

Information about Village Safe Water Planning Applications

Eligibility Requirements for Planning Projects Applications

- To be considered eligible for a planning grant application, all previously funded planning projects in your community must be completed. No planning application will be considered for a community with a previously funded planning grant which has not been completed.
- Planning requests related to providing first time water and sewer service in unserved communities are not being considered at this time. This will allow a number of ongoing projects to be completed, including a statewide planning project and a research and development effort, both focused on unserved communities.

Definition of a Planning Project

A planning project shall include three reports, as follows:

1. A *Preliminary Engineering Report* (PER), analyzing sanitation options, including comprehensive cost estimates for all options, and recommending a preferred option. The PER shall include an analysis of site control requirements and the estimated cost of obtaining site control for the recommended option.
2. An *Environmental Report* for the recommended option.
3. A *Business Plan* for the recommended option.

Important

The main purposes of a *Preliminary Engineering Report* (PER) are to identify alternatives, determine costs, recommend a preferred alternative, and identify possible hurdles associated with constructing the recommended alternative (for example, environmental or site control issues).

Once the PER has been approved by VSW and the relevant federal funding agency, the community may apply to VSW for design and construction funds. Design will include preparation of an updated construction cost estimate.

Submitting a Planning Application

- **Deadline for all applications is 5:00 p.m. on October 2, 2015.**
- Applications can be submitted electronically, by using the Online Application System accessible through the VSW website, in person, or through the mail. **Electronic applications are encouraged.**
- Submit paper applications in person or by mail to: *Village Safe Water Program
Attention: CIP Application
555 Cordova Street, 4th Floor
Anchorage, AK 99501-2617*
- Faxes will not be accepted.

Planning Project Scoring Criteria

Category	Criteria	Points
Planning Project Need (limited to one)	Water, Sewer Component PER for “First Service” or “Regulatory” Improvement(s)	100
	Water, Sewer Component PER for “Essential” Improvement(s)	75
	Water, Sewer Component PER for “Beneficial” Improvement(s)	50
	None of the above	0
Primary Type of Facility Planning (limited to one)	Water and sewer PER	100
	Solid waste PER	0
Previous PER, Feasibility Study, or Master Plan	The community <u>has not</u> received funding for a PER, feasibility study, or master plan from the VSW Program within the past three years.	100
Loss of Service due to Infrastructure Failure to be Addressed by This Project (limited to one)	Regular or extended loss of service. Provide specific information about instances of lost service over the past 12 months.	100
	Imminent failure of a water or sewer component. Provide specific evidence that failure is imminent.	75
	Intermittent or short duration loss of service. Provide specific information about instances of lost service over the past 12 months.	50
	None of the above	0
Application Quality	Information is complete, consistent, and clear throughout the application, and the application contains sufficient information to support a request for funding to address a threat to public health.	100
Total Possible Points		500

Definitions:

- **First Service Improvements:** Provision of piped, closed haul, or onsite water and wastewater service to homes not previously served.
- **Regulatory Improvements:** Water/sewer upgrades addressing verified system regulatory failures. Verification from DEC Drinking Water or DEC Wastewater is required.
- **Essential Improvements:** Water/sewer upgrades or replacement of existing system components that have exceeded their capacity or design life, resulting in present and continuous compromises to the system’s health benefits, and creating a clear and substantial health hazard.
- **Beneficial Improvements:** Water/sewer upgrades to increase the operational efficiency of the water/sewer system, or to upgrade system components to resolve intermittent compromises to the health benefits of the system.
- **Regular Loss of Service:** Repeated loss of service, that is, four or more occurrences in the last year.
- **Extended Loss of Service:** Loss of service lasting at least one week in the last year.
- **Imminent Failure:** Impending failure of components that are too old, too expensive, or otherwise impossible to replace or repair.
- **Intermittent Loss of Service:** Three or fewer occurrences of lost service in the last year.
- **Short Duration Loss of Service:** Loss of service lasting less than one week in the last year.