



Wastewater Planning Principal Forgiveness

The NHDES Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan program is offering up to \$100,000 in principal forgiveness for wastewater planning evaluations or assessments. Eligible planning efforts will have a vision of implementing a future project with a tangible water quality benefit or that improves operational reliability and resiliency of existing wastewater infrastructure.

CWSRF is a federal-state partnership that provides communities with low-cost financing (loans) for a wide range of projects. Once all eligible project expenses are incurred, and subsequently disbursed, the loan is closed, and principal forgiveness is then applied to the principal balance.

Communities **must receive authority to borrow** for the entire loan amount through a town warrant article or city equivalent process, even if the full principal amount is forgiven. The CWSRF loan amount may be greater than \$100,000, depending upon the estimated cost for the project but only up to \$100,000 per project will be forgiven.

To maintain eligibility for CWSRF principal forgiveness, NHDES must approve the work scope prior to review of the full loan application. Applicants will submit work scope proposals related to planning evaluations or assessments for approval by a project manager from the NHDES Wastewater Engineering Bureau. The NHDES Grants Management Section will assist with loan processing and disbursements.

Eligible Projects

There are many eligible activities that fall within the scope of planning. Planning activities that have a reasonable prospect of resulting in a capital project are eligible. Principal forgiveness is offered only to municipalities.

The following activities are eligible, pending NHDES approval:

- Cost and Effectiveness analyses.
- Capital Improvement Plans.
- Integrated planning.
- Long-term control plans.
- Energy audit implementation plans.
- Wastewater management plans.
- Wastewater rate studies and financial analyses.
- Wastewater facility plans.
- Basis of Design Report consistent with Env-Wq 707.
- Preliminary design (up to 30% design).
- Improving the data-driven decision support/business-case development ability of an existing asset management program (AMP) to incorporate additional data sets into the AMP such as, but not limited to:
 - Criticality/risk data from a facility plan or vulnerability assessment.
 - Asset level condition assessment.
 - Implementing recommendations in an AMP.
 - CMOM data and related work.
 - Energy data.
- Planning activities that assess a POTW's vulnerability to extreme weather and climate change:
 - Risk/vulnerability assessments.
 - Emergency preparedness, response, and recovery plans, security plans/safety plans.



TOWN OF RYE SEWER COMMISSION

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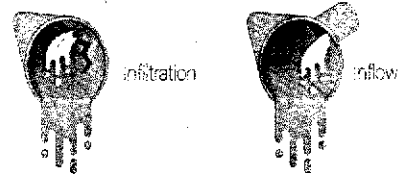
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ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$100,000.00) for the purpose of developing an Infiltration and Inflow (I/I) Assessment and Reduction Plan and to authorize the Sewer Commission to borrow One Hundred Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$100,000.00) from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) Clean Water State Revolving Fund, in accordance with RSA 33:5-d and all other provisions of the Municipal Finance Act, NH RSA Chapter 33, as amended and to further authorize the Sewer Commission to negotiate and execute such bonds, notes, and other documents as needed for such purpose. Further, to see if the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand and 00/100 Dollars for interest payments on said loan during Fiscal Year 2025. If approved, monies borrowed under the Clean Water State Revolving Fund will be eligible for principal forgiveness upon approval of the loan application and the satisfaction of the requirements under the loan program. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (3/5 ballot vote required).

Infiltration and Inflow (I/I) Assessment and Reduction Plan Funding

The Sewer Commission continues to identify and benefit from funding opportunities to assist with the operations and maintenance of its infrastructure. The commission submitted a 2024 Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Pre-Application to develop an Infiltration and Inflow (I/I) Assessment and Reduction Plan. The project was placed on the 2024 New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) CWSRF Priority List for Wastewater Planning Projects and is eligible for \$100,000 in principal forgiveness (100% of the proposed project cost) other than a small amount of interest 1% (\$1,000), pending a final application and the approval process.



In 2019, a pump station capacity study revealed that Jenness Beach and Church Road Pump Stations do not have enough capacity during estimated peak flow events, as a result a moratorium was put in place. Then in 2022 an assessment of the pump stations and an energy evaluation also identified capacity challenges. The Town of Hampton has analyzed flow data and pump run times and found that I/I intensifies during high tides and rain events. Although we are constantly analyzing our flow/pump/rain data and energy use to identify issues and take corrective measures it is increasingly difficult to manage as sections of our sewer infrastructure are located within flood zones.

As our sewer system experiences higher than normal levels of I/I. The need for the plan intensified as wetter stormy weather in combination with high tides became more frequent. In January of 2024, two weather events within the same week exposed our capacity vulnerabilities further.

The purpose of the plan is to implement a consistent, long-term approach to utilizing limited resources to effectively address I/I within the collection system and to correct the following capacity issues experienced: chronic National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit violations specifically total suspended solids that are above limits during weather events at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP); compliance issues related to flow limits as indicated in the Intermunicipal Agreement between the Town of Rye and The Town of Hampton; Town of Rye Sewer Use Ordinance compliance violations including the connection of downspouts and sump pumps; the current moratorium against extensions or expansions which adds additional flow to the system; excessive pump run times and simultaneous pump operation that have resulted in higher than normal energy use and added wear and tear to pumps and motors; lack of infrastructure resilience to extreme weather events; aging infrastructure such as manhole structures; unnecessary clear water treatment, collection and distribution; significant financial burden of higher treatment, energy, maintenance and labor cost; and higher than normal risk of sanitary sewer overflows.

The I/I Assessment and Reduction Plan includes various evaluation components: flow monitoring, manhole inspections, smoke/dye testing, targeted CCTV inspection and further data evaluation of existing CCTV footage. The goal of the project is to identify a clear path forward in minimizing I/I, and maximum conveyance of wastewater to the WWTP, by identifying, designing, and prioritizing ways to address I/I issues.