

and constructing public water facilities, with a focus on affordability and public health, particularly benefiting small and financially disadvantaged communities. Additionally, the Florida Forever Program aims to conserve and manage critical natural lands through funding from the Florida Forever Trust Fund, which is sourced from documentary stamp tax revenues.

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Program provides low-interest loans to local governments to plan, design, and build or upgrade wastewater, stormwater, and nonpoint source pollution prevention projects. Certain agricultural best management practices may also qualify for funding. The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Program provides low-interest loans to local governments and private utilities to plan, design, and build or upgrade drinking water systems and implement water loss reduction projects.

For SRF programs, discounted assistance (e.g., very low interest rates, grants, etc.) for eligible communities is available. Interest rates on loans are below market rates and vary based on the economic wherewithal of the community. Principal Forgiveness can range from 20%-90% of the loan amount and can be matched to grants to cover loan portions where available.

Federal Funding

Federal funding options for water-related projects include several key programs. The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) by the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS) offers technical and financial assistance to agricultural producers for implementing practices that improve environmental quality, such as water supply and nutrient management systems. State and Tribal Assistance Grants, provided by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), support cooperative agreements with states and often require a 45% local match. The Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) facilitates investment in water infrastructure by offering loans covering up to 49% of project costs, with minimum project thresholds of \$20 million for large communities and \$5 million for small communities with populations of 25,000 or less (SJRWMD and SRWMD 2023).

Monitoring Progress

Project Implementation

As directed by Section 373.036(7), F.S., each district is required to submit a consolidated annual report (CAR) to the Governor, legislature, and DEP, which describes each district's management of water resources. This report must contain, in part, the following information regarding all projects related to water quantity:

- A list of all projects identified to implement a recovery or prevention strategy;