The Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program accelerates investment in our nation's water infrastructure by providing long-term, low-cost supplemental loans for nationally and regionally significant projects. Borrowers benefit from receiving low, fixed interest rate loans with flexible financial terms.

MULTIPLE PROJECTS FINANCED BY A SINGLE WIFIA LOAN

Borrowers gain the certainty and ability to finance smaller projects by combining them into a single loan.

The WIFIA program can finance multiple eligible projects through a single loan if they are:

- Secured by a common security pledge.
- Serve a common purpose.
- Submitted in a single letter of interest and application.

By including multiple projects in a single loan, borrowers gain:

- Financing certainty for all the included projects expected to be constructed in a 5-year period. Borrowers can request disbursements for any project included in the loan immediately following closing until one year after substantial completion of the final project.
- The ability to use WIFIA loans to finance smaller projects that would not individually meet the WIFIA program’s minimum project cost requirement, $5 million for small communities and $20 million all other communities.

Borrowers have the flexibility to combine eligible projects based on their needs:

- Borrowers that need to complete many projects that are similar in type and construction scope, such as a pipe rehabilitation or manhole replacement program, can request financing for implementing the program over a set time up to 5 years. These projects can be located across a broad geographic area and specific project locations do not need to all be defined before loan closing.
- Borrowers that need to construct several projects to achieve a specific purpose, such as controlling combined sewer overflows, managing stormwater, or recycling water, can submit an application for projects which are each different in scope, for example, treatment plant improvements and pipe rehabilitation. In this case, each project needs to have defined locations and scopes of work at loan closing. Project may be constructed concurrently or sequentially during an approximately 5-year construction period.
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CASE STUDY: DEKALB COUNTY’S PRIORITY AREAS SEWER ASSESSMENT AND REHABILITATION PROGRAM

LOCATION: Decatur, Georgia
WIFIA LOAN AMOUNT: $265 million

DeKalb County will improve its aging sanitary sewer system by assessing and rehabilitating at least 700,000 linear feet of sewer collection system including trunk sewers across the county to reduce incidences of sanitary sewer overflows. Its project will also replace approximately 45,000 linear feet of water main to address low pressures and flows in its water distribution system in the western part of the county. Since needed scope of work, timeframe, and cost of water main replacement are known, DeKalb County can take advantage of one of the WIFIA program’s flexibilities and add ready-to-proceed projects to the WIFIA project list once the locations are defined.

CASE STUDY: CITY OF CORTLAND’S CLINTON AVENUE GATEWAY PROJECT

LOCATION: Cortland, New York
WIFIA LOAN AMOUNT: $16 million

The City of Cortland will replace aged water, sanitary sewer, and storm drainage with a new water main, services, hydrants and valves. All the projects in the loan are to improve the operational efficiency of water and sewer systems by replacing systems that are over one hundred years old with high failure rates. The projects will result in proper water and sewer main separation, reduced treatment costs for water and wastewater, and overall improved resident health. Combining the projects into a single WIFIA loan helps bring cost certainty to full project scope, ensuring that all phases are constructed as planned.