



Pipeline

Small Community Wastewater Issues Explained to the Public

FUNDING SOURCES ARE AVAILABLE FOR WASTEWATER PROJECTS

So your community has decided that it is time to build, replace, upgrade, or expand your wastewater treatment system. You've spent countless hours discussing the project with your town council and held public meetings to get the approval and support of community residents. You've met with consulting engineers to determine what wastewater treatment technology is the most appropriate for the size, geography, and location of your town. You've identified any land that may be needed to construct or expand the treatment facility, and you've consulted with your town's attorney about possible legal issues. What else is there to do?

If your town is like other small communities, the most important—and perhaps the most difficult—part of a wastewater treatment project is securing the funding. Even though you have identified the need for a new or upgraded system and realize the importance of the project to protect the public's health and your local environment, if you cannot secure funds to cover the construction and operation of the system, your project will never leave the drawing table.

Compounding your situation is the fact that your town is small. You have fewer residents to help pay for the project and you have fewer experts and resources available to help you find funding. You wonder how you will move your project forward facing such seemingly insurmountable odds.

This issue of *Pipeline* is dedicated to helping small communities like yours locate funding for your important wastewater treatment project. It

outlines the most commonly-used sources of funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other federal agencies. It also provides information about less well-known avenues of funding, such as regional programs and nonprofit organizations. It even includes information about funding sources for homeowners looking to install or repair onsite wastewater treatment systems.

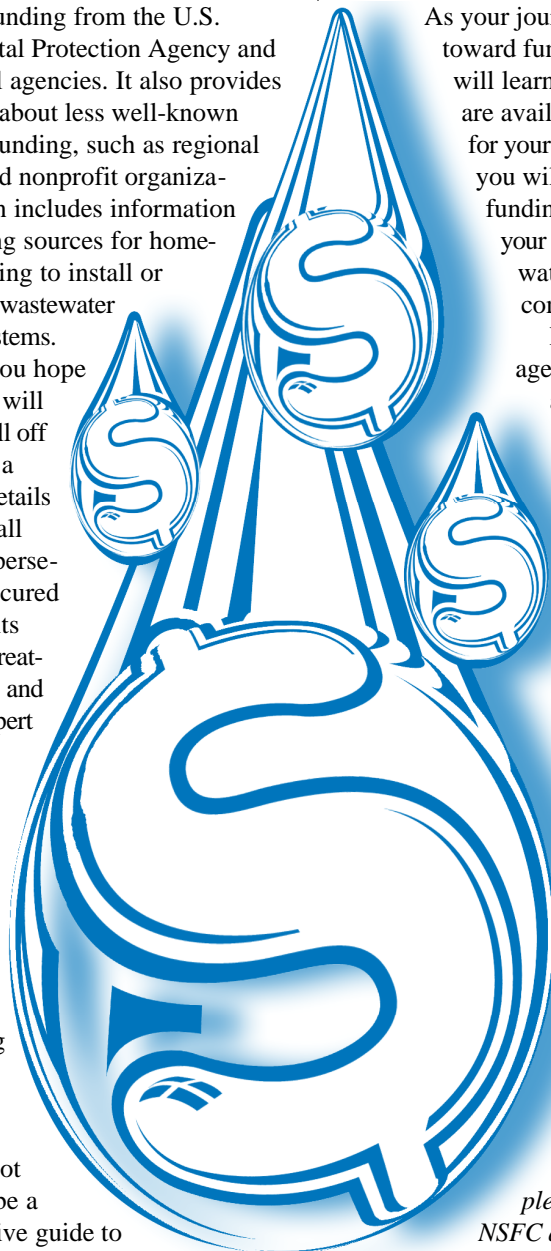
To give you hope that you too will be able to pull off your project, a case study details how one small community persevered and secured funding for its wastewater treatment project, and a funding expert offers his advice. This issue also provides contacts and resources that will assist you in your funding search.

Although this issue of *Pipeline* is not intended to be a comprehensive guide to all funding sources for all communities, there is no doubt that you will find information in it that will help

you start your search for funding. As your journey on the path toward funding continues you will learn about what options are available and best suited for your situation. In the end, you will secure the best funding resources and help your community's wastewater treatment project come to fruition.

