

WSRLA Program Success Story

Funding for Asset Management Plans

Challenge

Many public water systems in Ohio experience recurring problems due to deferred maintenance, lack of management oversight and inadequate records of water lines or maps of service areas. These issues may delay repairs and result in extended periods of water use restrictions.

In fact, this issue is so critical to successful operation of public water systems that the state legislature enacted Ohio Senate Bill (SB) 2, which requires public water systems to “demonstrate the technical, managerial, and financial capability of the system to comply with this chapter and rules adopted under it by implementing an asset management program.” A formal asset management plan helps guide effective financial and administrative management and capital improvements for water systems well into the future.



Solution

To help communities meet these new requirements, DEFA’s Office of Financial Assistance (OFA) offers funding assistance for asset management planning activities through its Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) program. Through a WSRLA planning loan, applicants can apply for up to \$10,000 as principal forgiveness to develop an asset management plan. Principal forgiveness is the portion of the loan principal that does not have to be repaid. The remainder of costs associated with developing the plan are also eligible for a zero-percent interest rate. Applying principal forgiveness and reduced interest rates helps significantly reduce the cost to communities for development of asset management plans. A total of \$150,000 in principal forgiveness was available under this initiative for the 2018 program year.

The Village of Tuscarawas, in Tuscarawas County, was one of the first communities to receive financial assistance under this initiative to develop an asset management plan for its drinking water plant. The village received a \$35,169 loan to help finance GIS survey and mapping work, a rate analysis and technical assistance from the Ohio Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP). To date, more than 40 other communities throughout Ohio have received, or are in the process of applying for, similar WSRLA loan funding to finance local asset management planning.

Resources

OFA staff have extensive experience providing technical and financial assistance to drinking water systems. Our mission is to benefit Ohio’s water resources, drinking water supplies and public health by providing lower cost financing, economic incentives and project assistance statewide for public and private organizations and individuals.

For more information, please contact our office at (614) 644-2798 or visit epa.ohio.gov/defa/ofa.