



For more information about infrastructure financing and technical assistance, visit www.infracfunding.wa.gov

Governor Christine Gregoire authorized the Department of Ecology to declare a statewide drought emergency, based on the extremely low snow pack in the mountains and record-low flows that are being seen in many rivers across the state.

“While water shortages won’t affect all areas of the state in precisely the same way, it seems very likely that all areas of our state will experience at least some level of drought this year,” Gregoire said. “We need to start taking action now, and all of us need to be part of the solution.”

There are several programs available to assist communities in addressing the drought:

Department of Ecology (DOE) Water Resources Emergency Drought Funding

DOE has funds available to address drought related issues such as:

- Modification of an existing source or deepening an existing well
- Development of an emergency or alternate water source
- Replacement water sources
- Construction of an emergency intertie to another approved public water supply
- Transmission pipelines
- Discharge lines
- Pumps and accessories
- Source meters
- Leak detection and repair (particularly when unaccounted for water is greater than 20%)

There is \$8.2 million in grant/loan combinations for publicly owned municipal water systems and irrigations districts, including special purpose districts.

For more information:
Ray Newkirk at (360) 407-6630.
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Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development Local Government Division The Public Works Board

Through the Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF), the Public Work Board can provide financial assistance to local governments for emergency domestic water and sanitary sewer projects made necessary by the drought. Examples of potential projects are:

- Drilling of wells to provide emergency water supply.
- Modifying existing surface water diversion facilities.
- Building water treatment plants to use a previously unused source of raw water.
- Building water storage facilities to help provide for a more even draw upon raw water resources.
- Replacing leaky water lines as a conservation measure.
- Purchasing and installing water conservation fixtures (toilets, showerheads, etc.)
- Modifying wastewater treatment facilities to re-use water for industrial, commercial, or other purposes.
- Constructing water system interties.

For the long term, the board is accepting applications through May 9th, for the Construction Loan Program, and every month by the 5th of the month for Pre-Construction.

For more information:
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Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development Local Government Division Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

CDBG can provide drought recovery assistance in three ways:

1. Financing Infrastructure

Grant recipients can replace or expand existing water delivery systems, install or upgrade conservation equipment, and rehabilitate water systems to increase efficiency and prevent leakage. The CDBG programs that can provide these funds are:

- The Community Investment Fund Program is for projects that have been ranked in the top three on a county's list of unfunded Wa-CERT projects (Washington Community Economic Revitalization Team). Applications are accepted anytime, and are reviewed and funded on a first-come, first-served basis
- Housing Enhancement Grants, when there is a connection to farmworker housing.
- The General Purpose Grant Program, which is a competitive program and applications are accepted annually in mid November.

2. Planning and Assessment

CDBG Planning-Only Grants can be used to assess the economic impact of drought conditions on communities and businesses when there is a direct impact on low-and moderate-income individuals. Planning grants can also be used to research solutions to problems caused by drought conditions affecting persons with low- and moderate-incomes. Examples of eligible activities include research into water rights issues, identification and feasibility assessments of new water sources, and the development of water conservation plans.

3. Imminent Threats to Public Health & Safety

These grants assist eligible Washington State communities in meeting unique, emergency needs that pose a serious, immediate threat to public health and safety. They provide an interim solution to problems of an urgent nature that were not evident at the time of the CDBG General Purpose funding Grant cycle.

For more information:
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United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA-RD) Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant Program (ECWAG)

Grants and loans are available for construction of new wells, reservoirs, transmission lines, treatment plants, and/or other sources of water.

For more information:
Kimberly Ott (360) 704-7733
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www.rurdev.usda.gov/wa

Section 504 Home Repair Loans and Grants

Up to \$20,000 is available for very low-income homeowners to repair or improve water systems. An example would be to drill a deeper well.

For more information:
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For more information about the drought visit:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/drought/2005/drthm.html>
<http://www.access.wa.gov/emergency/drought.aspx>
<http://agr.wa.gov/Environment/Drought/default.htm>