Readers are encouraged to reprint *Pipeline* articles in local newspapers or include them in flyers, newsletters, or educational presentations. Please include the name and phone number of the National Small Flows Clearinghouse (NSFC) on the reprinted information and send us a copy for our files.

If you have any questions about reprinting articles or about any of the topics discussed in this newsletter, please contact the NSFC at (800) 624-8301 or (304) 293-4191. 💧



U.S. EPA: Should Be Your First Stop on Funding Search

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the first place small communities should look in their search for funding. As the nation's guardian of the environment, the EPA has several programs that offer financial and technical assistance to help small communities plan, design, and build wastewater treatment systems.

Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Program: This program, administered by EPA's Office of Water, provides grants to all states (and Puerto Rico) to capitalize state loan funds to build wastewater facilities. States provide a 20-percent match. Each state's SRF makes low-interest loans to communities for high-priority water quality management activities. (Septic system improvements/replacements and storm water management facilities are eligible for funding under the CWSRF.) As money is paid back into the revolving fund, new loans are made to help other communities. Potential projects must meet Clean Water Act and state requirements to be eligible.

To learn more about your state's SRF program, contact your state SRF coordinator for more information. To obtain a list of state SRF contacts: call (202) 260-2268, fax (202) 260-1827, e-mail [\[mail.epa.gov\]\(mailto:mail.epa.gov\), or visit \[www.epa.gov/efinpage/srfcon.htm\]\(http://www.epa.gov/efinpage/srfcon.htm\) on the Web.](mailto:srfinfo@epa-</p>
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Hardship Grants Programs for Rural Communities: EPA understands that not all communities can afford SRF loan repayments. Therefore, it developed its Hardship Grants Program to help small, disadvantaged rural communities (fewer than 3,000 residents) address their wastewater needs. States identify eligible projects and distribute funds based on the number of rural communities lacking access to centralized water treatment and the state's rural per capita income. Qualifying communities can use the funding to plan, design, and construct a municipal system or onsite treatment system.

Contact your state Hardship Grants Program coordinator for more information about funding opportunities through this program. For contact information: call (202) 260-2268, fax (202) 260-1827, e-mail srfinfo@epamail.epa.gov, or visit www.epa.gov/owm/hgp.htm on the Web.

Colonias Wastewater Assistance Program: This program provides grants to states along the U.S. and Mexico border to assist "colonias"—low-income, unincorporated border communities that lack basic necessities. Funds can be used to plan, design, and

construct wastewater facilities; make indoor plumbing improvements; and provide household connections to water and sewer facilities for low-income residents. To be eligible for colonia assistance, communities must be located in Texas or New Mexico within 62 miles of the Mexican border and meet income and economic criteria established by the state.

For more information, contact the EPA Region VI office at (214) 665-7110.

Clean Water Act Indian Set-Aside Program: EPA works with the Indian Health Service (IHS) to administer this program that is designed to assist Indian tribes and Alaska native villages in planning, designing, and building wastewater treatment systems. The program uses the IHS Sanitation Deficiency System to identify priority wastewater projects for grant funding. Grants cover most of the costs of planning, designing, and building a wastewater treatment system.

Contact your regional Indian Set-Aside Program coordinator for more information. For contact information: call (202) 260-7255 or fax (202) 260-0116. 💧

EPA's Environmental Finance Centers Can Help

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established seven Environmental Finance Centers (EFCs) at universities across the country to help communities find creative ways to fund environmental projects. You may call any of these centers for assistance.

Region: EPA Region 2 EFC
Location: Syracuse University
Service Area: NJ, NY, PR, Virgin Islands
Specialty: Sponsors water and wastewater training for local governments in small and rural communities.
Contact: (315) 443-9438
www.exed.org/EFC/efc.html

Region: EPA Region 3 EFC
Location: University of Maryland
Service Area: DE, MD, PA, VA, WV, DC
Specialty: Watershed-based finance issues, workshops for local officials on financing mechanisms.
Contact: (301) 405-6383
www.mdsg.umd.edu/EFC/index.html

Region: EPA Region 4 EFC
Location: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Service Area: AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN
Specialty: Environmental financial needs of underserved populations in small to medium-sized communities.
Contact: (919) 962-8494
www.unc.edu/depts/efc/

