

Oklahoma Source Water Protection Program

Funding Sources



Updated January 2025

How to Fund SWP Projects?

As Source Water Protection (SWP) becomes a more commonly discussed topic in the water world, more funding opportunities are appearing for projects and efforts that further protect our source waters. There are a variety of funds that either directly fund SWP efforts or indirectly contribute to efforts that eventually benefit source waters. This handout aims to summarize currently available funds that can be accessed by local governments, entities, and customers.

What Funding Sources are Available?

Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)

Administered by: Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB)

Website: oklahoma.gov/owrb/financing/clean-water-state-revolving-fund-loans

Description: The CWSRF can fund nonpoint source projects that reduce polluted runoff from urban and agricultural land. Projects may include urban stormwater control, agricultural BMP implementation, conservation easements for SWP, stream bank erosion control, wetlands in place to polish effluent, green infrastructure, total integrated water resources management planning and resulting structural projects, abandoned industrial site assessment and clean-ups, and decentralized wastewater needs.



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Financial Assistance Program Loans

Administered By: Oklahoma Water Resource Board (OWRB)

Website: oklahoma.gov/owrb/financing/financial-assistance-program-loans.html

Description: These are long-term, low-interest revenue bond loans that assist with projects related to water and wastewater including those for source water protection. These projects can include environmentally innovative projects, land acquisition, habitat protection and restoration practices, floodplain restoration and stream bank stabilization, and planning/assessment and monitoring practices.



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Funding Sources

Oklahoma Rural Infrastructure Grant (RIG)

Administered By: Oklahoma DEQ -> Oklahoma Rural Water Association (ORWA)

Website: <https://orwa.org/rig/>

Description: This grant helps municipal water and wastewater systems, serving 3,300 or fewer people, to become sustainable and improve infrastructure, with up to \$100,000 in funding per project. The program will fund 80 percent of the project while the other 20 must be matched by the system. RIG will fund a wide variety of projects including SWP focused projects.



National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI)

Administered By: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Website: nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/national-water-quality-initiative

Description: NWQI assists partners in adapting and expanding source water protection plans to identify critical source areas needing further treatment related to agricultural land uses. In addition, the NWQI provides financial and technical assistance to farmers for implementing conservation systems such as filter strips, cover crops, reduced tillage and manure management.



Agricultural Improvement Act (Farm Bill)

Administered By: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Website: nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/source-water-protection

Description: The 2018 Farm Bill commits at least 10 percent of available conservation program funds to be used for SWP each year through 2031. These funds can be utilized to conduct source water protection activities such as:

- Watershed management plan development
- Agricultural best management practices (BMPs)
- Fencing upstream of intakes or wellheads
- Vegetative buffers upstream of intake
- Abandoned well closures Sustainable forest management practices



Funding Sources

Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Grants

Administered By: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Website: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation>

Description: Consists of several different grants. SWP efforts tend to fall under the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) and the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant programs, though projects may also qualify for other grants. In addition to natural disasters, these grants can address hazards that impact drinking water sources, such as flooding, erosion, and drought. They can also fund green infrastructure projects that provide cost effective and resilient approaches to stormwater management.



Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Program

Administered By: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Website: <https://www.epa.gov/wifia>

Description: A federal credit program that provides long-term, low-cost financing for water systems. These funds can be used for the development and implementation of eligible source water protection projects, such as through:

- Pre-construction activities including planning, engineering, design, and environmental.
- Construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, and replacement of SWP projects.
- Acquisition of property, environmental mitigation, and acquisition of equipment.



Wetland Program Development Grant (WPDG)

Administered By: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Website: epa.gov/wetlands/wetland-program-development-grants-and-epa-wetlands-grant-coordinators

Description: If a SWP Area (SWPA) includes wetlands, a WPDG could potentially fund assessment and protection projects. These projects must meet one of the core elements of a wetland program in order to be eligible. These core elements include monitoring and assessment, voluntary restoration and protection, regulatory approaches, and wetland specific water quality standards.



Funding Sources

Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Trust Fund

Administered By: EPA -> Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC)



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Website: <https://www.epa.gov/ust/leaking-underground-storage-tank-trust-fund>

Description: EPA LUST funds are distributed to states to support underground storage tank (UST) cleanup and prevention programs. With these funds, states can oversee corrective actions for leaking tanks, clean-up sites that lack a capable responsible party, inspect UST facilities, and implement enforcement activities where needed.



Nonpoint Source Management Program

Administered By: Oklahoma Conservation Commission



Website: <https://conservation.ok.gov/nonpoint-source-pollution/>

Description: This program is primarily funded by EPA Section 319 Clean Water Act grants and state funds allocated yearly by the state legislature. These funds are used to plan and develop projects such as watershed planning, source monitoring, implementing best management practices, and education. Though you cannot apply directly for these funds, reach out to the Oklahoma Conservation Commission to inquire about conducting SWP projects in your area.

