

Small Communities Grant

2014 RFA #2234

Questions and Answers

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Question	Answer
Administrative	
5) Where is information regarding last year's awards available?	Our records may be available for review under the Colorado Open Records Act at the Water Quality Control Division records center. You may contact by email at cdphe.wqrecordscenter@state.co.us the Records Center to learn how to request information.
6) Were there any Preliminary Engineering Reports, Master Plans, or other planning documents awarded last round?	No, projects funded last year typically included design, and/or construction.
7) What was the point cutoff for drinking water projects awarded last round?	The point structure has been modified for the current RFA however 175 was the point cutoff in 2015. Eight Small Communities Grant awards were given to drinking water projects in the state fiscal year 2015 RFA.
8) Are the winning award applications available for review?	Our records may be available for review under the Colorado Open Records Act at the Water Quality Control Division records center. You may contact by email at cdphe.wqrecordscenter@state.co.us the Records Center to learn how to request information.
5. How was the \$1MM versus \$8.5MM dollar allocation between Tier I and Tier II arrived upon? Why was the threshold for Tier I of \$100,000 or less versus Tier II of \$100,000 - \$850,000 selected?	Based on last year's RFA and the composition of the applications it was determined that \$100k for Tier I was appropriate. For Tier II projects, no more than 10% of the total available funds will be distributed to any single water and/or wastewater eligible project, per Regulation No. 55.
Application	
Although these questions are being submitted Friday, Oct 9, with the due date of Oct 12 being a federal holiday, can questions still be submitted for reply on Monday Oct 12, would the deadline be extended to Tuesday, or is today the actual submittal deadline?	October 12, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. was the deadline for written questions regarding the Small Communities Grant RFA.
4) If requesting a grant for planning (such as a Preliminary Engineering Report or a System Evaluation Report) which is driven primarily by specific problems (such as quality problems) can the planning receive credit for "addressing" the violation, unresolved significant deficiencies, or inadequate treatment techniques, etc. per the scoring criteria, or will only the actual construction phase receive credit for this?	All applicants will be evaluated through the same prioritization point ranking as listed in the RFA. All prioritization categories will be utilized for each applicant.
3.) In Section X Paragraph W it states that all products/services produced will be the sole property of the state of Colorado. Does this mean that example: a pump house were constructed with grant funds, that the State of Colorado has sole ownership of that pump house and any equipment that was included along with it? If so what would be the rights and privileges of the state of such ownership?	This is standard state funding language that does not pertain to this grant. The products and services would be owned by the awarded entity.
5.) Attachment I "Entity Information" What is a DUNS# and do we need one?	DUNS# is unique nine digit identification number provided by Dun & Bradstreet. The number is assigned free to all businesses required to register with the US Federal government for contracts or grants. Visit this link to search or request the entity's DUNS# https://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/CCRSearch.do?val=1 . This is an optional field on the Small Communities Grant application. Please supply the DUNS# if available.
8. Paragraph three indicates that an "Original" application is to be submitted. How is this to be accomplished for applications that are submitted via email?	Digital signature or a scanned copy of the signed cover page may be submitted with application packet.

