

Snohomish County

Public Works Assistance Fund Overview

July 14, 2022

In July of 2009, the State Legislature approved Chapter 36.135 RCW that allows “County legislative authorities may establish local public works assistance funds for the purpose of funding public works projects located wholly or partially within the county.”

The Snohomish County Council passed an ordinance (Chapter 4.117 SCC) creating a Snohomish County Public Works Assistance Fund.

The criteria for this fund are listed below.

- **Use of funds:**
 - Public works projects located wholly or partially within the county.
 - Loans to be made to the county or other local governments.
 - No more than 50% of loaned funds can be loaned to the county.
 - At least 25% must be available for projects in cities or towns.
 - No more than 1% may be used for administrative costs.
 - \$350K budgeted and contributed to the fund annually (timber harvest & excise tax).

- **Competitive Application Process and Factors in Assigning Priority:**
 - Whether the local government has experienced severe fiscal distress resulting from a natural disaster or emergency public works’ needs.
 - Whether the project is critical for the health and safety of a great number of citizens.
 - The relative size of the project compared to size of local government and funds available.
 - Number of communities served by the project.
 - Whether the project involves a public water system in violation of health and safety standards.
 - Number of additional housing units and jobs estimated to be created.

- **Loan Terms**
 - Next call for projects anticipated in 2023 with approximately \$1 million available.
 - 1.5% interest rates for all loans awarded to-date (loan interest rate is adjustable to market conditions).
 - 0% administrative fees charged to-date.
 - 10-year loan terms (9-year amortization period) for awards less than \$500k.
 - 20-year loan terms (19-year amortization period) for awards \$500k or more.

- **Projects Awarded to Date:**
 - **In 2015, our inaugural call for projects was issued with \$550K available.**
 - **Award No. 01-2015:** The City of Granite Falls received \$230K for the replacement of an aging waterline in downtown Granite Falls (\$1.1M total project cost). The project is complete, and the loan is being repaid.
 - **A second call for projects was issued in the summer of 2016 with \$670K available.**
 - **Award No. 02-2016:** City of Bothell received \$125K for constructing RRFB and crosswalk safety by schools (\$360K total project cost). The project is complete, and the loan is being repaid.
 - **Award No. 03-2016:** City of Edmonds received \$545K for the Dayton Street stormwater pump station (\$1.7M total project cost). The project is complete, and the loan is being repaid.
 - **A third call for projects was issued in the summer of 2019 with \$1.1 million available.**
 - **Award No. 04-2019:** City of Stanwood received \$974k for SR 532 Flood Berm (\$1.18M total project cost). The project is complete, and the loan is being repaid.
 - **Award No. 05-2019:** Town of Darrington received \$60K for a Water System Plan (\$65K total project cost). The project is complete, and the loan is being repaid.
 - **Award No. 06-2019:** City of Bothell received \$75k for Camden Crest Sewer Lift Station #4 Replacement (\$685k total project cost). The project is in progress.

The next call for projects is anticipated in 2023 with approximately \$1 million available. It is recommended for County Council to take legislative action to continue the Snohomish County Public Works Assistance Fund (Chapter 4.117 SCC) program.