

WWC News



WWC's Helena,
Montana office

2009 Available Grants & Loans

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Introduction

Cities, towns, municipalities, irrigation districts, & Indian Tribes that are looking to make desperately needed improvements to public facilities and infrastructure need to keep in mind grant funding and loans. In this newsletter we will be taking a look at available grants and their fast approaching deadlines. A brief overview of the grant types, eligible applicants, eligible projects, and funding deadlines, are included under each grant description.

Infrastructure Grants & Loans

Montana Department of Commerce - CDBG Public Facilities Grants

Applicants are limited to general-purpose local governments, including incorporated towns, cities, and counties. Special purpose entities such as water & sewer districts or rural special improvement districts are not eligible; however, a county or municipality may apply for funds on their behalf. These funds are most often used in combination with other federal, state, & local funds to make basic community infrastructure improvements, such as water and sewer. Public facility projects may also include facilities predominately used by persons of low and moderate income such as nursing homes, senior centers, Head Start centers or mental health care centers. Projects funded by CDBG must show that 51% of the beneficiaries will be low to moderate income households. Costs associated with engineering and grant administration are covered under this program. A local match of at least 25% is required unless a financial hardship can be shown by the community. **The deadline for application is May 22, 2009.**

DEQ - Montana State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loans

These funds are available to municipalities (any state agency, city, town, or other public body created pursuant to state law) for water or wastewater projects. Eligible projects include

system rehabilitation, interceptors, treatment facilities, outfall sewers, infiltration & inflow, lagoons, and water infrastructure replacement. Also included are non-point source projects including certain solid waste projects as per recent amendments. Projects should solve water quality problems. There is no match required and cost for planning the project are covered. Ability to repay loan must be shown and 100% of eligible project costs can be borrowed. **Applications are accepted throughout the year;** however a preliminary engineering analysis must be reviewed prior to or at the time of submittal.

Economic Development Administration (EDA); Department of Commerce - Public Works Grants

This program was created to assist both rural and urban communities with economic distress. Eligible applicants are municipalities, counties, and Indian Tribes. Eligible projects are public works such as water and wastewater systems. A local match is required; however, the match is decided upon by the Administration based upon level of economic distress. **Applications are accepted at any time.**

USDA Rural Development - Community Facilities Grant Program

This program is to assist rural communities and towns under 20,000 in population to develop community facilities. Grants are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties, and special-purpose districts, as well as non-profit corporations and tribal governments. There are a range of qualifying projects including construction, improvement, and enlargement of public facilities. Funds can also be used to purchase equipment for a facility's operation. No local match is required. Planning cost can be covered as part of the total project cost. **Applications are accepted any time.**

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WWC Engineering (WWC) is a full service corporation that has been serving the Rocky Mountain region since 1980. WWC's range of consulting services is broad and our corporate experience is extensive. With over 85 employees and offices in Sheridan, Laramie, and Casper, Wyoming and Helena, Montana, we have an exceptional staff of professionally licensed engineers, hydrologists, surveyors, and geologists with a full complement of highly skilled field technicians, CADD and GIS specialists, and clerical staff. WWC prides itself on producing the highest quality of work for our clients in a time-and-cost-efficient manner.

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Planning Grants

Montana Department of Commerce - Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) Preliminary Engineering Grants

This program is to assist communities with funding for Preliminary Engineering Reports, which in some cases is a serious obstacle for communities who want to apply for financial assistance. Eligible activities include preparation of plans, studies, analyses, or research required to complete a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) in order to proceed with Public Facility projects. A solid PER is essential for a project to rank competitively in the grant funding process. A local match of 50% is required. **Applications will be accepted after March 31, 2009 and will be processed in the order they are received.**

DNRC - Renewable Resources & Loan Program (RRGL) Project Planning Grants

This program is to fund planning efforts for renewable resource projects, which have been divided into the following categories; Public Facility Projects - including drinking water, wastewater, solid waste or other projects normally addressed in the Uniform Application for Montana Public Facility Projects; and other Renewable Resource Projects - including projects designed to conserve, manage, develop, or preserve renewable resources in Montana, such as dam rehabilitation, irrigation infrastructure, water & other resource conservation, resource management, and recreation development. A 50% local match of funds is required and grants are funded on a first come, first serve basis. The DNRC stipulates that a municipality must have applied to TSEP for a planning grant and been turned down due to a lack of funding prior to being granted an RRGL Planning Grant. **Applications will be taken starting May 1, 2009 and**

will be processed on a first come, first serve basis.

Montana Department of Commerce - CDBG Planning Grants

Applicants are limited to general-purpose local governments, including incorporated towns, cities, and counties. Special purpose entities such as water & sewer districts or rural special improvement districts are not eligible; however, a county or municipality may apply for funds on their behalf. Eligible projects include a variety of planning activities including the initial planning necessary to get a project underway, or activities such as preparing or updating a growth policy, preparing a neighborhood redevelopment plan, housing study, capital improvement plan, or similar planning processes to aid a community in addressing critical needs. There is a local match of 25% unless there is a financial hardship. Costs incurred prior to grant funding are not covered. CDBG requires that a municipality must have applied to TSEP for a planning grant and been denied due to a lack of funding prior to being accepted for a CDBG Planning Grant. **The deadline for application is April 17, 2009.**

Conclusion

These are just a few of the available grant and loan programs for this year. For more information on these programs please take a look at the following web sites or feel free to contact our office at (406) 443-3962; our staff would be happy to assist you or answer any questions.

http://comdev.mt.gov/CDD_TSEP_Grants.asp

http://comdev.mt.gov/CDD_CDBG.asp

http://dnrc.mt.gov/cardd/loans_grants/water_pollutioncontrol.asp

www.eda.gov/AboutEDA/Programs.xml