

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND RURAL WATER SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENTS BOARD
Title 33: Public Health - Local Governments & Rural Water Systems Improvements Board
Part 22: Drinking Water Systems Improvements Revolving Loan Fund Program Regulations DW SRF
Lead Service Line Replacement Intended Use Plan

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DRINKING WATER SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENTS
REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM
IIJA LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT

INTENDED USE PLAN FOR FFY-2024

Approved by the Board
5/2/2025



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND RURAL WATER SYSTEMS
IMPROVEMENTS BOARD
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IIJA LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT
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I. INTRODUCTION

A. State of Mississippi's Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund

The Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 (SDWA) established the national Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Program. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021 (P.L. 117-8) additionally amended Section 1452 of the SDWA and appropriated funds for Lead Service Line Replacement. This Intended Use Plan identifies the State of Mississippi's proposed use of Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2024 DWSRF Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) allotment of \$28,650,000 and national reallocation of \$1,222,000.

The DWSRF program allows the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to make capitalization (Cap) grants to states to, in turn, provide low-cost loans to public water systems to help achieve or maintain compliance with SDWA requirements. Accordingly, the State Legislature (through Section 41-3-16, MS Code of 1972 Annotated) created what is now called the Drinking Water Systems Improvements Revolving Loan Fund (DWSIRLF) Program, to receive the federal DWSRF capitalization grants from EPA, and to provide low-cost loans to the state's public water systems to finance needed infrastructure improvements. This legislation also allows the DWSIRLF, subject to the authority of State Law, to make loans that may utilize additional subsidization beyond standard DWSIRLF loans as well as setting appropriate criteria to determine eligible recipients.

That same legislation created the "Local Governments and Rural Water Systems Improvements Board" (Board), to oversee the administration of the DWSIRLF Program. The Mississippi State Department of Health (Department), as the state's drinking water primacy agency, supplies the staff and facilities necessary to administer the program. The Board is composed of the following nine (9) members: the State Health Officer, who shall serve as chairman of the Board; the Executive Director of the Mississippi Development Authority; the Executive Director of the Department of Environmental Quality; the Executive Director of the Department of Finance and Administration; the Executive Director of the Mississippi Association of Supervisors; the Executive Director of the Mississippi Municipal League; the Executive Director of the American Council of Engineering Companies; the State Director of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development; and a manager of a rural water system. Each agency director may appoint a designee to serve in his or her place on the Board. The Governor appoints the rural water system manager. In the creation of the Program, it was the intent of the Legislature that the Board endeavor to ensure that the costs of administering the DWSIRLF Program are as low as possible in order to provide the water consumers of Mississippi with safe drinking water at affordable prices.

As a condition of receiving the DWSRF Cap grants, the SDWA requires that each state annually prepare an Intended Use Plan (IUP) designed to outline how a state will utilize DWSRF funds to assist in protecting public health.

The DWSIRLF IJA Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) Fund consists of federal funds. Federal funds are provided to the states in the form of awarded Cap grants. Each state's allotment of those grants is based on EPA's Needs Survey that is performed every four years. No State matching funds are required to be deposited into this Fund.

B. Program Overview

The basic framework under which the DWSIRLF Program operates is established by two documents. The first document is the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program Operating Agreement (Operating Agreement) between the Mississippi State Department of Health and the Environmental Protection Agency, Region IV. The current Operating Agreement was agreed to by both parties and approved on March 21, 2022. The Operating Agreement establishes the basic framework of the DWSIRLF that is not expected to change from year to year. The second document is the IUP which describes how the State of Mississippi will use the funding received from the EPA Cap grant which is received each year. This IJA LSLR IUP for FFY-2024 will accompany the Program's application to EPA for the FFY-2024 LSLR Cap Grant.

The amount of the FFY-2024 EPA Cap Grant for the IJA LSLR fund is \$28,650,000 and FFY 2022's reallocation is \$1,222,000. The Program intends to apply for set-asides as described in Section V. These funds must be used in the period of July 2024 through June 2026. As a condition of the FFY-2024 Cap Grant the program agrees to comply with DWSRF regulations, the general grant regulations at 40 CFR part 200, and specific conditions of the capitalization grant and to enter data into SRF Data System no less than quarterly. The FFY-2024 IUP will show in detail the goals (overall and five-year), the structure, and the financial status of the Program; the role of the set-aside activities within the state; and most importantly, the distribution of funds towards public water system improvements projects and the criteria used to determine their ranking within the priority system. Those desiring to receive a copy of this document may contact Brittney Carmichael, Program Support Specialist, at (601) 576-7649.

C. Public Input, Review, and Comment Procedures

To ensure that the public has an ample opportunity to review and comment upon the IUP, the Department and the Board follows the requirements of the "Mississippi Administrative Procedures Law" prior to final submission of the IUP to EPA. A public notice period of at least twenty-five (25) days allows for review and comment before an oral proceeding. After adoption by the Board, a second filing with the Secretary of State's Office occurs; if no additional comments are received the IUP becomes law 30 days after the second filing.

Public notice will be given in *The Clarion Ledger*, a newspaper of statewide circulation, for written and oral comments on this IUP. ***An oral proceeding will be held at 9:00 a.m. on April 28, 2024.*** A transcript of the oral proceeding, recording any comments and recommended solutions, will be submitted to the EPA along with the Final IUP. Those

desiring to receive a copy of the oral proceeding transcript should contact Brittney Carmichael, Program Support Specialist, at (601) 576-7649. A copy of the “Mississippi Administrative Procedures Law” may be obtained from the Mississippi Secretary of State’s Office and can also be found on the Mississippi State Department of Health’s website at www.healthhys.com/dwsrf.

II. Goals of Mississippi’s Drinking Water Systems Improvements Revolving Loan Fund (DWSIRLF) Program – LSLR Fund

The LSLR Fund was created by the IIJA to provide funding through the DWSIRLF Program for a five-year duration. Overall and Five-Year Goals for the LSLR Fund include:

A. Overall Goal:

Improve public health by providing funding and technical support to public water systems in Mississippi for the removal of lead materials in drinking water service lines and related activities.

