



DWSRF Funding Program

Small System Equipment Assistance Funding (SSEA)

Program Overview:

This program is funded out of Oregon's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). The purpose is to fund fixed installation of small scale additions or replacement of equipment and instrumentation needed by small water systems to ensure continued operation and protection of public health.

- Applications will be accepted for this program annually on February 15th and August 15th.
- Available funding for this program is \$200,000 per year or a maximum of 10 projects.
- \$20,000 max forgivable loan per project. Minimum award of \$2,000.
- Total proposed project budget (SSEA funds plus all other funds) cannot exceed \$50,000.
- Systems may receive an award once every three years. Projects must be completed within two years of the day that a funding contract is signed with Business Oregon. A one-year extension may be granted upon request.
- Priority for funding will be given to systems with Disadvantaged Community status, systems with Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) compliance needs, and systems treating surface water sources.
- Prior to project closeout and final disbursement of funds, Business Oregon will require photo documentation of the installed equipment.
- Federal requirements apply to the funds, especially related to materials and contracted labor costs, see below.

Circuit Rider assistance is available to help identify needed equipment and supplies, and to assist in completing a funding application.

Eligible Water Systems:

Eligible water systems must meet each of the following criteria:

- Classified as a Community or Non-Profit Non-Community water system
 - Community water systems must serve at least 15 or more service connections or 25 or more year-round residents. Non-Profit Non-Community water systems must serve at least 25 people and be recognized under Oregon law as a nonprofit corporation.
- Is not classified as a "Community – Wholesale" water system.
- Serves less than 300 connections
- System is not in significant noncompliance. Criteria may be waived if project will directly resolve noncompliance.

Eligible Project Activities:

Additions or replacements of equipment and instrumentation installed at existing facilities on previously disturbed land owned by the water system (or with a formalized legal easement or right-of-way).

Project activities must include fixed installation of one or more of the following eligible items:

- Treatment Equipment – including chemical dosing pumps and feed equipment, pump calibration equipment, chemical day tanks, storage/contact time tanks (5,000 gallons or less), and chemical static mixers.
- Process Control – including flow meters, level controllers, streaming current monitors, dose control modules, flow control valves and flow switch controllers. **Note:** Costs associated with integration of added or replaced equipment into an existing Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) or Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system are eligible. A necessary improvement to an existing PLC/SCADA is also eligible.
- Pressure Management – including pressure tanks (surge, expansion, hydropneumatics) and booster pumps.
- Monitoring and Instrumentation – including chlorine analyzers, sensor controllers, on-line turbidimeters, chart recorders, pressure transmitters and level transmitters.
- Security and Emergency Preparedness – including uninterruptable power supply (UPS), fixed installation generators, plant auto-dialers, intrusion alarms and/or remote monitoring.
- Other Necessary Equipment – including pumps, motors, valves, couplings, and yard piping.
- Portable Lab Equipment – including turbidimeters, colorimeters, pH meters, alkalinity test kits and jar test equipment. **Note:** Portable lab equipment is the only activity that does not require fixed installation.

Equipment and instrumentation not listed above may be considered but will require authorization by OHA at application review.

Application Requirements:

Systems must submit a completed Small System Equipment Assistance (SSEA) Application with all required attachments. The application form is available on [OHA's SSEA Program Webpage](#). Receiving a funding award and execution of a contract under the SSEA program can take up to 6 months following the application submission deadline. Required attachments include:

- Recent cost/bid documentation from equipment supplier(s) and, if applicable, contractor(s)
- Water system service area map

Other attachments may be required depending on the project and budget; see the application for more information.

For cost documentation, procurement, and American Iron and Steel (AIS) requirements, see [Cost Documentation Guidance](#).

Notable Federal Requirements:

Davis-Bacon and Related Acts (DBRA) Requirements: Federal funding that supports SSEA projects includes DBRA labor standards requirements. These requirements are triggered if the water system enters into a contract related to the project that is more than \$2,000 and the contract includes construction, alteration, and/or repair work. DBRA applies to the whole project and requirements will apply to the contract regardless of which funding source pays for the contract costs.

- Under SSEA, if the water system enters into a contract that triggers DBRA requirements, then the water system is responsible for complying with all DBRA requirements and ensuring their contractor(s) comply.
 - DBRA also applies to all subcontracts (regardless of amount) under any contract that triggers DBRA requirements.
- If able, in-house staff may complete the equipment installation, however, SSEA funds cannot be used to pay for the water system's staff costs.
- Systems are encouraged to apply for small-scale projects which the water system's operational staff can implement easily, such as the addition or replacement of feed equipment, pumps, valves, monitoring equipment, etc. to minimize triggering administrative requirements of DBRA. However, applicants shall not artificially split contracts or underestimate cost of services to attempt to avoid DBRA requirements.
- If needed, a small portion of the SSEA award may be allocated to retain a third-party consultant to assist with DBRA oversight and compliance.

America Iron and Steel (AIS) Requirements: Federal funding that supports SSEA projects includes AIS requirements. AIS can apply to the purchase of certain SSEA eligible supplies and equipment, that are made primarily of iron or steel.

- Applicants are requested to determine if the products used in the project will need to comply with AIS prior to applying so the budget can more accurately reflect those costs.
- Funding recipients will need to secure and maintain AIS compliant certification letters for items subject to AIS requirements during project implementation.

Ineligible Activities:

- Projects which trigger OHA environmental review including installation of equipment or instrumentation that is NOT at existing facilities on previously disturbed land.
- Purchase of equipment or instrumentation that is part of a larger project. The total proposed project budget (SSEA + all other funds) cannot total more than \$50,000.
- Projects related to the addition of new water sources, new storage reservoirs, and associated transmission lines.
- Decommissioning abandoned wells.
- Projects related to the purchase of new land or acquisition of new easements.
- Purchase or installation of distribution piping (with the exception of yard piping), residential water meters and fire hydrants.
- Installation of a new PLC/SCADA system.

- Purchase of a portable item utilized for project construction/installation that is not an integral permanent part of the implemented project.
- Purchase of maintenance equipment, vehicles, computers, printers and other types of equipment not part of the water treatment or conveyance process.
- In-house water system staff costs are not eligible to be reimbursed under the SSEA program.

Additional Resources: See the Resources section of [OHA's SSEA website](#).