

DWSRF Priority List Application for All* FFY 2026 IUP Projects

*Please note that **all** projects must complete this Priority List Application to be ranked for competitive loan funding, including Step 1 Planning loans (including a preliminary engineering report or source development, but not including AMP loans as described below); Step 2 Design loans; and Step 3 Construction loans.

Each year the Vermont DWSRF program develops an [Intended Use Plan](#) (IUP) explaining how funds will be used including several project priority lists for loans. FFY refers to the federal fiscal year budget cycle that provided that set of funds to Vermont DWSRF.

Funds have been set aside in prior IUPs to fund forgiven Asset Management Plan (AMP) loans for municipal community water systems. See [Guidance Document 26](#). For municipal AMP loans, this Priority List Application is not required. Go directly to the [Loan Application](#).

Planning/design stage projects will be ranked and added to the current, FFY 2025, priority list periodically through 2/6/2026 as Loan Applications are received as long as funds are available.

Planning/design stage projects that expect to submit a Loan Application after 2/6/2026 need to submit a priority list application by **5:00 pm Friday 2/6/2026**. Projects that rank in the fundable range will be notified and must submit a complete planning and/or design Loan Application by the end of the FFY 2026 IUP cycle, approximately June 30, 2027.

For FFY 2026 construction loans, the priority list application deadline is **5:00 pm Friday 2/6/2026**. Projects that rank in the fundable range on the FFY 2026 IUP priority lists will be notified and reminded of milestones to meet during the year, including submitting a complete Loan Application after the adoption of the FFY 2026 IUP in summer 2026 and by the end of the IUP cycle, approximately June 30, 2027.

Eligibility: See the federal [DWSRF eligibility handbook](#) and [Vermont DWSRF Guidance Document 8](#) for information on eligible borrowers, projects, and line items. An eligible borrower is an existing community system (municipal or private) or an existing non-profit non-community system. Final eligibility determinations are made from the Loan Application and review of line items for specific cost approvals. Before proposing a new water system, contact DWGPD [Capacity Development staff](#).

Ranking and the fundable range: FFY 2026 priority list applications will be scored based on criteria shown on this application and in DWSRF [Guidance Document 2](#) (version effective December 5, 2025). Most projects will be ranked on the General funding list. Projects due to PFAS may be ranked on the Emerging Contaminants list or split between EC and General lists. Projects for service line inventories or lead/galvanized service line replacement will be ranked on the Lead priority list or split between the Lead and General lists.

On a priority list, the program may designate a fundable range at greater than 100% of available funds based on cash flow modeling including actual disbursement of funds, and the likelihood of projects being bypassed. Priority list scores are published in the draft IUP open for public comment and then in the adopted IUP. If priority list additions will result in other projects being bypassed for funding, those priority list updates will also be open for public comment.

There is no fee for this application. There is no penalty against future funding if the project does not proceed or uses another funding source, but please update us promptly so that we can fund other projects. Projects may appear on priority lists across multiple IUP cycles since that is typically needed especially if funding planning, design, and construction stages.

Water System and Consulting Engineer Information

Water System Name: _____

Water System ID: _____

Borrower (water system owner): _____

Water system contact name and title: _____

Water system contact email: _____

Consulting engineering firm name: _____

Consulting engineer contact name: _____

Consulting engineer email address: _____

Project Summary

Project title. Be as specific as possible, “Replace Main St & Elm St mains” not “Water main project”; “Treatment plant upgrades” not “Water system improvements 2”.

Project description. Include scope, location, and enough detail for us to evaluate eligibility and score the project. Several sentences to a couple of paragraphs.

Will the project update the service line inventory and/or replace service lines expected to contain galvanized or lead pipe segments in any part of the service lines or connectors?

Yes No

Is the purpose of the project to reduce PFAS via treatment or to develop an alternative source without PFAS?

Yes No

Project Steps

DWSRF loans are not required at each step, but SRF requirements may apply across project steps. To rank for FFY 2026 construction funding, a 90% Preliminary Engineering Report (PER, USDA Bulletin 1780-2 format) relevant to the project must have been submitted to DWGPD by 2/6/2026, or the DWGPD engineering section must determine that no such document is required based on review of the priority list application or that another document serves as a PER-equivalent. Prior to construction funding, detailed design drawings will be required for environmental review and bidding even if not required for a General Permit to Construct.

Planning and/or Design (Step 1 or 2), not a construction project, or will not be ready to apply for construction funding by June 2027.

Construction (Step 3) – Project will apply for construction funding by June 2027.