B. Five-Year Goals:

1. Improve public health by providing technical support to small (less than 10,000 population) public water systems in Mississippi for the completion of lead service line inventories. This goal can lead to providing capital project funding for the removal of lead service lines identified during these inventories.
2. Provide funding and technical support to public water systems in Mississippi in planning for full, not partial, lead service line replacement. This helps to address the equity challenge that for some property owners, the cost to replace their portion of lead service lines is prohibitively high¹.

III. Structure of the Mississippi DWSIRLF

The Mississippi DWSIRLF IIJA LSLR is structured around one fund. The portion of the fund designated for projects will consist of 49% principal forgiveness. The balance of the project fund will be repaid. This will sustain the Base DWSIRLF program and help it to achieve its respective goals. The funds are broken down further into designated accounts, each having a specific function.

A. DWSIRLF IIJA LSLR Loan/Operations Fund

Monies in the Fund support a majority of the functions of the DWSIRLF LSLR. These functions include program administration, set-aside operations, and most importantly provide disbursements to public water systems for eligible projects. The DWSIRLF LSLR is a reimbursement program, meaning that after the loan is awarded, costs associated with

¹ USEPA, Combined SRF Implementation of IIJA Memo, March 8, 2022

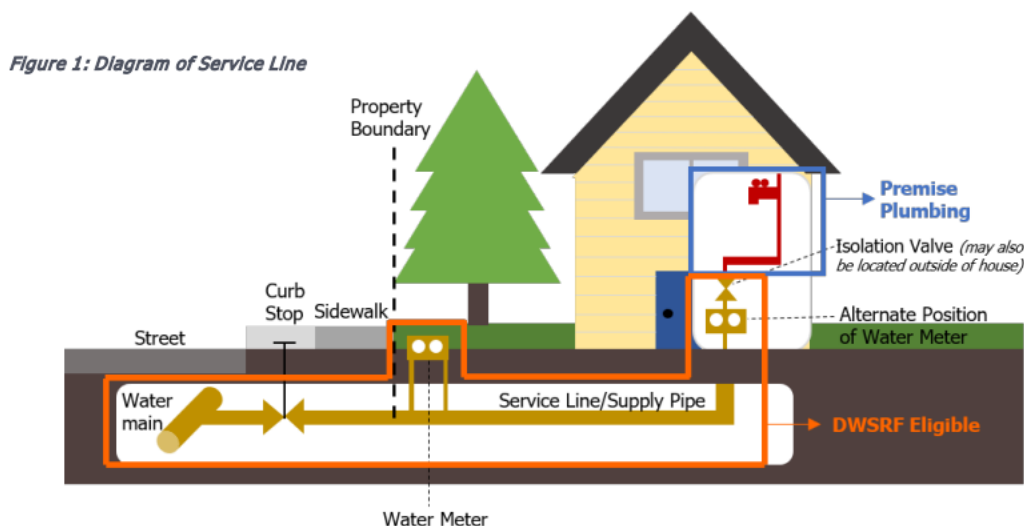
planning, designing, and constructing the project are reimbursed to the recipient. Cap grants from EPA will be deposited into this Fund's account.

1. Types of Eligible Projects:

Lead Service Line Replacement projects and associated activities directly connected to the identification, planning, design, and replacement of lead service lines are eligible for funding by the Program. 100% of lead service lines must be replaced for lead service line projects, including privately and publicly-owned portions of the line.

100% of the service line replaced is defined by replacing pipes up to the point of premise plumbing. The portion of the service line that is DWSIRLF-eligible (refer to Figure 1) is the entire service line from the public water main to the point at which it connects with premise plumbing. Premise plumbing is defined as piping on the other side of the isolation valve. That connection may be inside or outside of homes and buildings. Note that premise plumbing is not eligible for DWSIRLF funding.

The DWSIRLF Program could consider whether reasonable cost for repair to the privately-owned structure, if damaged during privately-owned LSL replacement, is eligible for DWSIRLF funding.



Source: EPA, Addressing Lead in Drinking Water with the DWSRF, 816-F-18-005, March 2019.

2. Set-aside Accounts:

The set-aside accounts reside under the umbrella of the Fund and are distinctly designated by reporting categories. A listing of the set-asides taken by Mississippi includes the following as part of the FFY-2024 IUP:

- a. Administrative Set-aside: Provides financial support to administer the LSLR loan Program and other non-project-related activities.
- b. Small System Technical Assistance Set-aside: Provides technical assistance to small water systems.
- c. State Program Management Set-aside: Provides additional financial support to MSDH – Bureau of Public Water Supply for Public Water System Supervision Program – Lead and Copper Revised Rule.
- d. Local Assistance and Other State Programs: Provides funding for small systems to inventory their systems in support of identifying potential lead service lines for replacement.

IV. Financial Status of the DWSIRLF

This section outlines all sources of funding available to the DWSIRLF LSLR Program and indicates intended uses. This section also describes the financial assistance terms available through the Program.

A. Source and Use of Funds

Using the FFY-2024 IIJA LSLR Capitalization Grant allotment for Mississippi of \$28,650,000 to provide for both loans and set-aside activities. The FFY 2022 reallocation of \$1,222,000 will be used only for loans.

The “set-asides” use for the FFY-2024 IIJA LSLR Cap grant are outlined in Section V of this IUP. Necessary work plans showing utilization of these funds are found in the appendices of this IUP.

B. Financial Planning Process

In accordance with the goals of the LSLR fund of the DWSIRLF Program, the Board has made the following financial decisions regarding the Fund:

1. Application for the Full Amount of the IIJA LSLR Cap Grant

The Board intends that the MSDH apply for the full amount of the State LSLR Cap grant allotment under the federal DWSRF, including the set-asides described in Section V below. No State match is required for the FFY-2024 LSLR Cap grant.

2. Interest Rate Determination

It is the Board’s decision to offer 0% interest on DWSIRLF loans from the IIJA LSLR fund.

C. Financial Terms of Loans

The following terms will be used for the purpose of making loans to the public water systems within the State of Mississippi.

