

Definitions

- *Ability to Pay Index (ATPI):* The Ability to Pay Index is an indicator that describes the economic health of a city or county relative to Tennessee state averages. The ATPI is based on the simple average of nine socio-economic and financial variables: median household income, unemployment, food stamp dependence, families in poverty, community assets, revenues, debt, and expenditures, and change in population.
- *Co-Funding:* The required local cash or in-kind proportion of funds to be used in conjunction with non-competitive SWIG funds.
- *Collaborative Project:* A collaborative project is one that involves multiple entities (counties, cities, and/or utilities) working together on an activity or set of activities for a shared purpose.
- *Competitive Grant:* The competitive grant is a grant program that TDEC will develop to program funds remaining after the non-competitive grant solicitation closes. TDEC will release additional details about the competitive grant program in early 2023.
- *Critical Needs:* Action areas identified by TDEC as necessary to maintaining a sustainable and reliable water infrastructure system. Critical needs include addressing significant non-compliance, reducing water loss and inflow and infiltration, developing asset management plans, and modernizing aging infrastructure.
- *Eligible City:* An eligible city is incorporated and operates a public drinking water or wastewater system or has a permitted stormwater system.
- *Funding Allocation:* Unique amount of total available grant funds each subrecipient may be awarded for eligible water infrastructure projects.
- *Grant Applicant:* Eligible subrecipients, including all counties and eligible cities submitting a grant proposal as a project owner or on behalf of an eligible project owner.
- *Grant Budget:* Total proposal costs including requested state funding from designated allocation, co-funding requirements, and detailed breakdown of project and administrative costs.
- *Non-Collaborative Project:* A non-collaborative project is one undertaken by a single entity (county, city, or utility) or by multiple entities (counties, cities, and/or utilities) that do not meet the threshold for partner eligibility as described in this grant guidance.
- *Non-Competitive Grant:* The non-competitive grant program is addressed in this grant guidance. Funds are available to counties and eligible cities in the amount described by the funding allocation table. These funds are not competitive and will be awarded to counties and eligible cities that submit an application that meets minimum criteria as described in this grant guidance.

- *Priority Areas of Emphasis:* Priority areas of emphasis are identified action areas for water infrastructure projects that align with federal, state, and local agency priorities. Priority areas of emphasis are divided into critical need priority areas and additional priority areas. A complete list and descriptions of all priority areas of emphasis are included in Section V of the *Water Infrastructure Investment Plan*.
- *Project Award Type:* The project award type describes the type of activities contained in a proposal. There are four project award types: investigation and planning; investigation, planning, and design; planning, design, and construction; and construction. The project award type is based on the set of activities proposed for each individual water infrastructure (utility) system and must cover the maximum extent of activities that utility system proposed. Individual utility systems are allowed one project award type per water infrastructure type (drinking water, wastewater, or stormwater) included in a proposal.
- *Project Owner:* Project owners are those entities that may execute projects. Project owners must operate a drinking water or wastewater system or a permitted stormwater system or execute a project on behalf of a drinking water or wastewater system or a permitted stormwater system. All project owners must complete the Scorecard or execute a project on behalf of a system that has completed the Scorecard.
- *Streamlined Construction Projects:* Projects that address critical needs only, are rehab projects or are proceeding under a previously approved CAP/ER, are authorized through a general ARAP, and require no modification to an existing NPDES, SOP, or water withdrawal ARAP.
- *Subrecipient:* A subrecipient is an entity with a designated funding allocation as outlined in Appendix B of the *Water Infrastructure Investment Plan*. All 95 counties and 267 eligible cities are subrecipients. Subrecipients may establish sub-subrecipient relationships with project owners to execute projects.
- *State Water Infrastructure Grants (SWIG):* Tennessee's grant programs for water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure, including the programs described in the WIIP.
- *Tennessee Infrastructure Scorecard (Scorecard):* Online infrastructure needs assessment tool. The Scorecard benchmarks a system's operational, financial, and environmental performance and identifies critical needs to improve system performance.
- *Water Infrastructure System:* Water infrastructure systems are those systems that operate and provide drinking water (with a public water system identification number) or wastewater (with a NPDES or SOP) services or are a designated municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) by the State of Tennessee. When developing projects and proposals, the water infrastructure system refers to the utility executing drinking water, wastewater,

or stormwater activities based on the proposed activities. A water infrastructure system may operate multiple water infrastructure types.

- *Water Infrastructure Type*: The water infrastructure type refers to drinking water, wastewater, or stormwater and describes the category of activity and investment using non-competitive SWIG funds. Each water infrastructure system included in a grant application should select a project award type for each water infrastructure type described in the application.