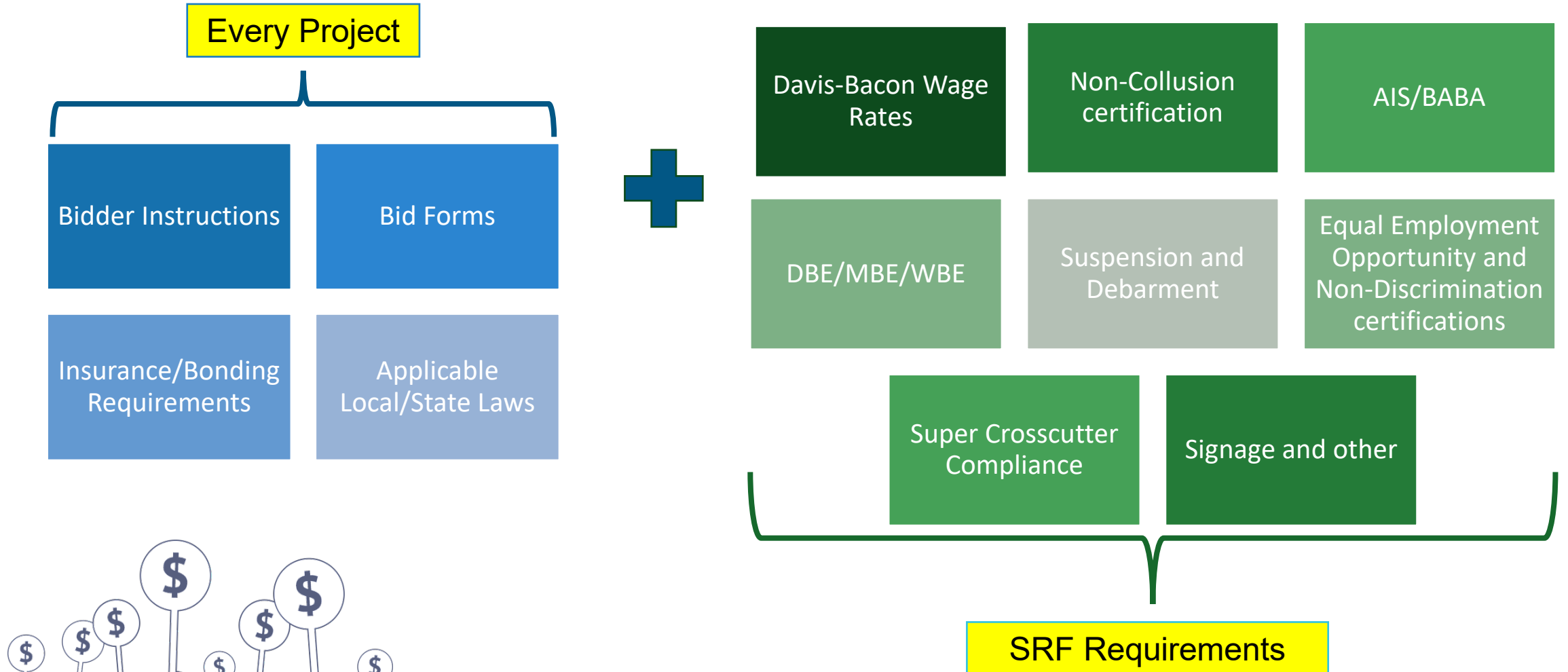


Authorization to Incur Debt

- General Obligation Bond
- Revenue Bond
- Governing Body Resolution
- Liens
- HOA Dues
- Other Fees



Contracting



What is the correct answer to
any SRF question?

Every state is different.
It depends.

Upcoming Trainings

What are the important SRF documents?

April 2, 2025 / 11:00-1:00 pm EST

What is an IUP?

April 10, 2025 / 12:00-2:30 pm EST

Is Free Money Actually Free?

April 21, 2025 / 2:00-4:00 pm EST

What is Environmental Reporting?

May 7, 2025 / 11:00-1:00 pm EST

This training is not part of the 'Ask Me Anything' series. To register, go here:
<https://efcnetwork.org/event/or-online-training-what-is-an-iup-how-intended-use-plans-can-serve-as-secret-decoder-rings-for-the-state-revolving-loan-funds-srfs/>

For more information and to register visit:

<https://efcnetwork.org/event/virtual-office-hours-ask-me-anything-srf-technical-assistance-open-discussion/>

Community Finance Team

<https://www.quantifiedventures.com/community-finance>



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- Former DWSRF Project Manager for the State of Vermont

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