1. Funding Limit

Under state law, the Board has the discretion to set the maximum amount for DWSIRLF loans. For FFY-2024 IUP, the Board has set a maximum loan amount of \$5,000,000 per borrower. The Board may allow (on a case-by-case basis if requested by the borrower and the need has been justified) the maximum loan limit to be exceeded by a vote of the Board. Furthermore, no more than one loan per borrower will be allowed. At the end of the fiscal year, if funds are available, systems previously receiving an award may obtain an additional award(s) or an increase to a previous award, if no other eligible systems are evident.

2. Interest Rate

Terms for IJA LSLR loans will be 0% interest rate, with repayment periods as follows:

1. For Lead Service Line Inventory project loans, a standard five-year repayment term, with the maximum repayment term of 10 years. The reason for the shorter repayment terms is that these projects are not capital projects and do not improve or build a physical asset owned by the water system.
2. For Lead Service Line Replacement project loans, a standard 20-year repayment term. The maximum loan amortization allowable will be 30 years, or 40 years for disadvantaged communities. These maximums may not, however, exceed the design life of the project.

Interest will accrue based on the current loan agreement in conjunction with the DWSIRLF Regulations.

3. FFY-2024 IJA LSLR Cap Grant Special Provisions

The FFY-2024 IJA LSLR Cap Grant requires 49% subsidization of the IJA LSLR Cap Grant Amount. This subsidization is expected to be in the form of “principal forgiveness”, “negative interest rates,” or a combination of the two.

4. Other Related Issues

- a. *Type of Assistance Provided:* The assistance to be provided under the DWSIRLF Program will be loans to public, tax-exempt entities which are authorized under state law to collect, treat, store, and distribute piped water for human consumption; able to enter into a DWSIRLF loan agreement; and have the ability to repay the DWSIRLF loan. With the funds provided through the FFY-2024 IJA LSLR Cap Grant, the DWSIRLF program will be able to make loans that will have an amount of “principal forgiveness.” The amount of

principal forgiveness for the IJA LSLR FFY-2024 Cap Grant is 49% of the total Cap Grant. The Board has set a limit of 70% of the requested loan amount which a loan recipient may receive in subsidy for one loan. Once the limit of the appropriation subsidy funds has been reached for the FFY-2024 Cap Grant, loans will return to the DWSIRLF's standard terms without principal forgiveness. In all cases, loans will be LSLR projects and associated activities directly connected to the identification, planning, design, and replacement of LSLs.

- b. *Project Costs Eligibility:* Eligible/allowable project costs will include those costs that are eligible, reasonable, necessary, and allocable to the project, within the established project scope and budget, in conformance with the DWSIRLF regulations and approved by MSDH.
- c. *Loan Participation:* DWSIRLF loan participation will be at 100% of eligible project costs, less any funding made available from other agencies for these same eligible project costs.
- d. *Pre-Award Costs:* Project costs incurred prior to loan award will be DWSIRLF loan eligible provided:
 - i. The debt is for work that has begun after the DWSIRLF loan award date.
 - ii. The project is in compliance with all applicable DWSIRLF Program regulations and obtains MSDH approval of all applicable documents prior to award of the DWSIRLF loan.
 - iii. The prospective loan recipient agrees that by incurring costs prior to loan award, it proceeds at its own risk and relieves the Board, the Department, and the Department's staff of all responsibility and liability should such costs later be determined unallowable for any reason or should such funding not become available for any reason.
 - iv. The prospective loan recipient agrees that by incurring costs prior to loan award, no future commitment of funding a refinanced project is provided.
- e. *Priority List:* The LSLR Priority List for the FFY-2024 IUP expires on January 2, 2025. Projects listed in the FFY-2024 LSLR Priority List that do not receive funding by this date will not be funded under the FFY-2024 LSLR IUP and will be subject to the requirements of subsequent IUPs and Priority Lists. Detailed information for the FFY-2024 LSLR projects is shown in Section VIII of this IUP. To facilitate the use of federally appropriated funds from the FFY-2024 IJA LSLR Cap Grant, the priority list may be adjusted to allow funds to be disbursed according to the federal requirements.

V. Set-Aside Activities

The SDWA allows each state to set-aside up to 31 percent of its federal Cap grant to support non-project-related drinking water programs which includes administration of the loan program, technical assistance to public water systems, state program management, and other special activities. The FFY-2024 LSLR Capitalization Grant amount of \$28,650,000, the state plans to use \$5,104,406 of the FFY-2024 LSLR Capitalization grant to support set-aside activities, further defined in the following Sections A through D. These non-project-related programs will be operated by MSDH within the agency itself or through contracts with other agencies or organizations. Contracts between the MSDH and other agencies or organizations will be approved by the Board. Work plans showing how the set-asides funds will be expended are included as appendices within this LSLR IUP; additionally, progress reports will be included in the Annual Report.

A. Administration

The SDWA-DWSRF amendments in the 2017 Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (Pub. L. 114-332) (2017 WIIN Act – EPA memorandum dated June 6, 2017) states that the Administrative Set-Asides that can be taken the greatest of: \$400,000, 1/5 percent of the current valuation of the fund, or an amount equal to 4 percent of all grant awards to the fund for the fiscal year. The EPA Combined SRF IJA Implementation Memo dated March 8, 2022, states that set-asides for the LSLR Cap Grant are consistent with the DWSRF regulations. The State plans to use the maximum allowable (4%) for “Administrative” purposes from the FFY-2024 LSLR Cap Grant.

The state will continue to exercise its right to reserve the administrative amounts from previous Cap Grants. Reserving the previous years’ 4% administrative set-aside can ensure that the Program will continue to operate with an adequate DWSIRLF staff for proper management of the Program.

B. Small System Technical Assistance

The state will use the Small Systems Technical Assistance (up to 2%) set-aside from the IJA LSLR FFY-2024 Cap Grant to provide funding for LSL inventories to ultra small systems serving 750 connection or less. With approval by the Board, the state intends to use this set-aside to fund a contract for providing professional services for lead service line inventories to water systems with connections of less than 750. This assistance with lead service line inventories will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis to water systems serving connections of 750 or less. More detail is provided in the State of Mississippi’s Set-Aside Work Plan included as Appendix E to this IUP.