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is the application on your website?	The application can be found on https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/small-communities-water-and-wastewater-grants
Will we get a email certification that you have received our submittal correctly and in full?	No, applicants will receive an email reply noting receipt of application.
Eligibility	
Could this grant funding be used to upgrade/improve sewer lift stations? I have 2 aging lift stations within 50 feet of the San Juan River that I would like to upgrade and put telemetry on.	Yes, eligible projects are for the planning, design and construction of public water systems or domestic wastewater treatment works; that serve a population of not more than 5,000 people and are necessary for the protection of public health and water quality. Final eligibility determination will be made during the application evaluation.
We would like to find out if a small potable private rural/an or non-profit water provider in the Crawford, Colorado area would be eligible to apply for this grant opportunity. We are going to be helping such a water system plan, design, and construct water system improvements to deal with a regulatory requirement.	Yes, not for profit public water systems in good standing with the Secretary of State are eligible to apply for the Small Communities Grant.
My question is about our eligibility for the Small-Communities Water and Wastewater Grant that just opened up October 1st. Would we individually as an 501c3 qualify for this grant if we are moving towards a county permitted OWTS? (we have previously been permitted under the state). If we do not qualify moving from a State system to a county system, would we qualify if we, as an individual non-profit, remain a state permitted system (we are under pre-application review with CDPHE to see if we will even qualify for a county system)? If we do not qualify as an individual organization, could we qualify as an owners association with 5 homes and 2 organizations? There is still much left to be done within the association including completing needed treatment systems, the site application for the association, remaining engineering (our organization has already spent over \$20,000 in engineering but foresee more to come individually and corporately), and the decommissioning of the prior state-permitted lagoon system.	The language in the Colorado Revised Statute states: the department, in the name of the state and to the extent that state funds are appropriated therefore, may enter into contracts with governmental agencies, including counties, for domestic wastewater treatment works, as defined in section 25-8-103(5). Domestic wastewater treatment works" means a system or facility for treating, neutralizing, stabilizing, or disposing of domestic wastewater which system or facility has a designed capacity to receive more than two thousand gallons of domestic wastewater per day.
My client appears to meet the general requirements for financial need <i>except</i> for median household income and median household income. They are an old community with an old system, but they have experienced a recent small influx of very high income residents building very high cost homes. Just a few, but just enough to send the medians above state average. Shall we proceed with an application for a grant, or will we be excluded on the basis of our median numbers?	The Small Communities Grant RFA does not have a MHI requirement however more prioritization points are available to applicants with lower MHI values.
This message is to seek clarity about eligibility for the Small Communities Water and Wastewater Grant Fund. The full RFA first paragraph under "eligibility" (p. 4, section I, part C) states, "eligible projects are for planning, design or construction"; while the bullet below reads as, "planning, design and construction." Does eligibility require 3 components; planning, design and construction—or will requests for funding of one project component be considered; e.g. if a community requires planning to identify needs before proposing design and construction solutions?	No, applicants may request funding for any of the following planning, design, and/or construction.

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Does eligibility require 3 components; planning, design and construction or will requests for funding of one project component be considered; e.g. if a community requires planning to identify needs before proposing design and construction solutions?	No, applicants may request funding for any of the following planning, design, and/or construction.
Will applications that only seek to fund the planning/design phase (no construction) be as competitive as those that seek to fund a project to completion?	All applicants will be evaluated through the same prioritization point ranking as listed in the RFA. Applicants at any stage are encouraged to apply.
Did I hear that collection and distribution projects are eligible as well, to protect public health & environment?	Yes, eligible projects are for the planning, design and construction of public water systems or domestic wastewater treatment works; that serve a population of not more than 5,000 people and are necessary for the protection of public health and water quality.
We have a number of violations noted in a sanitary survey of our raw water conveyance system. Can proceeds from this grant be used to repair those deficiencies. In the past, these grants could only be used for "finished" water projects. We for example need to add new air vent pits, etc. Should I include those in the work project?	Yes, if those project components are necessary for the protection of public health and water quality.
<p>Q2- HPSD is a sanitary sewer collection system for a couple of subdivisions just west of the City of Sterling. Our line connects to the City of Sterling, where our effluent is then treated by the city of Sterling. We are separate legal entities, but other than our customers paying the city monthly fess for treatment costs, etc, we do not "have a treatment plant". Several of the questions appear to address treatment plants and there operations.</p> <p>Q2a- As a collection system only, are we eligible for grants under this program?</p> <p>Q2b- If questions are not applicable, do we end up scoring poorly because we are not able to obtain "points" for those areas, or are we only scored against the applicable questions?</p> <p>Q2c- Should the city of Sterling's plant be the basis for our answers to these questions?</p>	Yes, collection systems are eligible to apply. All applicants will be evaluated through the same prioritization point ranking as listed in the RFA. All prioritization categories will be utilized for each applicant. Applicants may only utilize their own system as basis for the RFA response.
Q5- During the webinar, you or a co-worker mentioned eligible projects entailed Planning, Design, or Construction. If our project is repairing and/or replacing existing sewer lines. Is it considered construction, and thus eligible? It needs to be replaced at the suggestion of our engineers.	Yes, replacement and repair is considered construction.
Would a sewer main that has been compromised (and needs to be replaced on a street) be eligible for a grant?	Yes, sewer mains are eligible to apply. All applicants will be evaluated through the same prioritization point ranking as listed in the RFA.
1) How is "project" defined? Does a "project" refer to a water or wastewater system or does "project" refer to individual improvements within a water or wastewater system?	Projects can be defined either way. Project definition should capture the improvements.
Financial	
Can IRS form 1120 be submitted with application instead of form 990 for not profit water company's?	IRS form 1120 is an income tax form for US corporations. If the applicant is a non-profit entity and if the financial data presented in this form is compiled on an annual basis reflecting revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities it may be acceptable for use.

