

PALM BEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: September 16, 2025 Consent [X] Regular []
Public Hearing []

Department: Water Utilities Department

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to:

- A.) **authorize** the Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department (PBCWUD) to pursue funding from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program for a grant amount estimated up to \$2,000,000 to reduce cybersecurity vulnerabilities; and
- B.) **delegate authority to** the County Administrator, or designee, to sign all grant application forms and supporting documents and complete all registration requirements, execute the forthcoming grant agreement and all future time extensions, task assignments, certifications, and other forms associated with the forthcoming grant agreement and any necessary minor amendments that do not substantially change the scope of work, terms, or conditions of the forthcoming grant agreement.

Summary: EPA has allotted approximately \$9.5 million for fiscal year 2025-2026 for the Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program to assist medium and large size public water systems with protecting drinking water sources from natural hazards, extreme weather events, and cybersecurity threats. Grant applications are due to EPA by October 6, 2025. Funding for this project will aid PBCWUD's efforts to enhance cybersecurity framework and protect critical infrastructure. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CSDA) number is 66.488. **The EPA grant requires a 10% match, which will be funded from a one (1)-time expenditure from Water Utilities user fees, connection fees and balance brought forward. Countywide (MWJ)**

Background and Justification: The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) authorizes the EPA to establish the Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program. This grant program assists medium and large size public water systems with protecting drinking water sources from natural hazards, extreme weather events, and cybersecurity threats. Approximately \$9.5 million is available and eligible applicants for this grant program include public water systems that serve a population of 10,000 people or more. Projects or programs that may be funded through this opportunity are those which aim to increase the resilience of a water system to natural hazards, extreme weather events, or reduce cybersecurity threats.

Attachments:

1. EPA Grant Program Request for Applications

Recommended By: Ali-13aya A 9/15/25
Department Director Date

Approved By: [Signature] 9/10/25
Chief Deputy County Administrator Date

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Capital Expenditures	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Operating Costs	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
External Revenues	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Program Income (County)	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
In-Kind Match County	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
NET FISCAL IMPACT	<u>\$0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
# ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Budget Account No.: **Fund** **Dept.** **Unit** **Object**

Is Item Included in Current Budget? Yes ____ No ____

Does this item include the use of federal funds? Yes ____ No ____

Is this item using State Funds? Yes ____ No ____

Reporting Category N/A

B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:

No Fiscal Impact

C. Department Fiscal Review: Joany Soreman

III. REVIEW COMMENTS

A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Development and Control Comments:

Lisa M. [Signature] 9/8/2025
OFMB QA 9/8
 Att 9/9

[Signature] 9/9/25
Contract Development and Control

B. Legal Sufficiency:

[Signature] 9/19/25
Assistant County Attorney

C. Other Department Review:

Department Director

This summary is not to be used as a basis for payment.

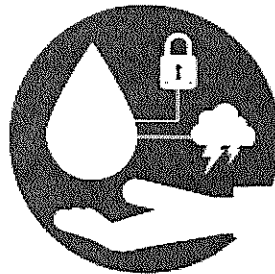


Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program


The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) authorizes the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish the *Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program*. This grant program assists medium and large size public water systems with protecting drinking water sources from natural hazards, extreme weather events, and cybersecurity threats.

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Available Funding

The FY 25 competition is now open. Approximately **\$9.5M** in competitive funding is available under this opportunity for eligible applicants seeking funding for eligible project activities identified in the NOFO. The application period is open until October 6, 2025, and can be found on www.grants.gov  [<https://www.grants.gov>](https://www.grants.gov) under opportunity number **EPA-OW-OGWDW-25-01**, assistance listing number **66.488**. Applicants will have 60 days to apply.

Types of Projects that can be funded through this Grant Program

Funding through this grant program must be used for the planning, design, construction, implementation, operation, or maintenance of a program or project that increases resilience of public water systems to natural hazards. Examples of projects include:

- Conservation of water or the enhancement of water use efficiency
- Modification or relocation of existing drinking water system infrastructure significantly impaired by natural hazards
- Design or construction of desalination facilities to serve existing communities
- Enhancement of water supply through watershed management and source water protection
- Enhancement of energy efficiency or the use and generation of renewable energy in the conveyance or treatment of drinking water
- Development and implementation of measures to increase the resilience of the drinking water system to natural hazards and extreme weather events; or to reduce cybersecurity vulnerabilities
- Formation of regional water partnerships to collaboratively address documented water shortages

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants for this grant program include public water systems that serve a population of 10,000 people or more. Projects or programs that may be funded through this opportunity are those which aim to increase the resilience of a water

system to natural hazards, extreme weather events, or reduce cybersecurity threats.