Region: EPA Region 5 EFC
Location: Cleveland State University
Service Area: OH, IN, IL, MI, WI, MN
Specialty: Financial tools and incentives to spur investment in abandoned commercial and industrial sites.
Contact: (216) 687-6947
www.csuohio.edu/glefc/

Region: EPA Region 6 EFC
Location: University of New Mexico
Service Area: AR, LA, NM, OK, TX
Specialty: Dealing with small communities, public-private partnerships, technical assistance to U.S.-Mexico border communities.
Contact: (505) 272-7357
nmeri.unm.edu/Eefc.htm
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Federal Agencies Provide Additional Funding Avenues

Beyond the funding provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, additional sources of funding for wastewater treatment projects are available through other branches of the federal government. You may wish to contact any or all of these agencies as you continue your search for funding.

State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program: The CDBG program, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), gives grants directly to the states, which then allocate funds to small cities and non-urban counties. Grants may be used for water, sewer, and other projects that protect public health and reduce environmental risk. Seventy percent of grant funds must be used for activities that principally benefit low- and moderate-income persons. On average, grants cover 50 percent of project costs. Areas undergoing significant economic distress are eligible for grants of up to 80 percent of their project costs. Eligibility for funds varies by state.

For more information, contact your state or local HUD agency or you may call HUD headquarters at (202) 708-1322 or visit HUD's Web site at www.hud.gov/cpd/cpdcomde.html.

Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Water and Waste Disposal (WWD) Program: The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service WWD Program provides both loans and grants to rural communities (10,000 or fewer residents) for water, wastewater,

solid waste, and storm drainage projects. The funds are administered locally by state and area Rural Development offices. Funds may be used to install, repair, improve, or expand rural wastewater disposal facilities. To be eligible, your community must be unable to get credit elsewhere at reasonable rates and terms. Certain low-income communities may be eligible for grants of up to 75 percent of eligible project costs.

Contact your local or regional Rural Development office for more information. For contact information: call (202) 720-0962, fax (202) 720-0718, or visit www.usda.gov/rus/water on the Web.

Economic Development Administration (EDA) Grants for Public Works and Development Facilities: The U.S. Department of Commerce's EDA provides grants to economically distressed areas for public works projects, including water and wastewater facilities. Eligible projects must promote economic development, create long-term jobs, and benefit low-income persons or the long-term unemployed. On average, EDA grants cover 50 percent of project costs. However, grants of up to 80 percent are available for severely distressed communities.


For more information, contact the state or regional EDA office in your area or you may call (202) 482-3081 or visit EDA's Web site at www.doc.gov/eda/.

Appalachian Regional Commission's (ARC) Community Development Supplemental Grants

Program: The ARC offers grants in designated Appalachian regions in 13 states: Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. The grants are intended to create jobs and promote private sector initiative by funding water and sewer facilities. Assistance is limited to 50 percent of total project costs, except for distressed counties, where the limit is 80 percent.

For more information, contact your state ARC office or you may call (202) 884-7700, fax (202) 884-7691, or visit www.arc.gov on the Web.

Sanitation Facilities Construction Program: The Indian Health Service (IHS), which is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, keeps an inventory of sanitation needs in American Indian and Alaska native (AI/AN) communities through the Sanitation Facilities Construction program. This program provides funding for projects serving eligible AI/AN homes. Funding may provide first-time sanitation facilities for new and existing homes, or it may be used to upgrade community water and sewer systems for previously served homes.

For more information, call (301) 443-1046 or write to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service, HQE, DFEE, 12300 Twinbrook Parkway, Room 610, Rockville, MD 20852. 


EPA's Environmental Finance Centers Can Help

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Region: EPA Region 9 EFC
Location: California State University at Hayward
Service Area: AZ, CA, HI, NV, American Samoa, Guam
Specialty: Helping the private sector learn how to make the best of business and investment opportunities in the environmental industry.

Contact: (510) 749-6867
www.greenstart.org/efc9/

Region: EPA Region 10 EFC
Locations: Boise State University
Service Area: OR, WA, ID, AK
Specialty: Helps communities and states with the "how to pay" issues of environmental protection.
Contact: (208) 426-4293
sipa.boisestate.edu/efc/index.html

Additional information about the EFC network and other assistance offered by EPA is available on the Environmental Finance Program Web site located at www.epa.gov/efinpage/. Or you may call Vera Hannigan at EPA headquarters at (202) 564-4994. 