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<p>Our Association is a State Non Profit, is some type of relationship with the IRS required to apply for this grant? Is an audited financial statement required?</p>	<p>In addition to forming and registering as a non-profit with the Colorado Secretary of State, private non profits should have a tax ID from the IRS and be filing annual returns (usually IRS Form 990, 990-EZ or 990-N). The most recent annual return filed for the year ending December 31, 2014 may suffice, however, annual returns for non-profits with gross receipts less than \$50,000 may not have this information. In this situation, equivalent, unaudited annual reports which include revenues, expenditures, assets, and liabilities may be substituted; for example an annual profit and loss statement.</p>
<p>The company has taken out a line of credit that we are drawing on. Last go around, the LOC was counted as a debt instrument. Does that still apply?</p>	<p>Any used portion of a line of credit will be considered debt if properly documented and shown as a liability on the financial statements ending December 31, 2014.</p>
<p>we are a not for profit and do not do formal audits. We do have an end of year summer with P&L statement and balance sheet. I assume that covers the financial requirement for reporting?</p>	<p>For small not-for-profits normally with gross receipts less than \$50,000, the P&L statement and balance sheet should be acceptable if they present data on an annual basis, and include assets, liabilities, revenues and expenditures.</p>
<p>2.) In Section IV Paragraph A "Supporting Documentation" IRS Form 990 is required. In 2009 I asked the IRS which form I should use for our non-profit homeowners association and was told to use Form 1120-H "US Income Tax Return For Homeowners Associations" and we've been using that ever since. Will this be acceptable along with all of our Non-Profit documentation?</p>	<p>IRS form 1120 H is an income tax form for Homeowners Associations. If the HOA is a non-profit entity and if the financial data presented in this form is compiled on an annual basis reflecting revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities it should be acceptable for use.</p>
<p>Is the Certificate of Financial Need an actual certificate? And if so, where would I get one?</p>	<p>Financial need will be analyzed by DOLA and evaluated only for those applicants that prioritize highest. There is no need for the applicant to independently seek a certificate.</p>
<p>3. <u>Definition of debt:</u> In our unsuccessful efforts to get funds last year it was pointed out that our company did not have enough debt. Being a farmer driven company we eschew debt and have dug deeply in our pockets to pay as we go. It appears that the point strategy for successful selection in this RFP favors companies that choose debt as the strategy to fund their match as opposed to those that dig into their pockets. Our company has secured a \$50,000 loan (this is secured credit line guaranteed by the company and its shareholders) to fund portions of our current Water Treatment Plant Construction that we are actively using to build structures etc. Can we list this as a debt instrument in our application?</p>	<p>This would be considered debt if properly documented and shown as a liability on the financial statements ending December 31, 2014.</p>
<p>4. <u>Indebtedness Point calculation:</u> The point scoring system divides system debt by residential properties served. What is the cutoff date for that calculation? I assume that since the expense calculation is for the last 24 months beginning at either the time of the RFP announcement or the closing date (see question 2), the same applies for the number of households served on either of those dates? In 2015 our company has had reduction in the residential properties served and we would like to use the most current data. Please clarify.</p>	<p>The debt figures used will be those reflected in the annual financial statements ending December 31, 2014.</p>
<p>1. Can the Certificate of Financial Need be sought from DOLA ahead of submittal of an application? In this manner communities can avoid the time and expense associated with preparation of an application if they do not pass the fiscal analysis.</p>	<p>The certificate of financial need will be prepared only for those applicants that prioritize highest and are therefore determined to be funded. There is no need for the applicant to independently seek a certificate.</p>