Fill in relevant dates where applicable and leave other lines blank:

PER submission date (if submitted but still in review): _____

PER was approved by DWGPD on this date: _____

If proposing a PER-equivalent document describe: _____

Source Permit # (e.g., S-1234-24.0): _____

Source Permit submission date (if still in review): _____

Source Permit was issued on: _____

Construction Permit # (e.g., C-1234-25.0): _____

[Construction Permit](#) submission date (if still in review): _____

Construction Permit was issued on: _____

15 points for relevant Construction Permit from DWGPD issued by 2/6/2026.

Facility Deficiencies and Compliance Concerns

This section of priority points reflects the public health risk and compliance concerns being corrected by the project. The highest scoring concerns will have been identified as deficiencies or compliance requirements in a survey letter, notice of alleged violation (NOAV), operating permit, or other DWGPD document. Points in this section are awarded based on the concern addressed by the project that has the highest single score from the table on the next page, and that represents a significant portion of the total project cost. Only one score from the table is applied per project. The Secretary may phase projects for priority scoring purposes when more than one deficiency is being corrected, the associated cost of correcting each deficiency is significant, and the relative public health risks and compliance concerns of the deficiencies are significantly different.

List any documents that justify the points on the next page, e.g., Significant Deficiency in August 2025 sanitary survey letter; 2024 Permit to Operate compliance schedule.

Points (highest only)	Deficiency / Compliance Concern	Description – Project will...
○ 120	Microbial contamination	Address known microbial contamination by providing adequate treatment or eliminating the sources(s) of contamination.
○ 120	Inadequate treatment of surface water or GWUDISW	Address inadequate treatment systems supplied by surface water sources or sources determined to be groundwater under the direct influence of surface water (GWUDISW).
○ 120	Inadequate water quantity	Address documented inability to meet maximum daily demand (MDD) with existing sources.
○ 120	Chemical contaminant above MCL, AL, or VHA	Address exceedance of a primary drinking water standard (maximum contaminant level (MCL), copper action level exceedance (ALE), federal lead ALE, or Vermont Health Advisory (VHA) established by Vermont Department of Health, an interim standard as directed by the Legislature, or other water quality that requires treatment as directed by the ANR Secretary.
○ 120	Chemical contaminant above VAL	Address exceedance of a Vermont Action Level (VAL) developed by the Health Department (benzene, carbon tetrachloride, dibromochloropropane, 1,2-dichloroethane, 1,2-dichloropropane, hexachlorobenzene, pentachlorophenol, tetrachloroethylene, trichloroethylene, or vinyl chloride).
○ 100	Inadequate disinfection facilities	Provide 4-log inactivation of viruses for a water system that does not currently have this capability, or address documented inadequacies in disinfection treatment performance.
○ 90	Lead control	Address documented lead service lines or connectors (if lead action level exceedance, choose 120 points AL above).
○ 80	Inadequacy of critical components	Correct a Significant Deficiency or Permit to Operate compliance item identified during a sanitary survey or site assessment(s).
○ 70	System vulnerable to contamination	Address documented contamination vulnerabilities, e.g., inadequate storage tank roof, inadequate pressure, source vulnerable to a septic leachfield or chemical contaminant, etc.
○ 50	Improve existing system components	Improve or protect existing components, or construct redundant facilities.
○ 50	Improve existing technology/control systems	Improve or protect existing SCADA/Process Controls & other technology
○ 40	Inadequate cross-connection control	Correct existing or potential cross-connection problems or make improvements under an established control plan.

Chemical contaminant present below MCL, AL, VAL, or VHA

- 10 points** to treat or eliminate a regulated contaminant present at a lower concentration. Do not repeat for a contaminant listed in the section above. To claim these points, describe contaminant(s) below with reference to laboratory results, e.g., manganese results in 2025.

Physical Consolidation of Water Systems

Skip this section if not applicable to your project. Points for interconnection or consolidation of regulated public water systems. Physical consolidation of small water systems is encouraged to increase the capability of small systems to protect public health and comply with regulations.

Points (highest only)	Description
○ 20	Interconnection of community water supplies (resulting in declassification of a regulated public community water system)
○ 15	Interconnection of community water supplies (remaining separate regulated public community water supplies)
○ 10	Interconnection of non-community system
○ 0	n/a

If claiming points in this section, explain the water systems to be consolidated – names, WSIDs, and which will be the source system.

Other Project Characteristics

- 10 points** for a project that will improve resilience of existing water system infrastructure documented to be vulnerable to adverse effects from floods. If claiming points, describe:

- 15 points** for voter authorization to incur debt for construction loan (specific bond vote for municipal system; VEDA authorization for private system) by 3/6/2026. If after 2/6/2026, to claim these points, send an email to the same address used for this application.

