



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

**Universal Pre-Application
For all Drinking Water Funding Programs
May 2007**

1. Q: How much money is available?

A. The Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SDWSRF) program has approximately \$80 million annually for project funding;

Two chapters of Proposition 50 are administered by CDHS. These chapters authorized \$485 million for 9 separate grant programs. As of May 2007, approximately \$185 million remains to be committed.

Two major sections of Proposition 84 are administered by CDHS. These sections authorize \$240 million for two separate grant programs. Funds will be available after the 2007-08 Budget is signed by the Governor.

2. Q: What is eligible for funding?

A. CDHS funding programs primarily support construction of public water system facilities (sources, treatment, distribution, and storage). Funding is also available for preconstruction phase activities (planning/feasibility projects). In addition, funds are available for protection of water sources from contamination. CDHS Proposition 50 programs include funds for treatment research projects and monitoring equipment.

3. Q: Who is an eligible applicant?

A. Community water systems, schools that are public water systems and non-community water systems operated by not-for-profit entities are generally eligible for funding. Public agencies and non-profit organizations may be eligible for funding of treatment research projects or source protection projects. State and federal agencies are eligible for some of the funding programs. For details, see the respective criteria at <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/funding/>.

4. Q: How do I apply for funding for my water system or project?

A. All CDHS funding programs utilize the pre-application, which provides information to enable CDHS to establish project priority lists for each of the funding programs. CDHS then sends a letter of invitation to a specific group of the highest ranked systems/projects for a funding program to complete a full application for funding.

Letters inviting application are generally sent out by each funding programs at least annually, and in some programs, more frequently.

As of July 1, 2007, Division of Drinking Water & Environmental Management will be part of the California Department of Public Health

Division of Drinking Water & Environmental Management
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<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/SRF/srfindex.htm>

5. Q: When is my pre-application due? What if I miss the deadline?
 - A. The Universal Pre-application will be available from June 1 through July 31, 2007. If you miss the deadline, you will have another opportunity to submit a pre-application every spring, starting in 2008.
6. Q: Can I submit a pre-application for more than one project?
 - A. Yes. We recommend you identify each project with a unique name. This is especially important for similar projects (e.g. Transmission main replacement – north of Oak Street; Transmission main replacement – west of Maple Street).
7. Q: What priority list(s) will my project be placed on?
 - A. Each pre-application will be evaluated and placed on the priority list(s) for which it is eligible.
8. Q: How often is the priority list established?
 - A. CDHS updates the project priority list for each funding program annually.
9. Q: If I am placed on a priority list, does this guarantee that my project will be funded?
 - A. No. Funding is available only to those projects invited to submit a complete application, following review of the application and fulfillment of requirements of the specific funding program. For some of the funding programs, demands exceed the amount of available funding.
10. Q: My system needs funding for construction projects, but I don't know whether we ever submitted a pre-application to CDHS for funding. What should I do?
 - A. We suggest you check existing CDHS project priority lists prior to submitting a new pre-application. If your system's project funding needs are not reflected on the existing priority lists, you should submit a new "Universal Pre-application" for each project in need of funding. Please give each pre-application a unique project title (e.g. Treatment of Jones Well for high nitrate).
11. Q: Can my ranking on a priority list change?
 - A. The standing of project on a priority list may change because other projects have been received subsequently which have a higher ranking "score" than your project. In addition, CDHS may reevaluate a project if additional information becomes available which results in a change in the project ranking "score".
12. Q: Can a project receive funding from more than one CDHS program?
 - A. Yes. CDHS may invite a project/water system to complete a full application for funding from one or more grant/loan programs, depending on the project ranking on the program's priority list.

13. Q: How long will it take to receive money to build my project?

A. The length of time after submitting an application before you will receive money will depend upon how ready you are to proceed. Completing plans and specifications and compliance with California Environmental Quality Act are usually the most time-consuming activities. The average time from application submittal to execution of the funding agreement is about one and a half years.

14. Q: If I submit a pre-application, what am I obligated to do?

A. There is no further obligation until your project is determined to be at a high enough ranking to receive an invitation to apply for funding. At that time, you will be required to respond to whether you will be submitting an application or whether you wish to be bypassed for this funding cycle. You may also advise CDHS to remove your project from one or more priority lists.

During the CDHS evaluation process, you may be contacted for more information or to provide information missing on your pre-application.

15. Q: Do I need to hire an engineer to help me submit a pre-application?

A. No. In general, whoever completes the pre-application should know about your water system problem and the project needed to solve the problem. The pre-application can be "Saved" as "Pending" while you check for supporting information. You can revise the pending pre-application before you "Submit" it.

16. Q: What is the maximum funding (grant/loan) that can be requested?

A. There is no limit on the funding which can be requested. Each funding program of CDHS has different specific limits. The maximum funding which may be offered by CDHS could be a combination of funding from several grant and/or loan funds.

17. Q: If my project is not planned to be started before 2010, can I submit a pre-application now?

A. Yes. Your pre-application is evaluated and ranked. At the time you are invited to complete a full application for a specific program, you may waive/by-pass the opportunity. Note, however, that if you by-pass, you may not be invited to submit a full application in a future year for the funding program, depending on availability of funds and requests for funding.

18. Q: What will happen with projects on the existing priority lists (SDWSRF and Proposition 50)?

A. Pre-applications on the existing priority lists will remain on those lists. In addition, pre-applications for projects on those lists which are eligible for other CDHS funding programs will be placed on the other project priority lists with the appropriate ranking. This will particularly be done for the Proposition 84 project priority lists.

19. Q: I don't know much about using a computer/the Internet; where can I get help with the pre-application?

A. Assistance is available from the CDHS headquarters in Sacramento (916)-449-5600 [ask for help with the universal pre-application]), from Drinking Water Program field offices (see attached map and contact information), or you can email **sdwsrf@dhs.ca.gov** or **Prop50@dhs.ca.gov** or **Prop84@dhs.ca.gov**.