

Vierbicher *Bulletin*

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Information for Municipal Officials

June 2004

Public Funding Opportunities

Major Funding Program Update

• *Department of Commerce*

Federal CDBG funding remains stable and is anticipated to remain at the same level. The federal government continues to emphasize that CDBG funds be used in a timely manner. According to Commerce's bureau director Jim Frymark, "Commerce wants to fund projects that are ready to go." In order to do so, Commerce staff are looking for ways to promote and implement Governor Doyle's Grow Wisconsin Plan. The plan focuses on economic development, and creating and retaining good paying jobs.

Commerce wants to fund projects that contribute to community vitality and are a catalyst to additional investment in a community. These projects should make a difference within a community and enhance livability. Attractive projects include downtown redevelopment and community senior centers. Commerce believes there should be more local responsibility to maintain basic services, such as sewer and water systems.

• *Rural Development*

A strong demand for grant funds for sewer and water projects in rural Wisconsin continues. Director Mark Brodziski shared his comments with Dave Pawlisch, planning and community development manager for Vierbicher Associates, Inc.

Rural Development's backlog of applicants is lower than previous years. The most common project types continue to be small rural communities and sanitary districts implementing water and wastewater projects to alleviate serious health and safety issues. The amount of grant funds has shifted downward, while loan funds have increased. Grant funds available in 2004 are \$9,468,000 versus

\$10,000,000 in 2003. Loan funds are \$22,600,000 versus \$18,000,000 in 2003.

• *Environmental Improvement Fund (EIF)*

The Wisconsin EIF includes the Clean Water Fund and Safe Drinking Water Loan Program. Bob Ramharter, from Wisconsin DNR, states the Clean Water Fund will have enough money to fund all applicants of the regular Clean Water Fund Loan Program in fiscal year July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005. However, the hardship grant program will once again be under-subscribed. To obtain grant funds, an applicant's median household income (MHI) must be less than 80 percent of the state MHI and projected user rates must exceed two percent of MHI. Those criteria have made it difficult to find eligible applicants.

In next year's biennium, there is concern that state funds may be cut from the Clean Water Fund Program to help balance the budget. The possibility looms that there may only be \$70,000,000 of funding with demand for \$150,000,000 in the next budget cycle. The Safe Drinking Water Program's funding is federal dollars, and it is anticipated that funding will remain stable. The program funds approximately \$25,000,000 of projects annually.

Start Preparing Now!

Tips for preparing successful funding applications:

- Identify Priority Projects
- Identify Funding Programs
- Match Programs to Priority Projects
- Understand Schedule and Documentation Requirements
- Plan Ahead!!

Agency Contacts:

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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 28 years of grant writing experience. We have assisted local governments obtain nearly \$50M in grant funds and create 90 Tax Incremental Districts.

For more information on available funding, please contact:

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Application Deadlines

Infrastructure Programs	Deadline
DNR - Clean Water Fund Application	June 30, 2004
DNR - Clean Water Fund (<i>Intent to Apply</i>)	December 31, 2004
DNR - Safe Drinking Water Act (<i>Intent to Apply</i>)	December 31, 2004
DNR - Safe Drinking Water Act (<i>Final Application</i>)	April 30, 2005
COMM - CDBG Public Facilities	No Deadline
COMM - CDBG Public Facilities for Econ. Dev.	No Deadline
DOT - Transportation Economic Assistance	No Deadline
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	February 1 & August 1, 2004
DNR - Lake Protection Grants	May 1, 2005
DNR - River Planning Grants	May 1, 2005
DNR - River Protection Grants	May 1, 2005
DNR - Urban Non-Point Source & Storm Water Grant	Spring, 2005
DNR - Targeted Runoff Management Grant	Spring, 2005
DNR - Municipal Flood Control Grant	April 15, 2005

Recreation Programs	Deadline
DNR - Recreation Boating Facilities	Quarterly
DNR - Local Park Program	May 1, 2005
DNR - Urban Green Space	May 1, 2005

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
DNR - Land Recycling Loan Program (<i>Intent to Apply</i>)	December 31, 2004
Environmental Remediation TIF	No Deadline
Tax Incremental Financing	No Deadline

Comprehensive Planning Programs	Deadline
Comprehensive Planning Grants	Fall 2004
DOT - SMIP (LE & STP-D)	Spring 2006



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