

Vierbicher *Bulletin*

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Information for Municipal Officials

April 2002

Public Funding Opportunities

What Is On The Horizon For Public Funding Programs?

The last couple of years have been good for public funding programs. We have seen increases in traditional funding programs, plus numerous new initiatives. However, with the war on terrorism, state budget deficit and sputtering economy, the future is likely to see changes. Following is a brief summary of what to expect.

Federal Programs

Overall, it appears the allocation of federal funds for public financial assistance programs will remain stable or experience a slight decrease. The outlook for many traditional programs such as CDBG, Rural Development, EDA, and EPA is for continued funding near historical levels. Some potential changes include:

- Pending legislation proposes a significant increase in federal funding for the Clean Water Fund and Drinking Water Fund programs. The current legislation would authorize \$23.5 billion over the next five years. The current federal funding level is \$2.185 billion per year.
- Due to a drop in fuel tax receipts, a cut in funding for TEA-21 is likely in 2003. This may delay some transportation projects.
- Economic Stimulus Bill
In past years, economic stimulus bills provided unique funding opportunities for projects. This may be the case again this year with the proposed Economic Stimulus Bill.

State Programs

State funded programs are being scrutinized and may be reduced to help balance the budget. While no decisions have been made, it is likely that many programs will be cut back. These include grant

programs as well as State Shared Revenue for local units of governments.

Modifications to the TIF program appears to be unlikely in 2002. The House approved AB510 in October, 2001. The Senate Committee approved the bill; however, the bill died when the Senate adjourned in March, 2002. It is likely that TIF legislation will pass in 2003.

Alternative Sources of Revenue

It is probably safe to assume local units of government will be receiving less funding in the future. In response, alternative sources of revenue and new approaches will need to be developed. Following are examples of strategies which may be used more:

- **Storm Water Management Utilities (SMU)**
A SMU is a special district created by a local unit of government for the purpose of managing storm water. A SMU operates in a similar manner to water, wastewater and electric utilities. Users pay for the services provided. A utility fee is charge to all customers based on an estimate of their use of storm water facilities.
- **Developer Fees**
Fees charged to Developers to cover all costs associated with new real estate development projects.
- **User Fees**
Fees charged for services and programs will generate new revenue for local units of government.
- **Shared Services**
Intergovernmental cooperation to share services will be strongly encouraged in the future. Many programs will be providing financial incentives for consolidating or sharing services between government entities.

Agency Contacts:

- **Wis. Dept. of Natural Resources,**
S.E. - Dan Kaemmerer, 414/263-8704
N.E. - Gary Hanson, 920/492-5823
N. - Diane Conklin, 715/635-4130
W.C. - Lavane Hessler, 715/836-6574
S.C. - Stefanie Brouwer, 608/275-3218
- **Wis. Dept. of Commerce,**
Area Dept. Mgr., 800/HELFBUS
- **Wis. Dept. of Transportation,**
Dennis Leong, 608/266-9910
- **Wis. Dept. of Administration,**
CDBG Housing,
Martha Wilson, 608/266-5842
Planning,
Sarah Kemp, 608/264-6117
- **USDA Rural Development,**
Mark Brodziski, 715/345-7610
- **Economic Development Admin.,**
John Peck, 231/938-1712



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Is Your Project Fundable?

Some of the "typical" municipal capital projects receiving grant funds are listed below. If your community has one of these projects, you should investigate your grant opportunities.

- ▼ Municipal Buildings
 - ADA Improvements
 - Fire Stations
 - Community/Senior Centers
- ▼ Water Systems
 - Wells and Reservoirs
 - Treatment Facilities
 - Booster Stations
 - Water Mains
- ▼ Recreation Projects
 - Land Acquisition
 - Park Development
 - Boating Facilities
 - Recreation Trails
- ▼ Storm Water Systems
 - Storm Water Management Plans
 - Detention Basins
 - Storm Sewers
- ▼ Sanitary Sewer Systems
 - Wastewater Treatment Plants
 - Lift Stations
 - Sewer Mains
- ▼ Industrial Park Infrastructure
- ▼ Streets and Roadways
- ▼ Brownfield Redevelopment
- ▼ Water Resources
 - Flood Mitigation
 - Water Quality Facilities
- ▼ Comprehensive Plans

Vierbicher Can Help!

Vierbicher Associates, Inc., has 25 years of grant writing experience. We have assisted local governments obtain nearly \$50M in grant funds and create 80 Tax Incremental Districts.

For more information on available funding, please contact:

Gary W. Becker, CEcD, 800-261-3898
gbec@vierbicher.com
David J. Pawlisch, 800-261-6468
dpaw@vierbicher.com

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Application Deadlines

Infrastructure Programs

Deadline

DNR - Clean Water Fund Application June 30, 2002
DNR - Clean Water Fund (*Intent to Apply*) December 31, 2002
DNR - Safe Drinking Water Act (*Intent to Apply*) December 31, 2002
DNR - Safe Drinking Water Act (*Final Application*) April 30, 2002
COMM - CDBG Public Facilities No Deadline
COMM - CDBG Public Facilities for Econ. Dev. No Deadline
DOT - Trans. Economic. Assist. June 1, Sept. 1, Dec. 1, 2002
EDA - Public Works & Development Grants No Deadline
Rural Dev. - Water & Waste Systems Program No Deadline
Tax Incremental Financing No Deadline

Water Resources Programs

Deadline

DNR - Lake Planning Grants August 1, 2002
DNR - Lake Protection Grants May 1, 2002
DNR - River Planning Grants August 1, 2002
DNR - River Protection Grants May 1, 2002
DNR - Urban Non-Point Source & Storm Water Grant .. May 1, 2002
DNR - Target Runoff Management Grant May 1, 2002
DNR - Municipal Flood Control Grant July 15, 2002

Recreation Programs

Deadline

DNR - Recreation Boating Facilities Quarterly
DNR - Local Park Program May 1, 2002
DNR - Urban Green Space May 1, 2002
WI Conservation Corps Quarterly

Municipal Buildings Programs

Deadline

COMM - CDBG Public Facilities No Deadline
Rural Dev. - Community Facilities Program No Deadline

Economic Development Programs

Deadline

COMM - Development & Enterprise Zone No Deadline
COMM - CDBG-Economic Development No Deadline
Tax Incremental Financing No Deadline

Brownfield Redevelopment Programs

Deadline

COMM - CDBG Blight & Brownfield Redevelopment . No Deadline
COMM - Brownfield Grant Program Fall 2002
DNR - Land Recycling Loan Program (*Intent to Apply*)
..... December 31, 2002
Environmental Remediation TIF No Deadline
Tax Incremental Financing No Deadline

Comprehensive Planning Programs

Deadline

Comprehensive Planning Grants Fall 2002
DOT - SMIP (LE & STP-D) Spring 2003



Engineering, Architecture, Environmental, Surveying, GIS, Community Development, Planning

400 Viking Drive, P.O. Box 379
Reedsburg, WI 53959
(608) 524-6468

6200 Mineral Point Road
Madison, WI 53705-4504
(608) 233-5800

P.O. Box 650
Scofield, WI 54476-0650
(715) 359-2003

P.O. Box 542
Prairie du Chien, WI 53821-0542
(608) 326-1051

www.vierbicher.com