C. State Program Management

At this time, the state does not intend to use the 10% set-aside from the FFY-2024 LSLR Cap grant, as authorized by Section 1452(g) (2) of the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1996 for State Program Management related to LCRR and LSLR. The program reserves the right to utilize these funds for Public Water System Supervision (PWSS) activities conducted under Section 1443(a) of the Act from future LSLR related grant provide through The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

D. Local Assistance and Other State Programs

The state intends to use the of the 15% set-aside amount allowed for Local Assistance from the FFY-2024 IIJA LSLR Cap grant to provide funding for LSL inventories to public water systems serving varying levels of connections as outline in the attached workplan.

With approval by the Board, the state intends to use this set-aside to fund contract(s) for providing professional services for lead service line inventories to water systems of three separate size categories: A.) small systems serving connections of less than 750 with Small System Technical Assistance set-aside. B.) medium systems serving connections of greater than 750 but less than 5,000 (not to exceed 10% of the allotment) and C) large system serving connections of greater than 5,000 (not to exceed 10% of the allotment). This assistance with lead service line inventories will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis to water systems serving a population that falls within the three size categories as defined in this section. The State of Mississippi's Set-aside Work Plan is included as Appendix E.

VI. Priority System

The SDWA provides the state with the flexibility to determine how to best utilize the LSLR Cap grant. To meet the goals of public water systems in the State of Mississippi and this FFY-2024 LSLR IUP, those projects which meet the following will be given priority:

1. Address the most serious risk to human health related to lead in service lines and associated activities directly connected to the identification, planning, design and replacement of lead service lines.
2. Assist systems most in need, on a per household basis.

A. Funding and Ranking Rationale

Projects will be placed on the fundable portion of the Priority List according to both priority ranking and readiness to proceed. The term “ready to proceed” means that all loan application requirements established in the Program regulations are met, and all documents necessary for loan award are approved. If a project cannot reasonably be expected to meet the Priority System deadlines, then the project will not be placed on the current year’s Priority List but will be placed on the Planning List. It is the Board’s judgment with input from the DWSIRLF staff as to when a project is ready to proceed. Loans will be awarded to projects (within available funds) that are above the funding line on the current year’s Priority List, that have met all Priority System deadlines and are ready to proceed. Additionally, when potential loan recipients are deciding on the needs for their public water supplies, they should ensure that all public health and state safe drinking water laws are followed.

1. Funding Lists and Bypass Procedure

Should any projects on the FFY-2024 LSLR Priority List (which are above the funding line) fail to comply with the deadlines in Section D, the project shall be bypassed, and the funds reserved for said project will be released. Released funds will first be made available to listed projects, to ensure that all projects above the funding line meeting priority system deadlines are funded. Any remaining funds will be made available to the highest-ranking project(s) shown below the funding line that is ready for loan award at the time funds become available. If no projects above the funding line are ready for loan award at the time funds become available, projects shown below the funding line will be funded on a first-come, first-served basis as they become ready for loan award and until the released funds are awarded. This same process will continue as each deadline passes and released funds become available.

2. Loan Decreases

Any funds recovered from loan decreases during the year will be used:

- a) first to fund bid overruns, if funds from the loan increase reserve are not sufficient to cover the bid overruns;

- b) then to ensure that all projects above the funding line meeting the priority system deadlines are funded (for at least the amount shown on the priority list); and
- c) then to fund other loans and/or increases on a first-come, first-served basis.

Any funds not obligated for these purposes may be made available for new loan awards ready to proceed on a first-come, first-served basis.

3. Subsidization from FFY-2024 LSLR Cap Grant

49% of the FFY-2024 LSLR Cap Grant will be subsidized. Based on the Grant of \$28,650,000, the required amount of subsidization is \$14,038,500. The DWSIRLF's subsidization will be in the form of "Principal Forgiveness" (PF) to individual public water supplies that are considered disadvantaged communities, and which received reimbursements with Federal LSLR Cap Grant funds during the lifetime of the project, from loan initiation through loan closeout. If the amount of PF which a project is eligible exceeds the amount of Federal LSLR Cap grant funds which it received, the amount of PF extended will be limited to the amount of Federal Cap grant funds used for reimbursement.

Subsidization may be used over a two-year period. Subsidization remaining from a previous year may be awarded to loans which are eligible for PF over a two-year period. Subsidization for FFY-2024 LSLR Priority List projects may be awarded to projects eligible for PF in FFY-2025 and FFY-2026.

Disadvantaged Community Program

a. DWSRF LSLR Capitalization Grant Funds

For this funding, the following Principal Forgiveness (PF) methodology will be used to meet the requirements of the IIJA (P.L. 117-8) for providing subsidy for disadvantaged systems. For the LSLR fund, 49% will be subsidized. The FFY-2024 LSLR federal appropriation for the Program is \$28,650,000. The principal forgiveness (49%) allowable to eligible borrowers is \$14,038,500.

The amount of PF for which a potential "Loan Recipient" (LR) may be eligible will be determined by calculating the percentage of the "Median Household Income" (MHI) of the potential LR versus the MHI of the State of Mississippi (\$54,915) as a whole.

90% < LR MHI < 100%	- 49% Principal Forgiveness
80% < LR MHI < 90%	- 56% Principal Forgiveness
70% < LR MHI < 80%	- 63% Principal Forgiveness
LR MHI < 70%	- 70% Principal Forgiveness

PF will be extended to projects until all mandated subsidy funds are obligated. Due to the limited amount of PF funds, the maximum amount of PF funds a loan recipient may receive for a project will be 70% of the project budget, which is capped at \$5,000,000. The amount of PF given will be assigned at loan award. Once subsidy funds are depleted, only standard loans will be made with DWSIRLF funds.

In the event that a LR declines their loan that includes PF, the released PF may be reallocated to other projects for the present fiscal year that are eligible for PF, or the PF may be carried over to projects for the next fiscal year.

If returned PF funds are reallocated to projects awarded during the existing fiscal year. The reallocation of PF will be given first to projects which did not receive their full allowable amount based on the above table up to the maximum allowed limit.