Regional RCAPs Can Help Communities Find Funding

The Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP) helps small and rural communities with wastewater problems, including funding issues. Each of six regional RCAP offices provides free technical assistance for all aspects of wastewater treatment issues, including where to find funding, help with writing and processing grant and loan applications, and putting together a package of multiple funding sources. Several RCAP regions even operate their own loan programs. (See articles on this page.)

RCAP National Office
(888) 321-RCAP; (703) 771-8636

Northeastern Region: Rural Housing Improvement
Serves CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT, PR, Virgin Islands
(800) 488-1969; (978) 297-5300

Southeastern Region: Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc.
Serves DE, FL, GA, MD, NC, SC, VA
(540) 345-1184

Great Lakes Region: WSOS Community Action Commission
Serves IL, IN, KY, MI, OH, WV, WI
(419) 334-8911

Midwestern Region: Midwest Assistance Program
Serves IA, KS, MN, MO, MT, NE, ND, SD, WY
(800) 822-2981; (612) 758-4334

Southern Region: Community Resource Group
Serves AL, AR, LA, MS, OK, TN, TX
(501) 443-2700

Western Region: Rural Community Assistance Corporation
Serves AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA
(916) 447-2854

RCAC Provides Interim Loans to Western States

The Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC), which serves 11 western states, provides interim loans for rural wastewater treatment projects to legal public entities eligible for federal funding. These loans can give public entities up to three years to meet conditions required by a permanent long-term funding source.

RCAC loans can be used for building a new facility, expanding an existing facility, meeting health and safety concerns, and modernizing a current facility. Eligible entities include public utility districts, special purpose districts, municipalities, counties, nonprofits, and Indian tribes.

"These loans span a gap of time between issuance of a letter of commitment

from an approved permanent lending source and the funding of the project," says Rod Marshall, RCAC director of financial services. "Loans provide interim financing to pay predevelopment costs, engineering, bond counsel, and other related costs to satisfy the requirements of the permanent lender or grant provider."

According to Marshall, loans range from \$25,000 to \$750,000 at an interest rate of 5.5 percent.

States served by RCAC include Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.

To learn more about RCAC's interim loan program, call Marshall at (916) 447-9832, extension 142. 💧

CRG Loans Money for Wastewater Projects in South

Community Resource Group, Inc., (CRG) a private nonprofit organization that assists rural communities in seven southern states, operates a Community Loan Fund offering loans of up to \$100,000 for small water and wastewater system projects.

"Our average loan is \$50,000 at 5.9 percent interest," says Mark Rounsavall, CRG's deputy director. "Loans are available for any rural area or community of fewer than 25,000 residents in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee, or Texas."

Eligible loan recipients should serve significant numbers of low-income

customers, be unable to obtain affordable financing from other sources, and be willing to accept free technical assistance to improve their systems.

CRG loans can be used as interim financing as well as for actual project construction. Additionally, CRG also makes very small loans for emergency repairs. Loans of \$6,000 to \$10,000 often can be committed within one week, says Rounsavall.

For more information about CRG's Community Loan Fund, visit its Web site located at www.crg.org or call the loan fund director at (501) 443-2700. 💧

SE/R-CAP's Loan Fund Aids Southeastern States

The Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc., (SE/R-CAP) offers seed grants and loans for predevelopment, upgrades, and new construction of water and wastewater projects. Small, rural communities in Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida are eligible for short- and long-term financing under SE/R-CAP's Loan Fund.

Established in 1986, SE/R-CAP's Loan Fund helps to provide safe drinking water, sanitary wastewater facilities, and affordable housing for low-income, rural communities at an affordable cost. "Loan amounts range from \$1,000 to \$250,000 for up to 10 years at an interest rate of four to seven percent," says Mary Terry,

SE/R-CAP executive director. "Projects must serve populations of 10,000 or less and be rural in character."

Local governments, nonprofit agencies, public service authorities, user associations, and homeowners may apply for funding for predevelopment costs, upgrades and rehabilitations of existing systems, and new development, including new septic systems.

According to Terry, loan applications are accepted year round, and fully and correctly completed loan applications are acted upon within 60 to 90 days.