Date of vote with majority support: _____

- **75 points** if the water system has a DWGPD approved [Asset Management Plan](#) (see [Guidance Document 26](#) for requirements) and the proposed construction project is a high priority project identified in the current plan.

Date DWGPD approved the AMP: _____

To receive these points, you must submit at the same time as your priority list application the “Funding Strategies” section of the your current AMP showing (1) the specific project listed and (2) its priority. The AMP should have been updated within the last two years.

Project Cost Estimates

Estimates should be as accurate as possible but actual loan value will be based on the Loan Application and approval of line items. Include engineering and other costs.

Current loan number if applicable: RF3- _____

Loan step	Estimated loan applications FFY 2026 IUP (approximately 7/1/2026 – 6/30/2027)
1 Planning	\$ _____
2 Design	\$ _____
3 Construction	\$ _____
Subtotal	\$ _____

Water System Budget Info

DWSRF staff use the answers you provide, in combination with local income data, to determine preliminary construction loan terms including subsidy (longer repayment years, lower administrative fee, and loan forgiveness) based on [Guidance Document 10](#) and annual federal funding. Preliminary loan terms for fundable projects will be shown on the priority list for planning purposes for the program and for water systems, and as part of our grant application to EPA for DWSRF funds. Final loan terms and subsidy determination for each project are made based on the Loan Application and its supporting documentation. Costs below must be specific to the water system budget, not other municipal or property maintenance expenses.

Annual water system operations & maintenance budget (post-project): \$ _____
 Annual water system debt payments. Do not include estimates for this project or debt that will be paid off within 5 years. \$ _____
 Annual water system dedicated reserve contribution (budget line item, not just leftover funds carried forward): \$ _____

Number of Service Connections

DWSRF staff award points based on [SDWIS regulatory data](#) and answers below.

Points	Service Connections
20	< 101
15	101 to 330
10	331 to 1100

Points	Service Connections
5	1101 to 3300
0	> 3300

Residential units:

RU: _____

A house counts as 1; duplex as 2; 10-unit apartment building as 10.

Non-residential water use (industrial, commercial, institutional, wholesale) must be converted to equivalent residential units (ERU). If none, enter zero.

_____ gallons/yr divided by 76,650 gallons/yr or

_____ ft³/yr divided by 10,250 ft³/yr or

_____ m³/yr divided by 290.15 m³/yr or

Non-Res ERU: _____

Total ERU: _____

Affordability and Service Area

DWSRF staff will assign points based on current median household income (MHI) [data](#) from the 5-year American Communities Survey (ACS) by town, village, or Census Designated Place (CDP) that most closely matches the water system distribution. For water systems in more than one town, the MHI is weighted by the number of household connections in each town. This MHI will be compared to the state community MHI (SCMHI) as a %. You may provide information about the water system service area below if its income differs greatly from the town. A water system may also complete an [income survey](#) before the Loan Application. If you charge different user rates in different portions of the service area, explain.

Points	% of SCMHI
35	≤ 60
25	60 < X ≤ 70
15	70 < X ≤ 80
10	80 < X ≤ 90

Points	% of SCMHI
5	90 < X ≤ 100
2	100 < X ≤ 120
0	> 120

Disadvantaged Community Outreach and Technical Assistance

DWGPD Capacity staff will assign 20 points to projects from communities who have received technical assistance through the Disadvantaged Communities Outreach and Technical Assistance Program, funded through the DWSRF Set-asides.

Signature and Submission Instructions

The Authorized Representative must be a members of the owner’s governing body or a direct employee of the owner and may not be an independent contractor working for the owner.

"As Authorized Representative for the water system, I hereby certify that the information in this priority list application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge."

Authorized Representative Signature: _____

Authorized Representative Name: _____

Title / Role (e.g., Board President; Town Manager): _____

Date: _____

Send this form as an email attachment to ANR.DWSRFplist@vermont.gov

Include the borrower or water system name in the email subject line.

If you are submitting multiple priority list applications, submit them via separate emails.

Submitting the form with text rather than scanned images will help us process applications faster. We can also assist you with electronic signatures.

If you are claiming **AMP points**, remember to attach the updated Funding Strategies section in addition to your priority list application.

If you are claiming points for a **bond vote after 2/6/2026**, send an email to ANR.DWSRFplist@vermont.gov about the the vote results.

If you are a consulting engineer submitting this form, copy the Authorized Representative on the email. If you are the Authorized Representative submitting this form, copy your consulting engineer.

Deadline: 5pm Friday, February 6, 2026.

Submit questions about this priority list application to ANR.DWSRFplist@vermont.gov or contact [WIFP staff](#).