



AQUARIUS

DWSRF AQUARIUS Program 2019 Nomination Form



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Program Description

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) is a \$38 billion federal-state partnership dedicated to protecting America's public health. The program finances the construction and rehabilitation of critical drinking water infrastructure, along with public health-focused programs and activities across our nation. The DWSRF AQUARIUS program nationally recognizes DWSRF-funded projects for exceptional focus on sustainability and protection of public health. These projects are examples of the high level of innovation possible with the DWSRF.

Nomination Process

States may nominate **one** project and send the nomination form to their EPA Regional Office Coordinator. After review from the EPA Regional Office, the Region will send nominations to EPA Headquarters (HQ). A panel at EPA HQ will review submitted projects. Of the projects nominated, the panel will select one particularly noteworthy project from each Region to be designated as "Exceptional Projects" to receive further recognition.

The "Exceptional Projects" will be announced by EPA Headquarters at the fall 2019 CIFA SRF Workshop.

The materials will also be shared with all EPA Regional Offices to highlight excellent projects in their Region and across the country.

2019 AQUARIUS Program Timeline

April 24-26

2019 AQUARIUS Program kickoff and call for nominations. The project nomination form will be available on the [EPA DWSRF website](#).

June 7

Project nominations from states are due to their respective EPA Regional Office Coordinator. States fill out the attached form to nominate a project. Each state may nominate only one project.

July 1

After review, Regions send the nominations to AQUARIUS@epa.gov at EPA Headquarters by this date.

November 18

All recognized projects will be showcased in the *2019 AQUARIUS Compendium* to be made available online. One "Exceptional Project" from each EPA Region will receive a plaque from the Director of the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water.

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AQUARIUS Evaluation Criteria

States participating in this voluntary recognition program may nominate **one** DWSRF project during the 2019 round. All DWSRF projects are eligible for nomination if they have completed construction **within the last two years**. The project **must** meet three criteria:

 Safe Drinking Water Act compliance

 Financial integrity

 Public health benefits

Additionally, each project must demonstrate leadership in at least **one or more** of the following areas:

- Emerging contaminants;
- Aging infrastructure;
- Innovative financing;
- Affordability;
- Water loss control;
- Efficient water and/or energy use;
- Creative approach to project planning and implementation; or
- Water system partnerships



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Contact Information

DWSRF State Program:

DWSRF Point-of-Contact:

Email Address:

Project Information

Project Name:

Assistance Recipient:

Location (city, state):

DWSRF Funding Amount (include any additional subsidy):

Any Co-funding (e.g. USDA, CDBG, etc.)? *Please include co-funding source name:*

Date of Construction Completion:

Project Description (no more than 100 words):

Why was the project necessary (no more than 200 words)? (Describe the existing conditions that prompted the need for the project. If this project was proactive, what prompted that decision? If there were violations, from what regulations and for how long?):

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Project Information, continued

How did this project demonstrate leadership in one (or more) of the following areas: emerging contaminants, aging infrastructure, innovative financing, affordability, water loss control, efficient water and/or energy use, creative approach to project planning and implementation, and/ or water system partnerships?:

Who was impacted? (e.g. How many people? Children? Disadvantaged community? Hospital or other critical infrastructure? Neighborhood with frequent water main breaks?):

What are the outcomes and/or next steps?

Please include 1-2 high resolution photos* with submission. Please submit photos relevant to the project that showcase as much of the project as possible. These may be used online or in other publications.

**NOTE: by submitting photo(s) with this nomination form, you agree to waive compensation and authorize the photo(s) to be used for informational, education, and/or public relations purposed both within the U.S. EPA and by the general public. You authorize disclosure and release of the photo(s) to the U.S. EPA.*

If you have additional questions about the AQUARIUS Recognition Program, please contact AQUARIUS@epa.gov.