For information about SE/R-CAP's Loan Fund or to request a loan application, call (540) 345-1184, fax (540) 342-2932, or e-mail bpusha@sercap.org. 💧

Great Lakes RCAP Establishes Safe Water Fund

The Great Lakes Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP) is creating a revolving loan fund to serve as a niche market for needed financing of water and wastewater infrastructure projects in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. "We anticipate the Safe Water Fund to start up in March 2000," says Julie Ward, program manager.

According to Ward, the Great Lakes RCAP will serve as the lender for eligible projects, and the loans will be repaid to RCAP to relend for other future projects. "Potential projects include equipment replacement and repair, gap financing, interim financing, predevelopment costs, land acquisition, and new source development," says Ward.

Eligible applicants include local units of government as well as nonprofit and regional water and wastewater service providers. Ward expects the loan terms to range from one to six years, the interest rates to range from four to six percent, and the loans to range from \$5,000 to \$250,000.

"The Safe Water Fund will be a source of funding available with lower than market interest rates and easier to access than other sources of federal and state funds," says Ward. "RCAP technical assistance providers will work with communities to complete the application and put together the total financing package, depending on the project's funding needs."

To learn more about the Safe Water Fund, contact Ward at (419) 332-2074. 💧

CoBank Assists Rural Wastewater Systems

CoBank, a federally chartered and regulated bank that serves rural utility systems and agricultural cooperatives, provides loans to rural utilities, including wastewater systems serving unincorporated areas or towns with fewer than 20,000 residents.

"We currently finance more than 120 water and wastewater systems nationwide with loans and commitments exceeding \$325 million," says Steve Gustafson, vice president of CoBank. "Our Water and Wastewater Loan Program provides financing to creditworthy water and waste

disposal systems for new construction, upgrades to existing systems, system acquisitions, water rights purchases, project financing during construction, and refinancing of existing debt."

According to Gustafson, the minimum loan amount for a new customer is usually one million dollars or more with a term not to exceed 20 years at a fixed or variable rate.

To explore lending possibilities with CoBank, call Gustafson at (800) 542-8072, extension 4310. 💧

Some States Provide Funding for Onsite Systems

According to a 1998 survey conducted by the National Small Flows Clearinghouse (NSFC), at least 19 states offer some sort of funding program to help homeowners replace failing onsite systems or install new ones. The results of the survey have been compiled, in state-by-state order, in *A Guide to State-Level Onsite Regulations*.

The survey asked each state onsite regulator if there were "any funding programs or mechanisms (i.e., grants or loans) available to assist homeowners replacing failing systems or installing new systems." Respondents in the following states indicated they were aware of such a program and provided contact names: Connecticut, Delaware,

Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Funding for these programs comes from a variety of sources, including the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and other federal, state, and local sources.

To find out about funding programs for septic system repairs or replacements in your state, contact the NSFC at (800) 624-8301 or (304) 293-4191. To order A Guide to State-Level Onsite Regulations, call the NSFC and request Item #WWBKR01. The guide costs \$13.40, plus shipping and handling charges. 💧

Housing Assistance Council Offers Small Loans for Predevelopment Activities

A small Water/Wastewater Loan Fund (W/WWLF) is available from the Housing Assistance Council (HAC) to finance predevelopment activities for water and wastewater systems in poor rural areas.

Eligible borrowers include local units of government, public utility districts, water/wastewater associations, and other nonprofit utility service organizations.

W/WWLF loans may be used for:

- preliminary engineering and technical studies, including soil, water, or drilling tests;
- preliminary easement and water rights purchase;
- legal expenses to establish utility districts;
- bonding expenses;
- interim financing of local share costs (after determination of reimbursability from other sources);
- emergency repairs; and
- acquisition of existing private systems for rehabilitation.

Loans are made for two-year periods, with zero percent interest the first year and five percent the second year. The loans also carry a one percent service fee. The fund is presently fully committed, but funds should be available shortly.

According to John Frisk, director of HAC's loan fund, the W/WWLF is intended to provide only interim seed money. HAC usually requires applicants to identify permanent funding sources for long-term project expenses.

HAC is a national nonprofit corporation created to improve housing and living standards for low- and very low-income rural households.

To learn more about the W/WWLF or to obtain an application packet, contact Frisk at (202) 842-8600. 💧

Funding Expert Offers Advice

The keys to finding funding are hard work, creativity, and perseverance, says Donald Roecker, P.E., owner of a small consulting firm in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, who specializes in helping small communities secure funding. There are five principles a community should keep in mind when trying to find funding for a wastewater treatment project, he says.