In all cases, the amount of PF which is awarded to a project may not exceed the amount of Federal Cap grant funds which the project was reimbursed during the construction of the project.

B. Priority System Categories

DWSRF LSLR Priority System

Project Categories applicable to the DWSRF Base/Supplemental IUP that have been eliminated from this LSLR IUP because they are not applicable are Categories I through II and IV through XII. Projects for the LSLR Priority List will be ranked from Categories III through XIII in priority order; that is, all Category III projects are ranked higher than subsequent category projects, etc. Ranking is established in the same manner for the remaining categories. Adjustments are made as necessary to comply with the set-aside provisions of the Federal SDWA and as established by the Board [Section 1542(a) (2) of SDWA]. As stated previously, the order of Categories III - XIII is intended to give highest priority to those projects that address the most serious risks to human health. Projects within each category will be ranked as described in Section C.

All projects must meet the requirement of the LSLR Cap Grant appropriation; that they are lead service line replacement projects or project activities directly connected to the identification, planning, design, and replacement of lead service; for example, lead service line inventory projects. 100% of lead service lines must be replaced for lead service line projects, including privately and publicly-owned portions of the line.

1. Category III – Primary Drinking Water Standards

This category includes projects to facilitate compliance with Primary Drinking Water Standards. To qualify for this category, projects must correct deficiencies resulting in non-compliance with the primary drinking water standards.

2. *Category XIII – Other*

This category includes projects that do not meet the criteria of any other listed category and have been determined LSLR loan eligible in accordance with the DWSIRLF program regulations.

C. Priority Ranking Criteria

The criteria for ranking projects within each category is intended to give priority to projects that: (1) benefit the most people per dollar expended; (2) assist systems most in need on a per household affordability basis as required by the SDWA; (3) encourage participation in short-term and long-term technical assistance programs; and (4) encourage certifying and providing support for a system's Asset Management Plan. These considerations are addressed by the Priority Ranking Criteria in the following manner:

1. *Benefit/Cost*

Benefit/Cost points assigned to each project will be determined using the following formula:

$$\text{Benefit/Cost Points} = \frac{\text{Number of benefiting connections}}{\text{Total eligible cost of improvements (in \$1.0 millions)}}$$

The number of benefiting connections must be included in the facilities plan submitted by the applicant; be defined as the sum of individual connections **currently experiencing deficiencies that will be corrected by the improvement**; and include only existing residences, businesses, and public buildings. Applicants must furnish information (including hydraulic analysis, if necessary) to support their estimate of the number of benefiting connections. The total eligible cost is in millions of dollars (i.e., \$800,000 = \$0.8 M).

2. *Affordability Factor*

An affordability factor will be assigned to each project to reflect the relative needs of applicants on a per household basis. The Benefit/Cost points calculated in Section C.1. will be adjusted using the affordability factor in the following formula:

$$\text{Adjusted Benefit/Cost Points} = (\text{Affordability Factor}) \times (\text{Benefit/Cost Points})$$

The affordability factor used in the calculation is defined as the ratio of the "Median Household Income" (MHI) for the State of Mississippi (\$54,915) to the MHI for the affected community. The affordability factor used in the calculation will be no less than 1.0 and no greater than 1.5.

3. *Participation in Short-Term & Long-Term Assistance Programs*

The MSDH, with the Board's approval, has contracted with Mississippi State University Extension Service to provide both short-term and long-term assistance to designated water systems in the state based on their scores on the latest Capacity Assessment Form (CAF). This assistance is provided at no cost to the water systems.

Participation by the water systems in these assistance programs is voluntary; however, any water system that has participated in either of these assistance programs within the past two years will be eligible to receive additional priority points equal to 5% of their Adjusted Benefit/Cost Points. Water systems that have implemented all the recommendations made by Mississippi State University Extension Service will receive additional priority points equal to 5% of their Adjusted Benefit/Cost Points for a total of 10%. Documentation of participation in either of these assistance programs and implementation of the recommendations made by Mississippi State University Extension Service must be included in the facilities plan before additional priority points will be granted.

$$\text{Assistance Points} = \frac{**}{100} \times (\text{Adjusted Benefit/Cost Points})$$

*** 5% if the water system participates in the assistance, or 10% if the water system participates in the assistance and implements all recommendations*

4. *Asset Management Plan*

Any water system certifying and providing support of their Asset Management Plan's implementation or maintenance to MSDH will be eligible to receive additional priority points equal to 10% of their Adjusted Benefit/Cost Points.

$$\text{Asset Management Plan} = 0.10 \times (\text{Adjusted Benefit/Cost Points})$$

5. *Ranking Within Each Category*

Within each category, projects will be ranked in order based on the total points assigned the project using the following formula:

$$\text{Total Priority Points} = \text{Adjusted Benefit/Cost Points} + \text{Affordability Points} + \text{Assistance Program Points} + \text{Asset Management Plan Points}$$

Projects receiving the most priority points will be given the highest ranking on the Priority List. In case of a tie in the number of priority points, projects with the lowest median household income will receive the highest ranking.

D. Priority System Deadlines

1. Those that have submitted Request for Ranking: by January 1, 2025, a complete DWSIRLF facilities plan, prepared in accordance with the DWSIRLF loan program regulations, must be submitted to MSDH.

A complete DWSIRLF facilities plan includes: all Intergovernmental Review (IGR) agency comments; proof of publication of advertisement for public hearing; a transcript of the public hearing comments; copies of any comments received from the public; and a summary of how each comment was addressed. The loan applicant should provide a copy of the facilities plan to USDA - Rural Utilities Service (RUS); if the loan applicant has an existing debt with RUS, their approval to incur the additional debt must be obtained and provided as part of the plan.

Any significant changes made to the facilities plan (i.e., changes in the chosen alternative location of the facility, cost increases that substantially affect the financial capability of the loan recipient) after this date will be considered a first submittal of the facilities plan. The loan applicant will then be in violation of the Priority System deadline and the project will be placed on the planning portion of the priority list. If the change is made after adoption of the IUP, funds reserved for this project may be released and made available to other projects.

