



Environmental Facilities Corporation

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EFC Accelerates Funding Availability of \$75 Million in Grants for Local Drinking Water and Wastewater Improvements

Executive State Budget Provides an Additional \$100 Million Over Two Years for Critical Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Upgrades

Environmental Facilities Corporation today announced the availability of \$75 million in water infrastructure grants has been expedited to ensure that grant funds are available as soon as possible to local governments needing assistance to advance their water and wastewater infrastructure projects. Applications for NYS Water Grants Program will be released on February 3, 2016.

“Governor Cuomo continues to take unprecedented steps to ensure that water-quality and public health projects can move forward as quickly as possible and at the lowest possible cost for New York State communities,” said **Sabrina M. Ty, EFC President and CEO**. “EFC looks forward to working with our partners at DEC and DOH to advance these projects and safeguard the availability of clean water, providing the foundation necessary to create jobs and economic development.”

The Water Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2015 (Act), established as part of the 2015-2016 New York State Budget, provided \$200 million in grants over three fiscal years. The first \$50 million round of grants awarded in December 2015 will leverage more than \$440 million in total project costs and is expected to save local taxpayers more than \$200 million. The remaining \$150 million will be awarded over the next two years, and today’s announcement opens the second round of funding.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Acting Commissioner and EFC Board Chair Basil Seggos said “Investing in clean water infrastructure is vital to improving water quality and the economy. I thank Governor Cuomo and the State Legislature for building a better New York by providing these critically important funds that will help communities upgrade aging infrastructure and restore water resources.”

As part of this year’s Executive Budget, Governor Cuomo has proposed an additional \$100 million for this program, bringing total grant funding to \$300 million. This additional funding would allow the state to issue \$250 million in grants to municipalities over the next two years, leveraging more than \$1.5 billion in local water infrastructure investments and creating an

estimated 24,000 jobs. If the proposed increase is included in the final budget, an additional \$50 million will become available in this round, for a total of \$125 million.

New York State Senate Environmental Conservation Committee Chair Thomas O'Mara said: "It's great news that the state is taking steps to distribute this vital funding to help localities statewide undertake these critical water infrastructure and quality projects as quickly as possible. I'm grateful to my legislative colleagues, particularly Senator Patty Ritchie of the North Country, for pushing for this expedited application process, and we're appreciative of the governor's cooperation and support."

New York State Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee Chair Steve Englebright said: "The new round of water infrastructure grants will help local taxpayers by having the state provide funds to improve drinking water and waste water systems. I am delighted that the program is providing real benefits for New Yorkers. Almost every town and village across the State has projects that could be helped through these water infrastructure grants."

Wastewater Infrastructure Projects

As with the last round, projects given priority will include those that meet economic hardship criteria and projects that result in the greatest water quality improvement or greatest reduction in serious risk to public health, mitigate combined sewer and storm sewer overflows, or increase system resiliency to protect wastewater collection and treatment systems from sea level rise and damage from extreme weather.

Applicants seeking grant funding for wastewater projects are eligible to receive grants of either 25 percent of eligible project costs or \$5 million, whichever is less.

Drinking Water Infrastructure Projects

Drinking water projects that provide the greatest reduction in risk to public health will also be eligible for grants. Preference will be given to hardship communities.

Applicants seeking grant funding for drinking water projects are eligible to receive grants of either 60 percent of eligible project costs or \$2 million, whichever is less.

Applications for both wastewater and drinking water projects will be available on February 3, 2016, at www.efc.ny.gov/NYSwatergrants. The application deadline is April 15, 2016. Municipalities with questions should e-mail NYSwatergrants@efc.ny.gov or call EFC at 518-402-6924.

In addition to the grants announced today, EFC and DOH will offer either zero-percent or low-interest financing to communities to further reduce the cost of infrastructure projects. More information on these loans is available at: www.efc.ny.gov/CWSRF (for wastewater projects) and www.efc.ny.gov/DWSRF (for drinking water projects).

New York State leads the nation with the largest annual investment in water-quality infrastructure of any state. Since 2011, New York State has financed more than \$9 billion in critical water and wastewater infrastructure investments—the largest five-year investment since the inception of the revolving loan funds in 1987. The state revolving loan funds are administered by the EFC, on behalf of the DEC, and jointly with the DOH.