Know how funding agencies work. First consider the agencies and what types of projects or objectives they fund, then develop your project so that it fits that type. Agencies fund projects that fit their goals, so it is important to know these goals before you develop your project, says Roecker.

Make your project unique. When your community develops a wastewater treatment project it should keep an eye on who benefits from it. The more people who benefit, the more possible ways to get funding, notes Roecker. For example, a project that helps your community meet regulations, create jobs, and improve the quality of life for low- to moderate-income families will have more funding possibilities.

Keep asking until someone says "maybe." It's important not to get discouraged when looking for funding, says Roecker. Keep wading through the "no" responses until you find someone who will at least say "maybe." A "maybe" can become a "yes."

Aim your public relations campaign at funding agencies too. Wastewater treatment projects often require public hearings and public relations campaigns. While a community is informing the residents about the project, it can use the same process to inform funding agencies.

Call your lawmakers if your project gets stuck. If the usual avenues for funding do not work, get in touch with your representatives in the state, or even U.S., legislature, advises Roecker. Lawmakers want to help the areas they represent get funding for needed projects. 💧

Colorado Town Finds Money, Replaces System

In the early 1990s, the small town of Hotchkiss, Colorado, located in the North Fork Valley on the northern edge of the Gunnison National Forest, finally admitted it had a problem. The town's two wastewater treatment lagoons were old and leaking, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment were threatening fines for non-compliance. Additionally, the failing system was jeopardizing the health of the Gunnison River and its "gold medal" fishing area five miles downstream from Hotchkiss.

This coal mining community of fewer than 1,000 residents, many of whom were retired or low-income, was stymied by the \$1.7 million price tag to purchase 250 acres of land and build a new wastewater treatment system.

According to Marlene Searle, Hotchkiss town clerk since 1982, the first thing the town did was ask for help. They located an engineer, Joanne Fagan with Consolidated Consulting Services, who was instrumental in guiding the town through the maze of possible funding sources.

"Our engineer had so many ideas and helped us through all the steps and paperwork," says a grateful Searle. "She knew how to write grants and go after money."

The town's below average income level qualified it for a combination \$365,000 grant / \$635,000 loan from Rural

Development. The state health department contributed a \$300,000 grant, and the Department of Local Affairs chipped in with a \$150,000 grant and a \$150,000 loan, according to Searle.

Hotchkiss also used money raised by its two percent sales tax, and Searle "scraped the bottom of the barrel to find the rest of the money" for the project. In addition, the town used in-kind donations, such as backhoe service, labor, and data collection

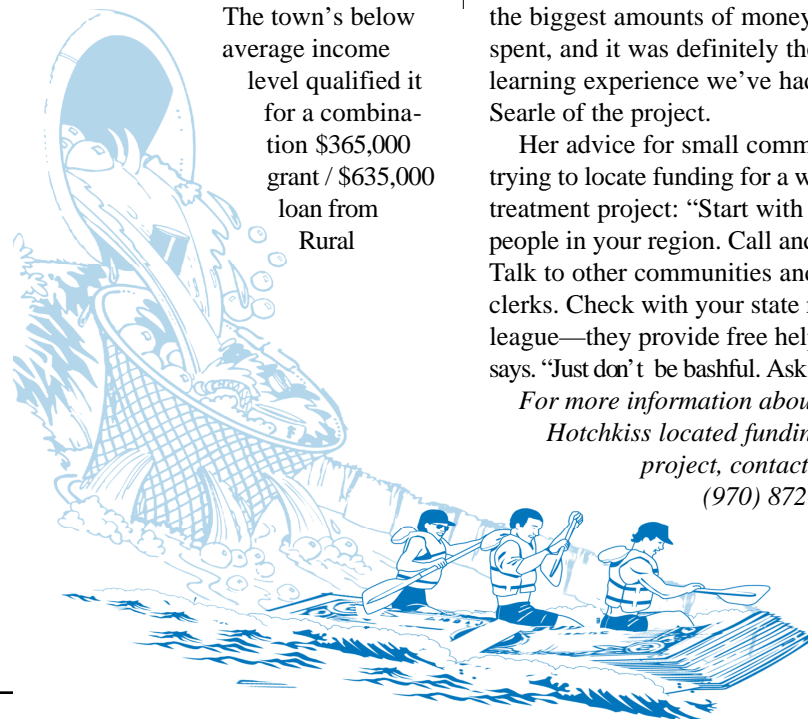
By October 1998, Hotchkiss had emptied the failing lagoons, installed the new system on the south side of the Gunnison River, and replaced the town's leaking sewer lines. The new system has three lagoons with the option of putting in an additional one.

