

# Vierbicher *Bulletin*

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Information for Municipal Officials

May 2003

## Public Funding Opportunities

### How To Deal With The Budget Squeeze

It is probably safe to assume local units of government will receive less funding resulting in even further pressure on budgets. In response, alternative sources of revenue and new approaches are being relied upon to fill the gap.

#### Examples of What Communities Can Do

- **Impact Fees**

Impact fees are charged to Developers to cover costs associated with new real estate development.

The City of Reedsburg recently enacted impact fees to offset the costs associated with water supply infrastructure improvements and public parks. The City now generates revenue from each new lot created to ensure adequate funds are available for these purposes.

- **Storm Water Management Utilities (SMU)**

A SMU is a special district that operates similar to water and electric utilities. A utility fee is charged to all customers based on an estimate of their use of storm water facilities.

The Village of Bellevue created a SMU that is now generating \$530,000 of revenue a year. The revenue funds the operation, maintenance and capital improvements of their storm water management program.

- **Public Fire Protection Charges**

Historically, it was common for Public Fire Protection Revenue to be collected through the local tax levy. There is a trend toward shifting these charges to Water Utility Rates. This not only relieves some of the fiscal pressure on the general fund, it may also be a more equitable method to distribute these charges.

- **Shared Services**

Intergovernmental cooperation to share services is strongly encouraged. Many programs provide financial incentives for consolidating or sharing services between government entities.

#### Existing Grant Programs

A struggling economy, war, and a state budget deficit have caused many municipalities to put projects on hold. Fewer projects mean fewer requests for grant funding. Reluctance to implement projects has created funding opportunities for those municipalities willing to move forward with their projects. For example, some state programs are able to fund all eligible applications because available funding exceeds requests.

#### New Initiatives

Many people assume that public funding programs have decreased substantially or dried up all together. In some cases, funding has decreased. However, in other cases funding has increased due to new initiatives. Even during these tough fiscal times, new opportunities are available.

- **Homeland Security and Public Safety** - Since September 11, 2001, a major emphasis has been placed on public safety. This has already created new funding opportunities and will create more in the future.

- **Clean Water Fund and Drinking Water Programs** - Federal funding for these programs have been increased substantially.

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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 27 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:

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## Application Deadlines

| <u>Infrastructure Programs</u>                                   | <u>Deadline</u>               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| DNR - Clean Water Fund Application .....                         | June 30, 2003                 |
| DNR - Clean Water Fund ( <i>Intent to Apply</i> ) .....          | December 31, 2003             |
| DNR - Safe Drinking Water Act ( <i>Intent to Apply</i> ) .....   | December 31, 2003             |
| DNR - Safe Drinking Water Act ( <i>Final Application</i> ) ..... | April 30, 2003                |
| 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, 2003 |
| EDA - Public Works & Development Grants .....                    | No Deadline                   |
| Rural Dev. - Water & Waste Systems Program .....                 | No Deadline                   |
| Tax Incremental Financing .....                                  | No Deadline                   |

| <u>Water Resources Programs</u>                     | <u>Deadline</u> |
|---|-----------------|
| DNR - Lake Planning Grants .....                    | August 1, 2003  |
| DNR - Lake Protection Grants .....                  | May 1, 2003     |
| DNR - River Planning Grants .....                   | August 1, 2003  |
| DNR - River Protection Grants .....                 | May 1, 2003     |
| DNR - Urban Non-Point Source & Storm Water Grant .. | May 1, 2003     |
| DNR - Target Runoff Management Grant .....          | May 1, 2003     |
| DNR - Municipal Flood Control Grant .....           | July 15, 2003   |

| <u>Recreation Programs</u>                | <u>Deadline</u> |
|---|-----------------|
| DNR - Recreation Boating Facilities ..... | Quarterly       |
| DNR - Local Park Program .....            | May 1, 2003     |
| DNR - Urban Green Space .....             | May 1, 2003     |
| WI Conservation Corps .....               | Quarterly       |

| <u>Municipal Buildings Programs</u>             | <u>Deadline</u> |
|---|-----------------|
| COMM - CDBG Public Facilities .....             | No Deadline     |
| Rural Dev. - Community Facilities Program ..... | No Deadline     |

| <u>Economic Development Programs</u>       | <u>Deadline</u> |
|--|-----------------|
| COMM - Development & Enterprise Zone ..... | No Deadline     |
| COMM - CDBG-Economic Development .....     | No Deadline     |
| Tax Incremental Financing .....            | No Deadline     |

| <u>Brownfield Redevelopment Programs</u>                     | <u>Deadline</u>   |
|--|-------------------|
| COMM - CDBG Blight & Brownfield Redevelopment .              | No Deadline       |
| DNR - Land Recycling Loan Program ( <i>Intent to Apply</i> ) |                   |
| .....  | December 31, 2003 |
| Environmental Remediation TIF .....                          | No Deadline       |
| Tax Incremental Financing .....                              | No Deadline       |

| <u>Comprehensive Planning Programs</u> | <u>Deadline</u> |
|--|-----------------|
| Comprehensive Planning Grants .....    | Fall 2003       |
| DOT - SMIP (LE & STP-D) .....          | Spring 2004     |



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