2. By May 1, 2025, a completed DWSIRLF loan application and all associated documents as described in the DWSIRLF regulations must be submitted to the Department. Prior to preparing these documents, the potential applicant and/or its registered engineer must request and receive a DWSIRLF application and guidance. It is recommended that they request a pre-application conference with DWSIRLF staff as early in the application process as practical. This deadline also applies to all projects competing for released funds during FFY-2024 and to be able to qualify for the Previous Year Certified Projects Category in the FFY-2024 IUP.
3. By August 1, 2025, all approvable documents and responses to comments necessary for loan award must be submitted to the Department for its review and approval.

VII. FFY-2024 LSLR PRIORITY LIST

**Fiscal Year - 2024 Mississippi Drinking Water Systems Improvements Revolving Loan Fund Program
Priority List – IIJA Lead Service Line Replacement**

1. No projects identified to date.
2. MSDH has not yet been able to establish assistance agreements for any of the inventory projects due to unclear expectations about inventory requirements, compliance challenges, reservations on the part of borrowers, and staffing challenges.
3. MSDH intends to generate applications for new lead service line inventories and replacement projects with help from additional contractor support financed from the set-asides. MSDH will increase outreach to communities on the existing IUPs to accelerate progress on the inventories. Funds will be assigned as potential borrowers complete the program requirements to apply for funding.
4. Lead service line inventories financed with the 2% small systems technical assistance set-asides from the 2022 and 2023 IIJA DWSRF LSLR capitalization grants are ongoing. Over the past seven months, 105 systems have received the following LSL technical assistance:

Task	Hours	Task Summary
Project Management	14.50	Information Sessions, Internal Meetings, Program Management, Reporting and Meeting Prep
Enrollment	134.50	Phone Calls and Follow Up Emails a part of the Follow Up Program
Baseline Inventory	76.00	Ticket to Review, Processing Data, Troubleshooting Data
Athena: Data Processing	17	Athena is the system used internally to enrich water system data and cross reference tax parcel data
Escalated Data Review	0.25	Escalated Data Needs
TOTAL:	242.25	

VIII.EXPECTED PUBLIC HEALTH OUTCOMES & PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The objective of this program is to disperse all available loan and grant funds in a timely manner to achieve the public health protection benefits resulting from the projects identified in the FFY-2024 LSLR IUP, and to ensure compliance with loan agreements, as required by state and federal laws and regulations.

By implementing the FFY-2024 LSLR IUP and funding projects shown on the LSLR Priority List (Section VII), the Board will have the means to plan for and fund projects that will address lead service line replacement projects and associated activities. Funding of the system projects will be determined by the amount of funding to be received in the FFY-2024 IJA LSLR Cap Grant.

The success of the DWSIRLF Program will be defined by the ability of the MSDH to successfully meet commitments in the FFY-2024 LSLR IUP and Set-Aside Work Plan.

Additionally, the majority of the projects as proposed should have minimal impact on the environment due to the nature of their design. Where necessary, appropriate environmental reviews will occur and proper permitting through the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality will be required to ensure minimal impact on the environment.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

DRINKING WATER SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENTS REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM - LEAD LINE FUNDS REPORT - MARCH 2025

FFY-2024 Funding (Federal and State)		
National Title I DWSRF Appropriation - Mississippi's Allotment	+	\$28,650,000
National Reallotment - MS Portion		\$1,222,000
State Match Required (0% of Mississippi's Allotment)	+	\$0
2024 Capitalization Grant for DWSRF w IIJA Supplemental	=	\$29,872,000
Cap Grant Set-Asides		
DWSRF Administration [SDWA Sec. 1452(g)(2) - the greater of: \$400,000, 1/5 % of the fund's current valuation, or up to 4% of the award]	+	\$233,906
Small Systems Technical Assistance [SDWA Sec. 1452(g)(2) - 2%]	+	\$573,000
Local Assistance and Other State Program [SDWA Sec. 1452(k)(2) - 15%]	+	\$4,297,500
State Program Management [SDWA Sec. 1452(g)(2) -10%]	+	\$0
Total 2024 Cap Grant Set-Asides	=	\$5,104,406
Cap Grant Funds Available for Loan Obligation		
DWSRF Capitalization & IIJA Supplemental Grants	+	\$29,872,000
Cap Grant Set-asides	-	(\$5,104,406)
Total Cap Grant Funds Available for Loan Obligation	=	\$24,767,594
Funds Anticipated to be Available for Loan Awards		
Cap Grant Federal and State Funds Anticipated to be Available for Loan Obligation	+	\$24,767,594
Unobligated Funds Carried Over	+	\$0.00
Loan Increase Reserve	-	\$0.00
Total Funds Anticipated to be Available for Loan Awards	=	\$24,767,594
Funds Needed for Projects on the FFY-2024 Priority List and FFY-2025 & After Planning List		
Funds Needed for Projects on the Priority List & After Planning List	+	\$0
Funds Anticipated to be Available for Loan Awards	-	\$24,767,594
Total Fund Need Remaining for Projects on the Lists	=	(\$24,767,594)

APPENDIX B - PROJECTED SCHEDULE OF OUTLAYS
FOR IIJA LSLR CAPITALIZATION GRANT SET-ASIDES

FFY 2024 IIJA LSLR Cap Grant

Federal Set-Asides	FFY 2024 Q3	FFY 202 Q4	FFY 2025 Q1	FFY 2025 Q2	Totals
<u>Administrative</u>	\$58,477	\$58,477	\$58,477	\$58,477	\$233,906
<u>Small System Tech Assist.</u>	\$143,250	\$143,250	\$143,250	\$143,250	\$573,000
<u>Local Asst. & Other St. Programs</u>	\$1,074,375	\$1,074,375	\$1,074,375	\$1,074,375	\$4,297,500
<u>Total:</u>	\$1,276,102	\$1,276,102	\$1,276,102	\$1,276,102	\$5,104,406

**APPENDIX C - PROJECTED PAYMENT (FEDERAL LETTER OF CREDIT)
SCHEDULE**

(SCHEDULE OF INCREASES TO ACH CEILING)