Partners for Fish and Wildlife

Administered By: US Fish and Wildlife Service



Website: <https://www.fws.gov/program/partners-fish-and-wildlife>

Description: The program provides free technical and financial assistance to plan, design, supervise and monitor habitat restoration projects such as riparian area restoration and revegetation of altered lands. The program primarily caters to private landowners interested in restoring wildlife habitat on their land, though current partners in the program include farmers, ranchers, forest landowners, corporations, and local governments.



Funding Sources

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL): Emergent Contaminants

Administered By: Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Website: deq.ok.gov/water-quality-division/public-water-supply/dwsrf/



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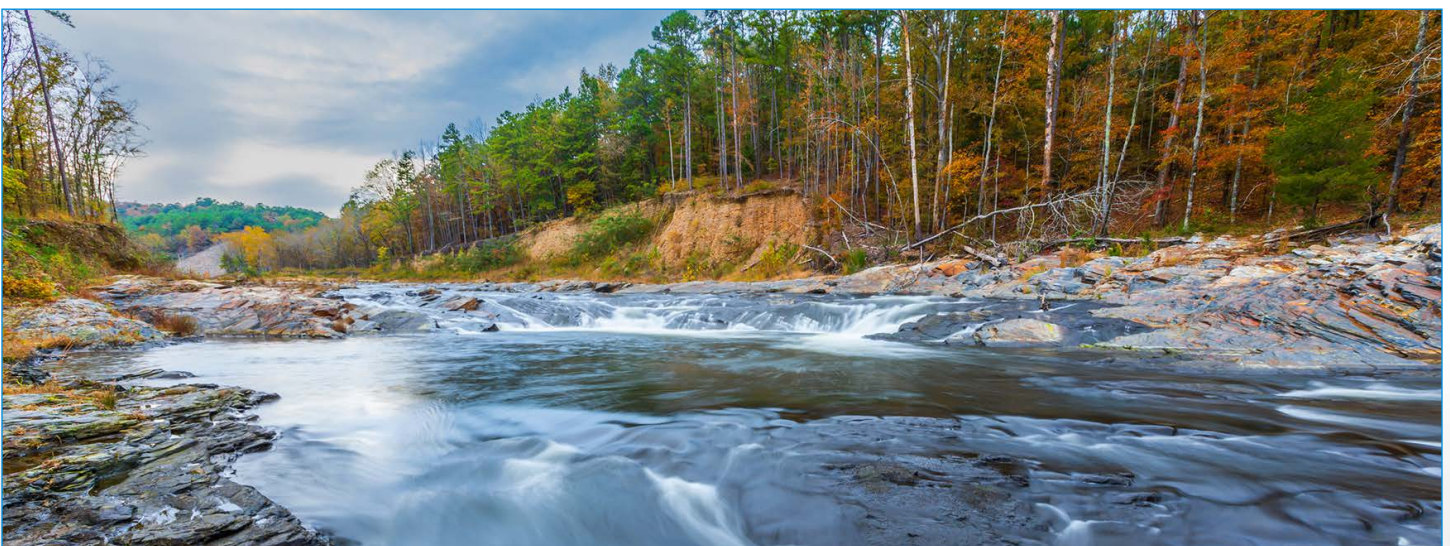
Description: This is a capitalization grant that can be used only to address emerging contaminants in drinking water with a primary focus on poly and perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS/PFOA). These funds can be used for investigative monitoring of your source water to determine presence of any emergent contaminants.

Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (GAP)

Administered By: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Website: <https://www.epa.gov/general-assistance-program-gap>

Description: GAP funds are exclusively available for Indian tribal governments. These funds can be leveraged by tribes for SWP plan development, communication of SWP assessment results, hazardous waste material collection, community education on SWP topics, and the development of data layers.



Funding Sources

SWP Funding Assistance

Finding where to start when it comes to funding can be challenging, but there are resources available to help direct you. Do not hesitate to reach out to the specific agencies or groups listed above to help with questions specific to a funding type. The following are additional groups that can assist you in identifying funding sources:

National Source Water Collaborative (SWC)

A collaboration of federal, state, and local partners, the National SWC works to further the goals of protecting sources of drinking water.



Website: <https://www.sourcewatercollaborative.org/>

Oklahoma Source Water Collaborative

Oklahoma's very own SWC that partners Oklahoma DEQ, GWPC, NRCS, OCC, ODAFF, OWRA, OWRB, and some city water districts together.



Website: <https://www.sourcewatercollaborative.org/collaboratives-near-you/>

Funding Agency Coordinating Team (FACT)

A team of organizations that offer streamlined communication regarding financing to eligible Oklahoma public entities for water and wastewater projects.

Website: <https://oklahoma.gov/owrb/financing/funding-agency-coordinating-team.html>

Contact DEQ:

Reach out to the Capacity Development Section via email or phone and request to participate in the **FREE** program.

Email: DEQ.CapDev@deq.ok.gov

Phone: (405) 702-8141

You can also visit the DEQ website for more info, helpful resources, and to sign up for the program. <https://tinyurl.com/44hsyft>



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