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4. Does "...debt per household..." refer to only debt on the particular system that is the subject of the Assistance Application, or is other community debt included?	This factor will be evaluated using information for only the system that is the subject of the assistance application.
Funding	
Does the state ever award partial funding? For example, if we were to apply for 400K would you ever award 100K? That impacts how we apply for this grant pretty significantly. We have a couple of different sections of project that we intend to apply for, but we don't want to ask for too much if it's "all or nothing" because we can certainly apply for a lesser amount.	Projects will be prioritized based on the ranking in the RFA. The allocated funding will be distributed to the top ranked projects until the fund is depleted. It is not the intent to partially fund applicant projects.
Tier II has a maximum amount of \$800,000. Is that the maximum grant available or the maximum amount of the project?	Tier II maximum grant amount is \$850k. The project can exceed \$850k provided that the entity has other funding sources.
Is the applicant's status relative to application for, or receipt of, other DOLA or CDPHE-administered grant funds a factor in the selection the award amount determination process for this program?	No, as long as the project budget can demonstrate the need.
Can you please tell me how many grants may be awarded and in what amounts?	Number of grant awards and amounts are dependent on top ranked applicants and project requests. The allocated funding will be distributed to the top ranked projects until the fund is depleted.
1. <u>Specific Use of funds:</u> It is unclear what the specific use of funds can be used for. Our company has a number of deficiencies identified in the Sanitary Survey done a few years ago related to water quality issues in the raw water conveyance system. These included poor construction of Venting Structures, water quality issues with the door entrance to one of our GWUDI alluvial springs, and some diversion issues into cisterns that may have backflow prevention issues. CAN GRANT MONEY BE USED TO CORRECT WATER QUALITY PROBLEMS IN THE RAW WATER CONVEYANCE SYSTEM THAT ARE DEFINED IN THE SANITARY SURVEY DOCUMENTS? We understand that pipeline rehabilitation for raw water systems is not an authorized use of funds, but specific use is not clear. Please clarify. If successful, our company would like to use some of these funds to correct deficiencies in the sanitary survey as they are directed at water quality and not infrastructure issues. If not, I won't waste time putting them in the budget.	Yes, project eligibility includes transmission and distribution line rehabilitation regardless if it's raw or treated water for the benefit of public health.
Question #2: If using the Grant Fund as the primary funding source and augmenting the remainder with another funding source (project is >\$850,000), are chances of award increased when asking for less money? Is there a range (e.g. \$500K-\$850K) that can be submitted to apply to the project to improve odds of being selected? Or will asking for the full \$850K have the same potential as asking for less after all projects have been prioritized? This may come into play near the funding cutoff point.	Projects will be prioritized based on the ranking in the RFA. Applicants should request grant amount needed to complete project. The allocated funding will be distributed to the top ranked projects until the fund is depleted. It is not the intent to partially fund applicant projects.
6. Will the distinction between projects categorized into Tier I and Tier II be dependent on the amount of grant funds requested or the total cost of the project? For example, if a project is proposed to cost \$150,000 but the applicant is only requesting \$100,000 would that project be placed in Tier I or Tier II?	The requested amount on page 2 of the application form will determine Tier I and Tier II applications.