FFY-2024 Cap Grant No. 1 of 4	1 st Quarter FFY-2026	\$7,468,000	\$7,468,000
FFY-2024 Cap Grant No. 2 of 4	2nd Quarter FFY-2026	\$7,468,000	\$14,936,000
FFY-2024 Cap Grant No. 3 of 4	3rd Quarter FFY-2026	\$7,468,000	\$22,404,000
FFY-2024 Cap Grant No. 4 of 4	4th Quarter FFY-2026	\$7,468,000	\$29,872,000

**APPENDIX D - PROJECTED SCHEDULE OF DRAWDOWNS AGAINST FEDERAL
LETTER OF CREDIT
(ACH DRAW SCHEDULE)**

FFY-2024 Cap Grant No. 1 of 4	1 st Quarter FFY-2026	\$7,468,000	\$7,468,000
FFY-2024 Cap Grant No. 2 of 4	2nd Quarter FFY-2026	\$7,468,000	\$14,936,000
FFY-2024 Cap Grant No. 3 of 4	3rd Quarter FFY-2026	\$7,468,000	\$22,404,000
FFY-2024 Cap Grant No. 4 of 4	4th Quarter FFY-2026	\$7,468,000	\$29,872,000

APPENDIX E – LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY WORKPLAN

INTRODUCTION

The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH), Bureau of Public Water Supply (Department), will use the **Small System Technical Assistance Set-Aside & Local Assistance and Other State Programs Set-aside** of the DWSRF LSLR in a Lead Service Line Inventory Program. The program will be surveying the State's drinking water system to identify, plan, and assist water systems in inventorying their service line to identify lead service lines for replacement projects.

SELECTION PROCESS

The contract for coordination of the program will run on a State Fiscal Year Basis. A contract is currently being developed in accordance with State contracting requirements.

A Request for Qualifications will be advertised statewide. Qualifications received will be reviewed by the Department to select the best qualified candidate for the agency. Recommendations for award of a contract will be presented to the Board at their regularly scheduled Board meeting; following authorization by the Board, the coordination contract will be awarded.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

The state will use the Small Systems Technical Assistance (up to 2%) set-aside from the IJJA LSLR FFY-2024 Cap Grant to provide funding for the creation of LSL inventories to small systems serving connections of 750 or less. With approval by the Board, the state intends to use this set-aside to fund a contract for providing professional services for lead service line inventories to water systems serving 750 and fewer connections. on a first-come, first-serve basis to water systems serving 750 and fewer connections. The contractual assistance will work through the selected contractor to assist these small systems primarily in the generation of service line inventories including those service lines that may be lead or lead influenced. The contractual assistance may also include support for non-routine lead sampling, funding applications, and/or public engagement.

The state intends to use Local Assistance and Other State Programs Set-Aside a total of 15% to support the creation of the lead service line inventories for the state's systems that are classified as community systems as defined under the Safe Drinking Water Act. No more than 10% of the 15% will be allocated to creating inventories for systems with 751 to 5000 connections. No more than 10% of the 15% will be allocated to creating inventories for systems serving greater than 5000 connections.

With approval by the Board, the state intends to use this set-aside to fund contract(s) for providing professional services for lead service line inventories to water systems of three separate size categories: A.) small systems serving connections of less than 750 B.) medium systems serving connections of greater than 750 but less than 5,000 and C) large system

serving connections of greater than 5,000. This assistance with lead service line inventories will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis to water systems serving a population that falls within the three size categories as defined in this section.

The activities described herein will be accomplished through a four-part process: **identification** of inventory projects from our priority list and/or communication with the Program's Project Management Staff or the Department's Regional Engineers; **communication** with public water supply; **mobilization** of contractor to identified site to develop plans and inventories; and **confirmation** that the work has been performed.

Identification – The contractor will survey our priority list and/or communication with the Program's Project Management Staff or the Department's Regional Engineers while identifying the proper set-aside category to fund the potential inventory. Systems will have an opportunity through the agency's website to identify themselves as needing assistance through an online application.

Communication – Information on the identified systems will be passed on to staff from the contractor who will meet with system officials to inform them of the program, explain what Lead Line Inventories looks like for their system, and encourage them to take advantage of funding through our program utilizing information available by MSDH to complete LSL inventories.

Mobilization – Once the communication phase has been completed and the system request to move forward, staff of the contractor will mobilize to the selected site and commence with the plan and inventory of the System's service lines. Acceptable methods of inventory will be determined and outlined by the Department to the contractor.

Confirmation – Staff of the contractor will provide the Program's Project Management staff with results and recommendations for a Lead Service Line Replacement Project.

SCHEDULE FOR COMPLETING ACTIVITIES

The schedule for completing Lead Line Inventory Program activities under this work plan will be the schedule established by set contractual dates.

AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Program will be monitoring contractors throughout the process to ensure effective completion of contractual assignments.

EVALUATION PROCESS TO ASSESS THE SUCCESS OF SET-ASIDE ACTIVITIES

The success of these set-asides will be defined by the ability of the MSDH through the solicited contractor(s) to identify, plan, and assist water systems in Lead Line Inventories that lead to Lead Line Replacement Projects to create safer drinking water for all consumers of Mississippi's drinking water.

APPENDIX F - CERTIFICATIONS

In addition to the ten (10) assurances included below, the state acknowledges that there are six (6) additional assurances that the state has agreed to in either the Operating Agreement between the State and EPA Region IV or the annual capitalization grants. These two documents are hereby incorporated into this IUP by reference.

1. The state certifies that all drinking water facility projects in this IUP identified in Section VII as being subject to the federal cross-cutting requirements are or will be in compliance with all such requirements prior to the state entering into an assistance agreement with the recipient.
2. The state certifies that it will make an annual report to the Regional Administrator on the actual uses of the funds and how the state has met the goals and objectives for the previous two fiscal years as identified in the IUPs; and to annually have conducted an independent audit of the funds to be conducted in accordance with generally accepted government accounting standards.
3. The state certifies that this IUP will be subjected to public review and comment prior to final submission to EPA. The state certifies that it will follow the “Mississippi Administrative Procedures Law” in seeking public review and comments on this IUP. A copy of the “Mississippi Administrative Procedures Law” can be obtained from the Mississippi Secretary of State’s Office and can be found on the Mississippi State Department of Health’s website at www.healthhms.com/dwsrf.

