

DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND



WATER TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS

State Program:

Delaware Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program

Assistance Recipient:

City of Harrington

Project Name:

City of Harrington Water Main Systems Improvements

Initial Agreement Date:

2022



Project Description

Through the acquisition of multiple funding streams, the City of Harrington managed to upgrade significant portions of its water system serving both residential and commercial users. The City of Harrington's original, 50-year-old distribution system used 2- and 4-inch galvanized steel pipes. They had small water mains made of aging galvanized steel that were prone to leaks due to corrosion and pitting. This led to several water main breaks and, ultimately, led to the disruption of water service in a disadvantaged community.

To address this problem, the City co-funded a \$5.3 million project to upgrade this aging infrastructure using DWSRF and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) funding. The City received a \$4.1 million DWSRF principal forgiveness loan, a \$1.1 million USDA loan, and a \$100,000 USDA grant. An affordability analysis showed that the cost of the project would significantly affect the 3,500 people served by the water utility. Without principal forgiveness and grant funding, water rates for customers were predicted to rise \$715 per year, which is 3.5% of the median household income of the community. These results, in addition to the community being considered disadvantaged, made the City eligible for a DWSRF principal forgiveness loan.

The City of Harrington also partnered with the Delaware Rural Water Association, which provided technical assistance for the identification of pipes and coordination between contractors and engineers. This project successfully replaced the old, under-sized pipes with approximately 8,400 linear feet of 8-inch water main, 6,000 linear feet of 10-inch water main, and associated fire hydrants. By taking advantage of fiscal opportunities created through the DWSRF and USDA, the City of Harrington reduced their potential for water outages and water contamination and improved storage capacity, flow, and fire protection for the city.



**DWSRF Assistance
Provided**
\$4.1M



**Principal
Forgiveness**
\$4.1M



**Funding from
Other Sources**
\$1.2M

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To learn more about the DWSRF program, please visit: www.epa.gov/dwsrf