



Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund?

A. Canada and British Columbia are investing up to \$373.6 million under the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund (CWWF) program to support local infrastructure projects in communities across the province. The federal government will contribute \$225.1 million and the provincial government will contribute \$148.5 million to the total program funds with the remainder of funds coming from the funding recipients.

Q. When can we submit an application?

A. The application intake is now open. The application intake will close November 23, 2016.

Q. Do we need to provide a council resolution?

A. Yes. If a council resolution cannot be completed prior to the application deadline, notify the Ministry and provide a resolution date. Details on the resolution requirements are found in Section 5.1 in the Program Guide.

Q. What is the process for submitting an application to the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund?

A. Applicants must complete the [Online Application Form](#) and submit online. Before submitting an application, please refer to the [Clean Water and Wastewater Fund Program Guide](#) and the [Application Questions sample](#) to help guide your application. These documents provide additional information that will help in the preparation of an application.

Mandatory CWWF documentation can be emailed or delivered to:

Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
PO Box 9838 Stn Prov Govt
4th Floor 800 Johnson St.
Victoria, BC V8W 9T1
Phone: 250-387-4060
Email: infra@gov.bc.ca



Q. How many applications can we submit during the intake?

A. Municipalities may submit **two** applications. The applications may be for two capital projects or one capital project and one planning project or two planning projects.

Regional Districts may submit **one** application for each community in their area. A community is defined as a settlement area within a regional district electoral area or an established or proposed service area.

Q. We submitted an application under the New Build Canada Fund – Small Communities Fund second intake (2016). What is the status of the applications and can the project also be considered under the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund intake. Do we need to resubmit an application?

A. Applications to the second intake of the New Build Canada Fund – Small Communities Fund (NBCF-SCF) are still under consideration but may also be eligible under the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund. Please refer to the [Program Guide](#) for program requirements including project criteria and project timelines.

In order to be considered under CWWF, a new application must be submitted online. Note the application and supporting documentation is different from the NBCF-SCF application. Applicants that submitted applications in the second intake of NBCF-SCF will have read only access to their online application. Users may use the copy/paste functionality as needed to re-submit the CWWF application. There is no limit to the number of draft applications for an applicant; however, eligible applicants (see section 2.1 of [Program Guide](#)) may submit only **two** applications.

Q. We submitted an application under the New Build Canada Fund – Small Communities Fund which was not successful in the first intake (2015) and we want the project to be considered under the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund intake. Do we need to resubmit an application?

A. Yes. You should contact Ministry staff to discuss your previous project application to NBCF-SCF and areas where improvements can be made prior to submitting your CWWF application.

Applications not approved under the first intake of the New Build Canada Fund – Small Communities Fund (NBCF-SCF) must be re-submitted online using the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund application. Note the application and supporting documentation is different from the NBCF-SCF application. There is no limit to the number of draft applications for an applicant; however, eligible applicants (see section 2.1 of [Program Guide](#)) may submit only **two** applications.



Q. Who is eligible to apply to the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund?

A. The following are eligible applicants for the purposes of the CWWF:

- A municipal or regional government established by or under British Columbia legislation.

Q. Can improvement districts apply for funding under the CWWF?

A. Improvement Districts are not eligible to apply. Applications must be made by the local government. If the application is successful in obtaining program funding, the ownership of the infrastructure and associated assets must be transferred to the sponsoring local government. Projects that have already passed referendum supporting transfer will be given a priority over those that have not.

Q. What category of projects can we apply for?

A. Eligible project categories are:

- Planning and Design Work
- Drinking Water
- Stormwater
- Wastewater

Q. What is an eligible infrastructure project?

A. Eligible drinking water, stormwater or wastewater infrastructure projects are: projects that are “publicly or privately owned tangible assets in British Columbia primarily for public use or benefit”. To be eligible for funding, a project must:

- a) Demonstrate that it will be able to operate and maintain the resulting infrastructure over the long term;
- b) Fall within one of the applicable project (see 3.3 of the [CWWF Program Guide](#)) and investment categories (see 3.5 of the [CWWF Program Guide](#)); and meet one or more of the project outcomes;
- c) Be for, rehabilitation, expansion, asset management, or design and planning, or new construction of infrastructure, excluding normal maintenance or operation;
- d) The application and supporting documents should be comprehensive, credible, and feasible;



- e) Stipulate a construction completion date of no later than March 31, 2018;
- f) Be duly authorized or endorsed by, a resolution of its council/board; and,
- g) Meet all the program criteria identified in the [CWWF Program Guide](#).