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Grant Requirements	
Is a formal bidding process required under the terms of this RFP as it is in a SRF funding protocol?	Entities who are awarded with a state grant must follow state or local procurement process, which is typically a competitive bid process.
If you are awarded a grant does the entire project have to be completed by the end of 2019?	Yes, the portion of the project funded by the Small Communities Grant must be completed before the expiration of March 31, 2019.
1) Are A/E Procurement requirements the same as for the SRF or is no RFP/SOQ required?	The Small Communities Grant are state funds therefore grantees are not subject to federal requirements listed in the SRF Required Specifications. Small Communities Grant awardees that are co-funded with SRF must comply with SRF program requirements.
Question #1: Do Davis Bacon wages and Buy American Act apply to this Grant Fund? Are there any other related acts applied to this Fund?	The Small Communities Grant are state funds therefore grantees are not subject to federal requirements listed in the SRF Required Specifications. Small Communities Grant awardees that are co-funded with SRF must comply with SRF program requirements.
7. Since 100% of the funds to be granted through the Small Communities Grant Fund are state monies will Davis-Bacon Wage Rates and American Iron and Steel provisions not apply to these projects? Will new WRRDA requirements such as Fiscal Sustainability Plans and A/E Procurement apply to these grants?	The Small Communities Grant are state funds therefore grantees are not subject to federal requirements listed in the SRF Required Specifications. Small Communities Grant awardees that are co-funded with SRF must comply with SRF program requirements.
Match	
What funds may be included in the match to qualify for the Small Communities Water Grant? Does the match include what the homeowners have already spent on engineering for the Preliminary Engineering Report and Project Needs Assessment? Should the match include projected SRF loan funds that are expected to be used for construction, or are the matching funds only those funds spent or planned to be spent on planning and design?	Match funds may include reserves, grants or loans, and/or project paid expenses in the last 24 months. Project expenses may include engineer consultation or equipment. Invoices of project expenses and proof of payment must be attached with the application. Paid expenses between October 1, 2015 - November 16, 2015 will be eligible. Applicants must identify if the grants and/or loans have been executed. For cash reserve match, the financial statements must indicate a cash balance. Explanation of project source of match must be included in the project budget and narrative.
I may have missed, what is the match percentages?	Percent of local match contribution is a component in the prioritization ranking under the Financial/Affordability category in Appendix I and II of the Small Communities Grant RFA.
Is 24 months of debt and match, etc counted from today? What date?	Match paid expenses (i.e. design, equipment, consultation) within the last 24 months (September 30, 2013 - October 1, 2015) directly related to the proposed project in this application. Paid expenses between October 1, 2015 - November 16, 2015 will be eligible. The debt figures used will be those reflected in the most recent annual financial statements.
Can the planning grant be used as a match for this RFA?	Yes, other executed grant funding for the same project in the application may be used as a source of match.
Our project current has SRF funds secured, but due to some additional requirements from WQCD and other factors additional funds are needed to complete the project. Can SRF funds be used as a match for this grant program?	Yes, executed SRF funds may be used as match for the Small Communities Grant application.



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<p>the 24 month calculation for match expenses start today or at the final submission date. Example is our company is planning to spend another \$5000 in the next month for Water Treatment Expenses. Can those be used in the 24 month expense calculation?</p>	<p>Yes, match paid expenses (i.e. design, equipment, consultation) within the last 24 months (September 30, 2013 - October 1, 2015) directly related to the proposed project in this application. Paid expenses between October 1, 2015 - November 16, 2015 will be eligible. If the match is cash reserves, the financial statements must indicate a cash balance.</p>
<p>Q3- We were denied a DOLA/EM Grant at the August 1 cycle, and plan to re-apply Dec 1 for a new grant. Although final decisions will not be made at the time we file your application with you by 11/26, is a DOLA Grant "application" considered local match? Would a bank loan or lease purchase be considered local match? What proof would you require for the bank loans or lease purchase to qualify?</p>	<p>Only executed grants and/or loans will be considered match for the Small Communities Grant. Yes, only executed bank loans or lease purchase may be used for match. Financial statements would have to indicate the debt.</p>
<p>Q4- I understand the point system for Match %'s on pg 21, item 4 of the RFA, but I'd like to clarify the math. For example: The RFA states 30 pts are earned for >30% Local Match. If a/our project was \$400k, and we received credit for \$100k in local match, is that considered 25%? Or if we are asking for a grant of \$100k(25%) from CDPHE to fund this project of \$400k, and you would be require a 25% local match, is our \$100k considered to be 100% of "the match"?</p>	<p>Total match divided by total project costs will calculate the project match. Per your example, the \$100k would be 25% match for a \$400k project.</p>
<p>2) Does the match percentage only make a difference on the scoring, or does it have any other impact? Is there a minimum match to even be eligible?</p>	<p>Percentage of match funding is a component in the prioritization ranking. Match is also the final tie breaker after using the initial scoring categories, if needed.</p>
<p>3) Does it make any difference if the match is local funds or funds from another program (such as DOLA Energy Impact or the SRF Planning & Design Grant)?</p>	<p>Percent of match funds may include local reserves, grants or loans, and/or project expenses made in the last 24 months (September 30, 2013 - October 1, 2015) directly related to the proposed project in this application. Paid expenses between October 1, 2015 - November 16, 2015 will be eligible. Executed grants and loans for the proposed project may be used as match for the proposed project in the Small Communities Grant application.</p>
<p>1.) In Section IV Paragraph A, under "Attachment IV" it describes matching funds over the last 24 months ending on Oct. 1st. In our case we are declared GWUDI with a filtration compliance date of March 1st 2016. We are applying for a loan to purchase filtration equipment to meet our compliance date. The loan approval time is 30 days and equipment will not be purchased until just after the deadline for the grant application. This purchase will be substantial. Is there any way to have this required purchase counted as matching funds in the application? The grant award would be too late to cover it and the application deadline a few days too early to submit receipts and obviously the purchase will fall after the twenty-four month period ending Oct. 1st.</p>	<p>Match paid expenses (i.e. design, equipment, consultation) within the last 24 months (September 30, 2013 - October 1, 2015) directly related to the proposed project in this application. Paid expenses between October 1, 2015 - November 16, 2015 will be eligible.</p>

