

Memorandum

To:	Chief Elected Official, Water Pollution Control Authority, Superintendent, Consulting Engineer, and Regional Planning Organization
From:	Nisha Patel, P.E., Director, Water Planning and Management Division \mathcal{NP}
Date:	November 20, 2024
Re:	Call for Projects for Wastewater Infrastructure Improvements Clean Water Fund Priority List for Fiscal Year 2026 and 2027

The Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) is preparing the Clean Water Fund Priority List for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 and FY 2027 (7/1/26 - 6/30/27) and is requesting that you provide us with information on any planning, design, or construction project(s) you intend to start between the period listed above.

Through the Clean Water Fund, DEEP provides grants and low-interest loans for infrastructure projects to meet clean water needs such as addressing combined sewer overflows, nutrient pollution, wastewater collection infrastructure needs, and projects using green infrastructure and addressing resiliency. For FY 2026 and FY 2027, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) is expected to continue to supplement the Clean Water Fund. BIL implementation is expected to prioritize clean water projects in <u>distressed communities</u> (as defined by CT's Department of Economic and Community Development) and projects seeking to address combined and sanitary sewer overflow (CSO/SSO) removal.

This Call for Projects Request Form again includes the **Green Components** section that was first introduced in the FY 2024 and 2025 Call for Projects Form. The purpose of this section is to encourage municipalities to take advantage of the funding opportunity if their projects meet EPA's requirements for green project/component funding. Municipalities can identify key components within their projects that will either provide a reduction in energy consumption, reduce inflow and infiltration, or install various types of green infrastructure. Examples of projects that fit this category are further detailed in EPA's Green Project Reserve Crosswalk Table.

For FY 2026 and FY 2027, additional updates to the form have been incorporated. Starting on the first page, municipalities will now be able to categorize project types in numerical order according to relevance. Multiple project types can still be selected; however, the numerical system allows DEEP to categorize projects most accurately for funding and prioritize funding

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consistent with the Priority Project Ranking System (RCSA Section 22a-482-1(c)(1) through (5)) of the <u>Clean Water Fund Regulations</u>.

A new section titled **"Supplementary Information**" has also been included. It includes specific information regarding the sewered population impacted by the project, project location, project impact on potable water supply and water resource values, whether the project aids in the elimination of SSOs, and whether the project enhances phosphorus/nitrogen removal. This section allows municipalities to provide further details to aid DEEP in the evaluation of the projects for the Priority Project Ranking System which includes priority rating criteria, project ranking mechanism, and order of priority funding.

Please be aware that your municipality **must** complete a Project Request Form for **ALL NEW AND EXISTING** projects for which you may seek funding. Each phase of a project requires a separate form (e.g. design and construction of the same project will require two (2) separate forms). **Please do not assume** that if your project has been included on a previous Priority List, that it will be included in the evaluation for FY 2026 and FY 2027.

Any questions on this form can be directed to our general email at <u>DEEP.CWF@ct.gov</u>. If phone is preferred, please contact Ivonne Hall at 860-798-1164 or Karriem Kazu Folger at (860) 424-3742.

Please complete your forms and submit them via email at <u>DEEP.CWF@ct.gov</u> by the deadline of Friday, January 17, 2024.