Q. What is an eligible planning and design study?

A. Eligible planning and design studies are for projects which assist a local or regional government in developing sustainable water, stormwater or wastewater infrastructure that will help improve public health and safety, protect the environment and strengthen local and regional economies. To be eligible a study must clearly describe how it will provide economic, social and environmental benefits such as:

- a) Cost savings and lower tax burdens for residents and businesses;
- b) Improved public health and safety;
- c) Reduced ecological footprint and enhanced environmental protection;
- d) More efficient use of infrastructure and natural resources;
- e) Reduced operating costs; and,
- f) Improved community sustainability.

Q. What is the funding formula?

A. An approved project is eligible for program funding of up to eighty-three percent (83%) of the total eligible project costs. Fifty percent (50%) is contributed by the Government of Canada and thirty-three percent (33%) by the Province of BC.

- Where applicants plan to use or have applied for funds from other federal or provincial programs, the source of these funds must be indicated on the application form. Details on stacking limits can be found in section 1.5 of the [Program Guide](#). The disclosure of other funding sources must be provided by the successful recipient up to the completion of the project.

Q. Can we use Gas Tax Community Works funding as our Local Government 17% contribution to the CWWF?

A. No, Community Works funds cannot be used for the 17% contribution of eligible funding for CWWF projects as the federal sources have already been maximized at 50%. See question above.



Q. Can we use funding acquired from other provincial grant programs as our Local Government contribution to the CWWF?

A. Yes, local governments may utilize funding acquired from other provincial grant programs for a portion or the entirety of their contribution up to 17% as long as stacking is allowed under that program.

Q. Is there a maximum award for projects?

A. There is no maximum award under the CWWF program.

Q. When will funding decisions be announced?

A. It is anticipated that funding announcements will be made in Spring 2017.

Q. We started construction prior to April 1, 2016 – are the costs incurred still eligible?

A. No. Costs incurred prior to April 1, 2016 and costs incurred after March 31, 2018 are not eligible costs. Eligible project costs are those that were incurred between April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2018 and meet the eligible expenditures as listed in the [CWWF Program Guide](#).

Q. Can we award the tender prior to project being approved for funding?

A. Yes. The project will still be considered eligible if you have awarded the tender prior to funding approval. However, the tender for projects prior to March 31st, 2016 will be ineligible based on the funding requirement under the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund.

Q. There are changes or variations to our original, approved project. Do we have to notify the Province?

A. Yes. The proponents need to advise the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, **in writing**, of any variation from the approved project. Before such changes are implemented they must be approved by the Ministry.



Q. We have decided not to proceed with our project as originally outlined. Can we use the program funds for another infrastructure project in our community?

A. No. Approval was granted for the original project. You may not transfer the award to another project. Please contact the ministry to discuss your situation.

Q. Do we need to obtain approval for any public events such as ground breaking ceremonies, grand opening ceremonies, etc.?

A. Yes. All public events require prior approval. Please contact the ministry for your project at least **20 working days** prior to any scheduled public event. The federal or provincial Ministers or their designated representatives regularly participate in these events. Time is required to schedule for such an occasion.

Q. Can we direct award a contract(s) for undertaking the project?

A. All contracts must be awarded in a way that is transparent, competitive and consistent with value for money principles. All records of the tendering process need to be retained and made available upon request.

Q. Our project incurred costs before we were approved for CWWF funding. Are these costs considered eligible and can we claim them for reimbursement?

A. Costs incurred after March 31st, 2016 and prior to the CWWF project approval date are considered eligible. Project costs incurred on or before March 31st, 2016 are ineligible.

Q. If we submit our application prior to the November 23rd, 2016 deadline when will our project be reviewed?

A. Application reviews will begin as soon as the submission is received and processed.

Q. Our project will not be completed until after the March 31st, 2018 deadline. Can we still apply if the project will be completed by March 31st, 2019?

A. Yes, projects may be considered for funding on a case by case basis. Please contact Ministry staff to discuss your project and timing.