

Water Sector Program – Phase 2
Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the link for the Phase 2 portal?

<https://wwwcfprd.doa.louisiana.gov/WaterSector/>

2. If you have hired an engineer for a previous round of water sector funding and are submitting for the same client, do you have to be re-procured or hired?

The funding source for WSP-Phase 2 is state funds. Federal procurement requirements do not apply.

3. If a system is able to match and can include an additional 2-5% over the 25% match requirement, how should this be identified on the form?

The actual match percentage that the system is committing should be entered into the field. For example, if the system is committing a total of 28% match, then 28 should be entered.

4. Do you request a waiver if you want to provide some match funds but not the total 25% required?

Yes. If the system is committing less than the 25% match required, then a waiver must be requested.

5. Will a system be awarded partial “project readiness” points for preliminary plans? Or is it limited to final plans ready to submit for permit only?

Points will only be awarded as follows: Five points will be awarded if agreements (engineering, consolidation, etc.) are executed or an engineering report is complete (System Improvement Plan, Preliminary Engineering Report, etc.). Five points will be awarded if plans and specifications are complete and ready to submit to LDH for permitting. Five points will be awarded if the LDH permit for construction has been issued for all projects involved in the application. Five points will be awarded if all acquisition required is complete.

6. Is the presentation available for download?

Yes. The presentation can be found on our website at <https://www.doa.la.gov/oa/ocd-lga/water-sector-program-phase-1-and-phase-2/water-sector-program-phase-2/>.

7. What documentation will be required to request the match waiver?

Whatever documentation supports the reason the system is requesting a waiver.

8. If the client is submitting a “ready to proceed” project which has completed plans and specifications, can the engineering fees paid for that plan preparation count towards the local match even if they are paid prior to funding award or execution of the CEA?

Yes, the fees can be used as match funds if they were not paid by state funds.

9. If a System requests a full or partial match waiver, do they forfeit the 10 pts available for the match documentation?

If they request a full waiver, then there would be no match documentation to submit so there would be no points. If they request a partial waiver, then they can provide match documentation for the match funds they will be providing and can earn points.

10. How recent do the Emergency Response Plan and Risk and Resiliency plans need to be in order to count towards the Resiliency score? Within last 3 or 5 years?

The Emergency Response Plans for water systems have been required since 2002. They are considered living documents since systems should be updating and improving them over time. So, the most important factor in scoring will be is the plan adequate. For example, if a large water system turns in a three-paragraph document, then it would probably not score very high. Risk and Resiliency Plans are a recent requirement by EPA through the AWIA Act. Those should be dated within the last 3 years. However, the focus will be on whether they system has a RRP and if it is adequate. There was a template that EPA allowed systems to use so that would be a great start for anyone looking to complete one that did not have to complete one under the Act.

11. Can prior obligated Capital Outlay, LGAP or CWEF funds be used for the local match?

They can be used on the project, but they cannot be counted in the match commitment percentage. They are all state funds, which are not eligible.

12. If an applicant is requesting the full match waiver, then the engineering fees would be paid for by the grant funds. I understand that because the grant funds in this round are state funds, we will not be required to follow the federal procurement requirements of 2 CFR 200. However, in establishing or negotiating the engineering fees, should we be using the guidelines and fee curves established by FP&C or CDBG or is there another engineering fee guidance document specific to this funding?

We have not established a fee schedule that should be used. I think the one used by FP&C would be fine.

13. If there is a municipality who wants to apply with match funds provided for with loan funds but loan closing will not be until February or March will the system receive any credit for the match portion? The water system has a commitment letter from LDH for the loan and is awaiting approval. Bond commission approval has been obtained.

No points will be awarded for matching funds verification if it involves loan funds and the fully executed closing documents are not included with the application submittal.