A midsize community is identified in Section 1459F(f)(2) of the SDWA as one that has a population of equal to or greater than 10,000 individuals and fewer than 100,000 individuals, and a large community is identified as one that has a population equal to or greater than 100,000 individuals.

Timeline

A general overview of the FY25 grant cycle is outlined below.




How to Apply


The grant program is a competitive program. Applications must be submitted exclusively through [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov/) [<https://www.grants.gov/>](https://www.grants.gov/), under opportunity number **EPA-OW-OGWDW-25-01**, assistance listing number **66.488**.

Application instructions are outlined in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (**NOFO**), posted here: [📄 EPA-OW-OGWDW-25-01 \(pdf\) <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2025-08/epa-ow-ogwdw-25-01.pdf> \(579.76 KB\)](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2025-08/epa-ow-ogwdw-25-01.pdf)

Frequently Asked Questions

 Midsize and Large FAQs (pdf) <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2025-08/faqs_-midsizeandlarge_resilience-fy25.pdf> (130.9 KB)

Factsheet

 Resilience Grants Factsheet (pdf) <<https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-07/updated%20resilience%20grants%20factsheet.pdf>> (316.22 KB)

Outreach and Public Education


As part of the outreach campaign for this grant program, EPA will host webinars pertaining to drinking water system infrastructure resilience. Relevant presentations and webinars will be posted in this section as they become available.

NEW Upcoming Webinar Presentation

EPA will host a webinar about the Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program on **August 19, 2025 from 2:00-3:00PM EST**. Click here to register for the webinar.

<<https://epa.gov//gdit.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/qayizmqiqdg-ueehatgkbg#/registration>>

Additional Resources

Cyber-attacks against public water systems are increasing. Implementing basic cyber hygiene practices can help your utility prevent, detect, respond, and recover from cyber incidents. Click here to learn more about EPA's Cybersecurity Resources for Drinking Water and Wastewater Systems.  <<https://www.epa.gov/cybersecurity/resources-for-drinking-water-and-wastewater-systems>>

Improve the resilience of your water utility today. Click here to explore EPA's innovative tools and resources to support drinking water system resilience.

<<https://epa.gov/waterresilience>>

Build America, Buy America (BABA) Act

Overview

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act ("IIJA") includes the Build America, Buy America Act ("the Act"). The Act strengthens Made in America Laws and will bolster America's industrial base, protect national security, and support high-paying jobs. The Act requires that no later than May 14, 2022, the head of each covered Federal agency shall ensure that "none of the funds made available for a Federal financial assistance program for infrastructure, including each deficient program, may be obligated for a project unless all of the ***iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials*** used in the project are produced in the United States."

The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Made in America Office released its guidance for implementing the Build America, Buy America Act <<https://epa.gov/baba>>. In regards to grant funding, OMB is proposing to revise the current OMB Guidance for Grants and Agreements [↗](#). The proposed amendments are intended to provide guidance and clarify requirements for the manufactured products content test and non-ferrous construction materials.

Webinar presentations

- Build America, Buy America Act Implementation Webinar Presentation (April 2022) (pdf) <https://epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-05/ow_babaimplementationwebinarpresentation-apr2022.pdf> (1.35 MB)
- Build America, Buy America Act Office of Water Implementation Procedures Webinar (November 2022) (pdf) <<https://epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-11/baba%20ow%20implementation%20procedures%20webinar.pdf>> (3.61 MB)

The Drinking Water Grants Program team is working to standardize and implement the process to support grant recipients with the BABA requirements and how to request/apply for a waiver if they are eligible. In that effort, we have established a grant inbox for the purpose of questions and eventually receiving waiver requests. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the grants team points of contact at HQ or send your questions/requests to BABA-DrinkingWaterGrants@epa.gov

Contact Information

Email: Resiliencygrant@epa.gov

Last updated on August 11, 2025