According to Searle, the rest of the land is rented to a local farmer who maintains it. An added bonus is that the town applies the system's sludge to its own land and uses the treated effluent for irrigation. "We hope to one day put in fishing ponds and trails on the 11 acres where the old lagoons were," says Searle.

Hotchkiss increased its monthly sewer charge from \$9.50 to \$25 using a three-step rate hike over a three-year period. This rate increase is helping the town cover its yearly debt of \$36,000 on its 40-year Rural Development loan, according to Searle. "This was one of the biggest amounts of money we've spent, and it was definitely the biggest learning experience we've had," says Searle of the project.

Her advice for small communities trying to locate funding for a wastewater treatment project: "Start with the local people in your region. Call and get help. Talk to other communities and town clerks. Check with your state municipal league—they provide free help," she says. "Just don't be bashful. Ask for help."

For more information about how Hotchkiss located funding for its project, contact Searle at (970) 872-3663. 💧



NCSC Offers Guide to Competitive Grant Applications

Each year, small and rural governments qualify for billions of dollars in public and private funding. Federal and state programs fund infrastructure, economic development, and human service projects. Foundations and corporations support activities, such as education, health, and community planning efforts. But virtually all of these opportunities are competitive, requiring a well-written, persuasive application.

The National Center for Small Communities (NCSC) recently published a new edition of *Keys to Successful Funding: A Small Community Guide to Federal and Foundation Resources*. The guide gives local leaders the information and tools to locate and compete successfully for critical outside funding. The first edition of *Keys to Successful Funding* was widely used by state community development agencies, regional planning and development agencies, state municipal and county associations, and similar organizations.

Because of growth, the changing economy, and the impact of regulations, small town and rural leaders must meet increasing demands with the same limited local resources. To assist local officials

in accessing new sources of revenue, *Keys to Successful Funding* identifies both funding strategies and funding sources.

The guide illustrates how to develop the major components of a competitive proposal: planning, eligibility, affordability, funding, and management. It provides an analysis of federal programs that fund basic community needs, such as wastewater treatment facilities.

Keys to Successful Funding also devotes a chapter to the funding available from the nation's 42,000 foundations, many of which limit their assistance to the community or state where they are located. This is a new avenue for small town leaders, yet foundations distributed more than \$15 billion in 1997, a 12 percent increase over the previous year.

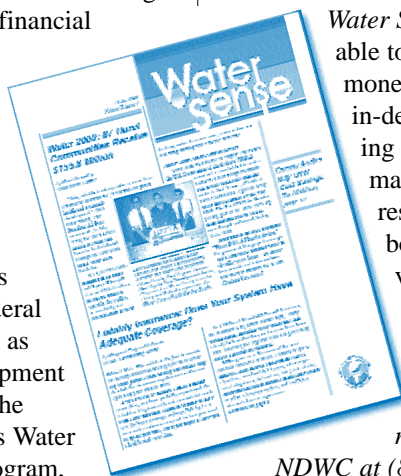
The guidebook concludes with free and affordable sources of planning, technical assistance, and administrative expertise, as well as contacts, hotlines, and Internet sites of particular value.

Single copies of Keys to Successful Funding cost \$24.95 and may be ordered from the NCSC by calling (202) 624-3550 or from the NCSC's Web site located at www.natat.org/ncsc/Pubs/Funding.htm. 💧

Water Sense Provides Financial, Funding Information

Water Sense, a newsletter published by the National Drinking Water Clearinghouse (NDWC), offers financial news for small drinking water and wastewater treatment systems.

This free quarterly publication provides the latest information on financial issues affecting small systems. Past issues have outlined major federal funding programs, such as the Community Development Block Grant Program, the Rural Utilities Service's Water and Waste Disposal Program, and the Appalachian Regional Commission's grant program. Special topic issues detail rate setting, self-help, bonds, and public-private partnerships.



