



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY  
Drinking Water And Environmental Health Division

**DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND (DWSRF)  
PRIORITY RANKING WORKSHEET GUIDANCE DOCUMENT**

This document provides guidelines for completing the form [EQP2285 DWSRF Priority Ranking Worksheet](#).

**General Instructions**

DWSRF project planning documents are required to be accompanied by a Priority Ranking Worksheet (worksheet) filled out by the applicant. Drinking Water and Environmental Health Division (DWEHD) staff are responsible for verifying the validity of the points that were self-awarded by the applicant within that worksheet. The goal is to provide accurate project ranking by having the applicant fill the worksheet out using this guidance. DWEHD staff will then review and verify that the accuracy of points awarded aligns with the proposed work included in the final project planning document.

Points being awarded should be clearly identified in the project planning document. It is advised that you reference, in the comment section, where in the project planning document you have identified how the points qualify. The more justification contained in the project planning document to support the awarded points, the more likely the points will be awarded. The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) makes the final decision on points awarded for each project. Applicants will be made aware of EGLE's scoring when the draft project priority list (PPL) is released.

When the applicant completes the worksheet, the category and overall total points awarded will automatically calculate. At the bottom of the worksheet, the applicant must enter the total project cost to determine the cost per capita. The cost per capita will be used as a tiebreaker, when necessary. Only include the proposed work to be financed in the current funding year when completing this worksheet.

Please use the following guidance to score the project categories appropriately:

**I. Drinking Water Regulatory Compliance**

**A. Facility Upgrades to Maintain Compliance.**

1. Upgrades to improve or maintain compliance with existing drinking water standards, treatment techniques (TT), or system capacity requirements.
2. New drinking water supply to address compliance issues or is designed to maintain compliance with existing drinking water standards, TTs, or system capacity requirements.

B. Water system regionalization efforts among multiple public water supplies (PWS) to support improved technical, managerial, and financial (TMF) capacity. (*This is scoring the supply's efforts to date, not the project work.*)

1. The applicant documents managerial or financial capacity resource sharing to increase compliance, efficiency, or cost sharing to reduce impacts to rate payers.
2. Any current regionalization efforts to support TMF capacity by the applicant or regional provider who provide regional services for customer supplies. In this situation, points are awarded to the provider or any participating water supplies, such as:
  - a. The project results in the applicant supplying water to another PWS that currently has their own source, or the applicant purchasing water from another PWS and abandoning their source. In either scenario, the applicant maintains their Water Supply Serial Number (WSSN).
  - b. Water analysis and/or routine sampling (bacteriological, lead/copper water quality parameters, or disinfection byproducts) for customer supplies by the provider.
  - c. Meter reading or billing services for multiple supplies.
  - d. A procurement consortium for chemicals, fuel, parts, services, etc.
  - e. Shared operations between multiple water supplies.

*Example:* Water supplier helps or operates the customer supply.  
The wholesaler is providing some services to improve the customer's managerial capacity.

- f. These points cannot be solely awarded for contracts with non-water suppliers, nor are these points to be awarded for emergency service agreements. The idea is that there must be a routine and continuous agreement for shared services or partnerships that reduce costs or technical/managerial needs.

C. Consolidation.

Points are awarded for **each** community water supply (CWS) and other PWS that, per the project, will be connected to the applicant's supply (*No deficiency with existing PWSs is needed to qualify for points.*)

1. To be eligible for these points the project must eliminate a regulated PWS through consolidation, such as:
  - a. Two or more PWSs merging into an authority under one WSSN.
  - b. Small PWS being absorbed by municipal CWS and no longer a separate PWS.
  - c. Manufactured Housing Community being served by a municipal CWS.
  - d. Type II or Type III PWS connecting to a municipal CWS.
2. Provide all the WSSN(s) for the consolidated supplies in the comment field, if applicable.

D. Project addresses deficiencies identified in an enforcement order – (CWS or Noncommunity Water Supply).

Project addresses any open court or enforcement order against a PWS including a formal Administrative Consent Order or Administrative Compliance Agreement, or a department order, to correct deficiencies with the drinking water supply and achieve compliance with the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act, 1976 PA 399, as amended.

E. Source Water Protection Efforts.

Project that includes groundwater modeling to define the ten-year time of travel delineation for a new well/well field or for increasing capacity of an existing well/well field. Project includes the proper plugging of abandoned well(s). Active Source Water Protection Programs are not included in this section but are scored separately in Category III, C.

## II. Public Health Protection

### A. Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR).

Projects that undertake LSLRs in any capacity. The project planning document must be clear and specific that lead and galvanized previously connected to lead (GPCL) service lines have been identified and will be replaced as part of the project. Generalized statements about replacing lead or GPCL service lines if encountered will not receive these points.

### B. Acute violations of [the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \(USEPA\) National Primary Drinking Water Regulations](#) (USEPA standards) or TTs.