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<p>2. <u>Expenses for the last 24 months that may count towards matching funds:</u> The RFP states that funds expended during the last 24 months may be included in costs for "matching" You do not mention what the trigger date is in this calendar year. Should we use all expenses counting backwards from the first day of the RFP announcement (October 1, 2015), or the closing date (November 15, 2015). Our company is very poor. We have sustained engineering and testing costs that have been incurred in the past but are being paid out over time. In some cases it has taken us a year to pay out the expenses. Specifically, is any cash payment made by the company to a vendor in the last two years (proven by checks) eligible for the costs, regardless of when the invoice may have been incurred?</p>	<p>Match funds may include reserves, grants or loans, and/or project paid expenses in the last 24 months (September 30, 2013 - October 1, 2015). Project expenses may include engineer consultation or equipment. Invoices of project expenses and proof of payment must be attached with the application. Paid expenses between October 1, 2015 - November 16, 2015 will be eligible. Applicants must identify if the grants and/or loans have been executed. For cash reserve match, the financial statements must indicate a cash balance. Explanation of project source of match must be included in the project budget and narrative.</p>
<p>Can a loan received by NRWA in August 2015 be considered a matching fund?</p>	<p>Yes, an executed loan is considered match as long as it supports the proposed project in the Small Communities Grant application.</p>
<p>Is a secured note from SRF considered a local match contribution?</p>	<p>SRF executed loan agreement is considered secured match funds.</p>
<p>2) Matching funds - since you can go 24 months in the past - can other GLU or DOLA grants be used as matching funds? Are only payments that come directly from the applicant considered matching funds?</p>	<p>Match funds may include reserves, executed grants or loans, and/or project paid expenses in the last 24 months (September 30, 2013 - October 1, 2015). Project expenses may include engineer consultation or equipment. Invoices of project expenses and proof of payment must be attached with the application. Paid expenses between October 1, 2015 - November 16, 2015 will be eligible. Applicants must identify if the grants and/or loans have been executed. For cash reserve match, the financial statements must indicate a cash balance. Explanation of project source of match must be included in the project budget and narrative.</p>
Median Household Income (MHI)	
<p>Is the dataset we use the ACS 2009-2013 for MHI?</p>	<p>Yes. Everyone will be evaluated based on 2009 - 2013 American Community Survey (ACS) data from the U.S. Census Bureau.</p>
<p>Where are you getting the home value numbers from that you mention will be used in the prioritization, or are you just using MHI?</p>	<p>All applicants will be prioritized using 2009 - 2013 ACS MHI. For those applicants that prioritize, Median Home Values-MHV from 2009-2013 ACS will be evaluated and may contribute to DOLA's certification of financial need, again after prioritization has taken place.</p>
<p>To be clear: The MHI is existing debt divided by residential properties served? I meant MHI area; not sure what that refers to</p>	<p>The indebtedness calculation is existing debt divided by residential properties served. then divided by MHI.</p>
<p>what if the 2010 census does not reflect the current MHI ?</p>	<p>The 2010 Census is not being used for MHI. The most recent release of the Census' American Community Survey (2009 - 2013 data) is being used for prioritization.</p>
<p>6.) Attachment I "Financial Affordability--#1" We believe that the MHI of our small subdivision who are the sole contributors of the water system falls below the national average but the MHI of Routt County is \$62,002 and the MHI of our Block Group is \$76,979 (probably due to guest ranches etc), and under our Census Tract number it is \$64,375. How are these numbers relevant when they deviate so far from the reality in our small subdivision which is the sole supporter of our water system which also serves many transients that do not support it?</p>	<p>Please use the smallest 2009-2013 ACS geography that includes your entire service area.</p>