An oral proceeding will be held to receive written and oral comments on this IUP. A transcript of the public hearing recording the comments and recommended solutions will be submitted to EPA along with the Final IUP. Anyone desiring to receive a copy of the oral proceeding transcript should contact Jonathan Diaz, Program Support Specialist, at (601) 576-7518 to request copies.

4. The state certifies that all drinking water facility projects in this IUP are on the project Priority List developed pursuant to the requirements of Section 1452(b)(3)(B), SDWA.
5. The state certifies that it will enter into binding commitments for 120% of the amount of each payment (LOC) under the capitalization grant within one year after receipt of each payment (LOC).
6. The state certifies that it will commit and expend all Drinking Water Systems Improvements Revolving Loan Fund (DWSIRLF) Program monies as efficiently as possible, and to disburse the funds in a timely and expeditious manner.
7. The state certifies that it will conduct environmental reviews on all DWSIRLF cross-cutter equivalency projects in accordance with the State Environmental Review Process (SERP).

8. The state certifies that prior to adding any new projects to the “FFY-2024 and After Planning List” for the purpose of funding such a project during FFY-2024 that the state will follow the “Mississippi Administrative Procedures Law” in amending this IUP to allow for public review and comments.
9. The state certifies that it has developed and implemented a Capacity Development (CD) strategy to assist public water systems in acquiring and maintaining technical, managerial, and financial capacity as required in Section 1420(c) of the 1996 Amendments to the SDWA. This CD program is currently approved by EPA.
10. The state certifies the State’s Operator Certification Program is currently approved by EPA.

APPENDIX G – INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT

Sections of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (H.R. 3684) that impact the Drinking Water SRFs:

I. **Funding**

The bill appropriates \$30.713 billion for the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs) over five years. (This is actual funding.) (See Division J – Appropriations, Title VI Department of Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, State and Tribal Assistance Grants: Starts on page 2,565 of the bill.)

II. **Reauthorization & Policy**

The bill includes The Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act (S. 914) which reauthorizes funding levels for the SRFs and amends SRF provisions in the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act. (See Division E – Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure: Starts with Section 50001 on page 1,887 of the bill.)

III. **Buy America / Buy American**

The bill expands domestic preference procurement provisions for programs across government, including the SRFs. (See Division G – Other Authorizations, Title IX Build America, Buy America: Starts with 70901 on page 2,303 of the bill.)

I. **Funding**

The bill provides three pots of funding for SRFs over the next five years:

- Any Eligible Project:
 - \$11,713,000,000 for the Drinking Water SRF for any eligible project.
- Lead Remediation:
 - \$15 billion for the Drinking Water SRF for lead service line replacement, including planning, identification, and design (includes inventories).
- Emerging Contaminants Remediation:
 - \$4 billion for remediation of emerging contaminants with a focus on PFAS/PFOA for the Drinking Water SRF.

Key points for this supplemental appropriation:

- Funding is intended to be in addition to annual appropriations.
- Funding is available “until expended.”
- State match is not required for appropriations dedicated to lead service line replacement and remediation of emerging contaminants.
- State match is 10% for 2022-2023 and 20% for 2024-2026 for appropriations for any eligible project.
- 100% of the capitalization grant for emerging contaminants must be used for additional subsidy. A flat 49% of the annual capitalization grant for any eligible project and lead service line replacement must be used for additional subsidy.

- Additional subsidy must be provided in the form of assistance agreements with 100% principal forgiveness or grants.

Year	Drinking Water SRF Any Eligible Project	State Match	Mandated Additional Subsidy
2022	\$1,902,000,000	10%	49%
2023	\$2,202,000,000	10%	49%
2024	\$2,403,000,000	20%	49%
2025	\$2,603,000,000	20%	49%
2026	\$2,603,000,000	20%	49%
Total	\$11,713,000,000		
Year	Drinking Water SRF Emerging Contaminants	State Match	Mandated Additional Subsidy
2022	\$800,000,000	0%	100%
2023	\$800,000,000	0%	100%
2024	\$800,000,000	0%	100%
2025	\$800,000,000	0%	100%
2026	\$800,000,000	0%	100%
Total	\$4,000,000,000		
Year	Drinking Water SRF Lead	State Match	Mandated Additional Subsidy
2022	\$3,000,000,000	0%	49%
2023	\$3,000,000,000	0%	49%
2024	\$3,000,000,000	0%	49%
2025	\$3,000,000,000	0%	49%
2026	\$3,000,000,000	0%	49%
Total	\$15,000,000,000		
Total	\$30,713,000,000		

II. Reauthorization & Policy

The bill includes The Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021 (S. 914) which passed the U.S. Senate on Thursday, April 29, by a vote of 89 – 2 (9 not voting). The bill contained the following provisions. (Policy provisions apply to annual appropriations, not supplemental appropriations in the bill.)

Funding

- Reauthorizes Drinking Water SRFs at the same levels for the next five years:
 - 2022: \$2.4 billion
 - 2023: \$2.75 billion

- 2024: \$3 billion
 - 2025 and 2026: \$3.25 billion
- Reauthorizes SWIFIA: \$5 million annually for the next five years, 2022 through 2026.

Additional Subsidy

- Defines additional subsidization as “forgiveness of principal, grants, negative interest loans, other loan forgiveness, and through buying, refinancing, or restructuring debt” for both SRFs and excludes loans with 0% or higher interest are not additional from being considered additional subsidy.
- Mandates minimum additional subsidy for as long as there are eligible applications:
 - Drinking Water SRFs: Increases additional subsidy from 6% to 12% of the capitalization grant for additional subsidy for disadvantaged communities.

III. Buy America / Buy American

The legislation also expands domestic preference procurement requirements for SRF projects from American Iron and Steel to construction materials and manufactured products.