Project addresses current and ongoing acute maximum contaminant levels (MCL) or TTs. These include nitrate, *E. coli*, surface water treatment rules, etc.

### C. Non-acute violations of [USEPA standards](#) or Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act standards.

Project addresses current and ongoing non-acute MCLs, health advisory levels (HAL), or TTs. These include arsenic, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), volatile organic compounds (VOC), lead and copper action level exceedances (ALE), radium, manganese, etc.

### D. History of Proactive Public Health Protection (*this is scoring the supply, not the project*).

Points are awarded if the water supply and associated consecutive systems have had **no** health-based violations (MCLs and TT violations). Typically, these points cannot be awarded if points were awarded in either B or C of this category unless the project is consolidation, and the consolidating water supplier meets the requirements.

## III. Drinking Water Quality Standards

### A. Looping to eliminate dead-end watermains or installation of storage tank mixing or equivalent.

1. Five (5) points are awarded if the project involves looping of watermains to eliminate dead-ends, water age, etc.
2. Five (5) points are awarded if the project is installing a storage tank mixing system or equivalent. Must provide a benefit to water quality.

B. Change to more protective/higher quality source water.

Purpose of the project must include infrastructure to switch to a more protective source water or higher quality source water to address documented water quality concerns such as arsenic, iron, identified contamination, etc.

1. Connecting to a higher quality, more protective source water for either the purposes of addressing TMF or water quality issues at the existing water supply.
2. New wells/intakes, upgrades, or corrections to existing wells/intakes that will provide a higher quality of water entering the system.
3. Installing a raw water reservoir to mitigate fluctuating source water quality.
4. The applicant's project supplies a new water source to address a water quality issue at an existing PWS.

C. Active Source Water Protection Program.

1. A source water protection program (SWPP) or wellhead protection plan (WHPP) must be current and approved by EGLE to be considered active. To receive these points, EGLE must have an active and approved SWPP or WHPP on file by June 1, when the project planning documents are due.
2. Customer supplies served by regional water systems that have an active and approved SWPPs or WHPPs are awarded these points.

D. Treatment upgrades to address water quality.

The project includes upgrades to the treatment system to address public health or aesthetic water quality issues. These points should not be awarded for restoring treatment back to its original functionality. These points are for new or expansions of treatment that have not been previously permitted.

#### IV. Improving Infrastructure

##### A. Asset management implementation.

The proposed project must address needs in a capital improvement plan, reliability study, or equivalent, acceptable to EGLE. Updates to these plans are acceptable during the project planning phase and should be submitted to EGLE. Projects primarily for fire protection or future growth are ineligible even if they are included in local planning documents.

##### B. Project includes infrastructure assets for multiple systems.

Technical capacity resource sharing of infrastructure assets across neighboring systems including tanks, wells, intakes, regional watermains, interconnections, etc. These points cannot be awarded for systems that are consolidating and thus removing a WSSN.

##### C. Project includes multiple asset classes or financing sources.

For projects that combine their DWSRF project with other sources of funding, such as the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development (RD), grants, loans, other matching sources, etc.

1. Points are awarded for CWSRF applications submitted and the projects align with the scope of the project planning document for the DWSRF project. For example, opening the road once to update more than just the drinking water utility infrastructure.
2. Points are awarded for USDA RD applications or other grant applications with projects that align with the scope of the DWSRF project planning document to reduce the overall burden of the DWSRF program to fund the proposed project.
3. Points awarded if other funding sources are used to partially fund the work in the project planning document, such as local matching funds or special assessment districts of at least 10 percent of the overall project cost. All work must be included in scope of the final project planning document along with documentation of this other funding source.
4. Roads cannot be considered a different asset unless separate funding is being secured and coordinated to reduce the proposed DWSRF project funding request. For example, if separate funds are being used to do road surface restoration or street reconstruction related to water main projects.

## V. Affordability/Disadvantaged Applicants

*This category will be completed based on the applicant's overburdened worksheet submitted to EGLE.*

### A. Overburdened communities.

As determined by EGLE for the current fiscal year. Determination, review data, and required forms are on the [State Revolving Fund: Affordability Criteria](#) website.

### B. Significantly overburdened communities.

Note that applicants can only be classified as either overburdened or significantly overburdened, not both.

## Helpful Information

- You may not award partial points in any category. Points are to be awarded as all or nothing with the exception of Category I, C, where you get a point allotment for every CWS or other PWS, as indicated.
- Only score the work included in the project planning document to be funded in the current funding year. This needs to be specified in the project planning document. All work being requested to be funded in the current funding year should be scored. If the project is phased over multiple years, only work to be funded in the current funding year can be considered in the scoring for that year.
- If you have any questions, please contact your [district engineer](#).

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If you need this information in an alternate format, call 800-662-9278 or contact [EGLE-Accessibility@Michigan.gov](mailto:EGLE-Accessibility@Michigan.gov).

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