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7.) In Section I Paragraph C ".....with system user charges and debt per household" Does that mean SYSTEM debt per household or just debt per household. If it is debt per household how would we determine that?	This section in the RFA refers to the certificate of financial need which will be determined by DOLA, but only for those applicants that have prioritized. Annual user charges and debt per household as compared to state averages are two separate items analyzed for financial need.
What is DUNS? Where do I find that for my system?	DUNS# is unique nine digit identification number provided by Dun & Bradstreet. The number is assigned free to all businesses required to register with the US Federal government for contracts or grants. Visit this link to search or request the entity's DUNS# https://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/CCRSearch.do?val=1 .
1) Latest available median household income of the community: I found Teller County in the ACS information. Does that represent our community? Where would I find the data specific to Ridgewood Water District area.	Use the menu buttons in the upper left corner of the map to find data for your area: http://dola.colorado.gov/cms-base/sites/dola.colorado.gov.gis-cms/files/projects/acs0913/acs0913.html For districts, census block group or census tract MHI data will be used if available; otherwise county MHI data will be used.
2) What is the median household income for the state?	The 2009 - 2013 American Community Survey (ACS) data from the U.S. Census Bureau reports a Colorado MHI of \$58,433.
4) Where can I find the system user charges per household for the state?	System user charges as compared to state median household income can be determined by taking average monthly user charges, multiplying by 12 (for 12 months) and divide by the state MHI of \$58,433.
2. The fiscal analysis is to look at incomes, house values, user charges, debt per household, and ratio of reserves to project cost. Does a community have to receive a "passing grade" on each criterion in order to be deemed as having a financial need? For example, if a community meets all but one of these criteria will it be disqualified?	A community does not need a "passing grade" on each of the criteria to be deemed as having a financial need.
3. What information source is to be used to ascertain house values in a community, as well as the state median? What is the current state median house value?	The 2009 - 2013 American Community Survey (ACS) data from the U.S. Census Bureau will be used. For Colorado, the MHV is \$236,200.
Point Ranking	
How will projects that don't require technical submittals be evaluated in the Readiness to Proceed category? Should we submit a self-certification form?	
What if no design has been done, can we still compete for monies for a project in which design would happen in 2016 and project in 2017?	Yes, you may not receive all available points.
10. For projects that are not required to follow the standard design and engineering review process, i.e. self-certification process eligible projects, how can an applicant receive points for having completed the necessary steps and thereby demonstrate readiness to proceed?	Projects that require approval through the state design criteria would be eligible for the plans and specification submitted and/or approved points. The Small Communities Grant does not require projects to self certify therefore are not eligible for the plans and specification submitted and/or approval points.
12. Projects that are in the early stages of planning and design would seem to be at a disadvantage for prioritization as it is unlikely that many points will be garnered in the Readiness to Proceed category. Does the CDPHE hope to primarily fund projects that are construction related? Is this true for Tier I projects as well as for Tier II projects.	No, the prioritization model determines the priority not CDPHE. The RFA states eligible projects are for the planning, design and/or construction of public water systems or domestic wastewater treatment works. All prioritization categories will be utilized for each applicant.

Small Communities Grant

2014 RFA #2234

Questions and Answers

Applicants should not rely on any other statements that alter a specification or other term or condition of the RFA except as it appears below.