Small community leaders looking for funding avenues will find *Water Sense* to be an invaluable tool in their search for money. Each issue provides in-depth features on funding topics as well as information on helpful resources such as guidebooks, newsletters, videos, and reports.

To request a free subscription to Water Sense or to order back issues of the newsletter, call the NDWC at (800) 624-8301 or (304) 293-4191. Or visit the NDWC's Web site, located at www.ndwc.wvu.edu, to view Water Sense online. 💧



CONTACTS

The National Small Flows Clearinghouse (NSFC)

The NSFC offers technical assistance and free and low-cost information about onsite and small community wastewater technologies and issues, including financial issues and funding sources. The NSFC's *Products Guide* features 36 finance and management resources that can be ordered from the NSFC. Visit the NSFC's Web site at www.nsfsc.wvu.edu or call (800) 624-8301 or (304) 293-4191 for assistance or to request a free catalog.

The National Rural Water Association (NRWA)

The NRWA represents rural and small community wastewater systems throughout the U.S. RWA offices in each of the 48 contiguous states can help small communities applying for grants and loans for wastewater treatment projects by assisting with the paperwork involved in locating funding sources and guidance through the funding process. Visit NRWA's Web site at www.nrwa.org to locate the RWA office in your state.

The Rural Information Center (RIC)

The RIC provides information and referral services for rural communities, local officials, organizations, and citizens. RIC will perform customized searches of public and private funding sources for small communities seeking funding for rural infrastructure projects, such as wastewater treatment facilities. Its Web site, located at www.nal.usda.gov/ric, has a section dedicated to funding resources, which includes the Federal Funding Sources for Rural Areas Database that can be searched online. *A Guide to Funding Resources* as well as a variety of grant writing publications are also available online. For more information about RIC, call (800) 633-7701 or visit its Web site.

The International City/County Management Association (ICMA)

The ICMA has partnered with a number of organizations to create the Local Government Environmental Assistance Network (LGEAN)—a "first-stop shop" for local officials needing environmental management, planning, and regulatory information. LGEAN's research team will help small communities seeking funding for wastewater treatment projects by providing information on federal and state funding programs. For more information, call David George at ICMA at (202) 962-3531 or visit LGEAN's Web site at <http://lgean.org>.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE FROM NSFC

To order any of the following products, call the National Small Flows Clearinghouse (NSFC) at (800) 624-8301 or (304) 293-4191, fax (304) 293-3161, e-mail nsfc_orders@estd.wvu.edu, or write NSFC, West Virginia University, P.O. Box 6064, Morgantown, WV 26506-6064. Be sure to request each item by number and title. A shipping and handling charge will apply.

Federal Funding Sources for Small Community Wastewater Systems

This free 31-page booklet highlights 10 federal programs that help state, tribal, and local officials identify possible funding sources, who to contact, and how to apply. Request Item #FMBLFN29.

State and Local Government Guide to Environmental Program Funding Alternatives

This 26-page booklet provides an overview of traditional funding mechanisms and presents state and local governments with alternatives to traditional funding. A list of contacts and references is included. The price is \$3.75. Request Item #FMBLFN14.

Alternative Financing Mechanisms for Environmental Programs

This 206-page book outlines the financing challenge local and state officials, planners, and managers face and explores

a range of alternative financing mechanisms at both the state and local level. The price is \$17.50. Request Item #FMBKFN12.

Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program

This free two-page fact sheet highlights the various needs that are eligible for funding under the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program. Request Item #FMFSFN24.

Rural Community Assistance Program: Help for Small Community Wastewater Projects

This free two-page fact sheet highlights the various projects and types of assistance that the Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAP) provides, along with funding options available through the program and where to turn for more information. Request Item #WWFSFN04.

It's Your Choice: A Guidebook for Local Officials on Small Community Wastewater Management Options

This 70-page U.S. EPA book examines the choices small communities have to solve their wastewater treatment issues. It examines the steps needed to define the problem, select an engineer, and finance the system. The price is \$7.50. Request Item #FMBKGN01.

Hardship Grants Program for Rural Communities

This free two-page fact sheet details the U.S. EPA's Hardship Grants Program and outlines criteria for eligibility and where to find additional information. Request Item #FMFSFN27.

PIPELINE



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