Question	Answer
Population	
<p>If our population is more than the 2,000 but we can show that if a water tank fails it will cause a loss of life, can this be considered?</p>	<p>Eligibility for this grant program is statutorily limited to applicants serving populations not greater than 5,000. Prioritization point criteria for population considers only current population served.</p>
<p>While researching our population requirement for your grant. We noted that there are different sources with different estimates using links located on your DOLA website. See: http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=bkmk (This meets requirement) Which source do you prefer we use. As one meets the requirements and one is only an estimate which puts us past the requirement https://dola.colorado.gov/demog_webapps/mpeParameters.jsf:jsessionid=8a554fb9b46d50685c7eaadcb57b by 286 people. We are concerned. Should we still proceed with applying?</p>	<p>The rolling 5 year data from ACS 2009-2013 shows Manitou Springs population at 5,097. The State Demography Office's one year population data from 2013 is 5,286. Entity does not appear to be eligible with either reference.</p>
Technical	
<p>If you have violations currently - do you have to include those as part of your application to show them? Are the points in question 15 and 16 considered negative to your points total?</p>	<p>The division expects applicants to document all information supporting answers to the questions. The points found in question 15 (Levels of Compliance) are positive points. The points found in question 16 may be neutral or negative from the total points.</p>
<p>Our company has received two violations in 4 years of testing. In one case there was an administrative oversight that delayed a TCR test into the next month. The test was normal. In another case a sampling error TCR turned up on Friday. There was no available lab to test on the weekend on the western slope. Repeat testing done the following Monday was normal. This was a sampling error. Violation was awarded because the test was not done in 24. there was nothing the company could do about it. We have changed our policy to test earlier in the week. Point is there are violations that every company gets and then there are "willful" violations. Seems abrupt to subtract points for non willful violations. These are part of the process. I am the ORC .</p>	<p>If a system has a violation it will be used in the prioritization of applications.</p>
<p>Q6- We are not under any formal violations, but due to our and the engineers investigation, believe some items could become larger issues or future violations, if not addressed. Should we note these items, in an attachment perhaps, when answering questions 33-42 of the application?</p>	<p>Yes. Please note all items and provide supporting documentation to substantiate your answers.</p>
<p>4.) Attachment I Item 20 In our subdivision the two commercial properties are metered separately and the residential properties totaling 15 are all on one meter. Is this 100% metering? If not, what percentage would this be?</p>	<p>This scenario is not considered 100% metered. The single water meter does not hold each individual user accountable for water usage or encourage water conservation by each individual residential tap.</p>
<p>3) We want to replace our existing distribution system as it is old and deteriorating. There is not additional area, just replace existing lines. Do we still need engineering plans and specifications?</p>	<p>Plans and specifications may be a deliverable of the contract and should be factored in the scope of work in the application.</p>

**Small Communities Grant
2014 RFA #2234
Questions and Answers**

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Question	Answer
<p>5. <u>Levels of Compliance-items 12, 13)</u> Our system is in compliance with an enforcement order. The Violations listed in that order are failure to filter water and other health issues identified in a sanitary survey which suggest that item 12 should be checked. It appears that as a reward for complying with an EO that includes violations for filtration or "other" health issues, a company loses 5 points for EO compliance. This appears backwards. Which item should we check and why?</p>	<p>The stakeholder process developed a prioritization system that rewards systems based on compliance prior to any enforcement. The enforcement order is one step beyond routine notification of violations. However projects that are in compliance with an enforcement order are offered more points than systems in non-compliance with enforcement orders.</p>
<p>9. Paragraph four indicates that portions of the application that include pricing information should be segregated from the technical portions of the application. Please further describe how applicants should accomplish this.</p>	<p>The first two paragraphs on page 9 of Section V. Submission Instructions quotes standard state RFA language that does not pertain to the Small Communities Grant and was included in error.</p>
<p>11. The Self-Certification Forms currently available on the Grants and Loans website presume that the project funding source is the State Revolving Funds. Will these forms be modified in order to provide forms that are pertinent to the Small Communities Grant Fund? For example the Wastewater Self-Certification Form requests a Site Application number, refers to a Project Needs Assessment, includes an Environmental Statement, etc...</p>	<p>No, the Small Communities Grant does not require projects to self certify.</p>
<p>3) We started up a brand new WWTP early this year that is properly sized based on wastewater generation from the community. This spring there was a tremendous amount of I&I entering the collection system. This resulted in us exceeding our permitted capacity at the WWTP. If there is a violation at the WWTP (and we use the violation to accrue points) can the grant money be used elsewhere (i.e. the collection system) to remedy the violation at the WWTP?</p>	<p>The violation at the wastewater treatment facility appears to be directly related to the inflow and infiltration (this connection must be documented in the application). If so, the violation and the project will be considered together when evaluating the points. If the two issues are not related, the points will only be based on the proposed project (collection system).</p>