Academies

Since November 2012, the Board has conducted five regional academies across the state. Leaders and managers from local governments, special purpose districts, regional associations, economic development councils, tribes, ports, and special purpose districts attended, and engaged in identifying local issues and potential solutions. For more information on the academies, please visit our website.

"Finding out what the common issues are, ways that the State and Federal government may be able to work together, especially regarding funding, is key"

Board Members

Stan Finkelstein, Chair
JC Baldwin, Vice Chair, Chelan County
Ted Carlson, City of Bellingham
Pam Carter, Valley View Sewer District
Jerry Cummins, City of Walla Walla
Mary Margaret Haugen, General Public
Ed Hildreth, City of Tumwater
Scott Hutsell, Lincoln County
Diane Pottinger, North City Water District
Matthew Rasmussen, Franklin County
Mark Scott, Pend Oreille Public Utility District
Lisa Wellman, General Public

Contact us at 360-725-3153

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Technical Assistance

The Board's staff can help develop funding strategies for infrastructure projects; convene tech team meetings; provide ongoing project assistance; issue resolution; assess your organization's capacity and needs.

Partners

Association of Washington Cities
Community Economic Revitalization Board
County Road Administration Board
Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation
Department of Commerce
Department of Ecology
Department of Health
Department of Transportation
Environmental Protection Agency
Evergreen Rural Water of Washington
Governor's Office of Regulatory & Innovative
Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council
Municipal Research Service Center
Recreation & Conservation Office
Rural Community Assistance Corporation
State Auditor's Office
Transportation Improvement Board
USDA Rural Development
Washington Association of Sewer & Water Districts
Washington Public Utility District Association
Washington State Association of Counties

"Public Works Board loans provide an important source to achieve full funding. Proliferating partially funded projects results only in unsuccessful projects. The State needs strong funding programs, working together to ensure fully-funded and completed projects."

- *Steve Gorcester, Transportation Improvement Board*

Washington State

Public Works Board

CHAMPIONS OF WASHINGTON'S INFRASTRUCTURE

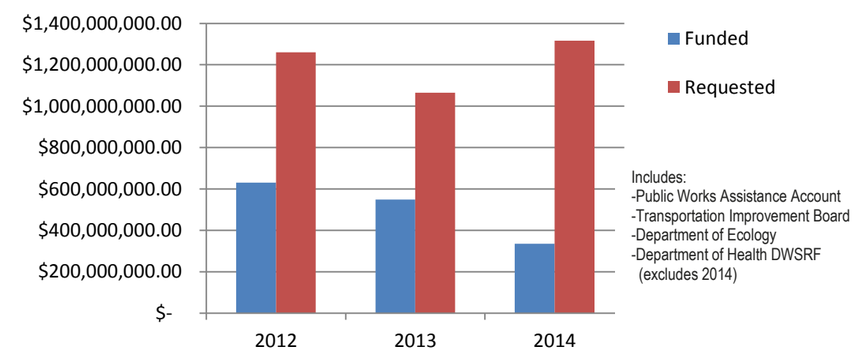
Every citizen and company doing business in the state expects that when a water faucet is turned on clean, safe drinking water will pour out. Waste water will be cleaned. Roads and bridges will carry families and goods to market safely. Every one of these is possible only because of a complex system of nearly invisible infrastructure–ranging from pipes, pumps, power houses, and reservoirs, to structural support systems, and so much more.

This is the work done by your Public Works Board through the Public Works Assistance Account (PWAA). In 2013 the Washington Legislature swept monies from this revolving account and the dedicated tax revenue streams for the next six years. The result is a reduction of the already diminished loan capacity of the PWAA by more than a billion dollars. **The 2016 recommended funding list alone requests $170 Million to fund 49 projects. The $170 Million is loan repayment money that belongs in the PWAA's revolving loan account.**

RESTORE WASHINGTON'S INFRASTRUCTURE & THE PUBLIC WORKS ASSISTANCE ACCOUNT!

The PWB works with multiple state agencies to fund projects that require multiple funding sources, while the PWAA provides matching funds for Washington's Federal Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Fund programs.

STATE RESOURCES TO LOCAL DEMAND



THE DEMAND FOR MULTIPLE FUNDING PROGRAMS

- Some projects are too expensive for a single program to fund.
- Projects that address multiple systems (road/water/sewer) need assistance from multiple programs.
- The demand for funds exceeds the resources available for water, sewer and transportation programs.
- State funding programs leverage funding from federal programs.

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS!

In 1985, the Washington State Legislature created the Public Works Assistance Account (PWAA). It commissioned the Public Works Board to administer the account and to use it to finance critical local government public works projects.

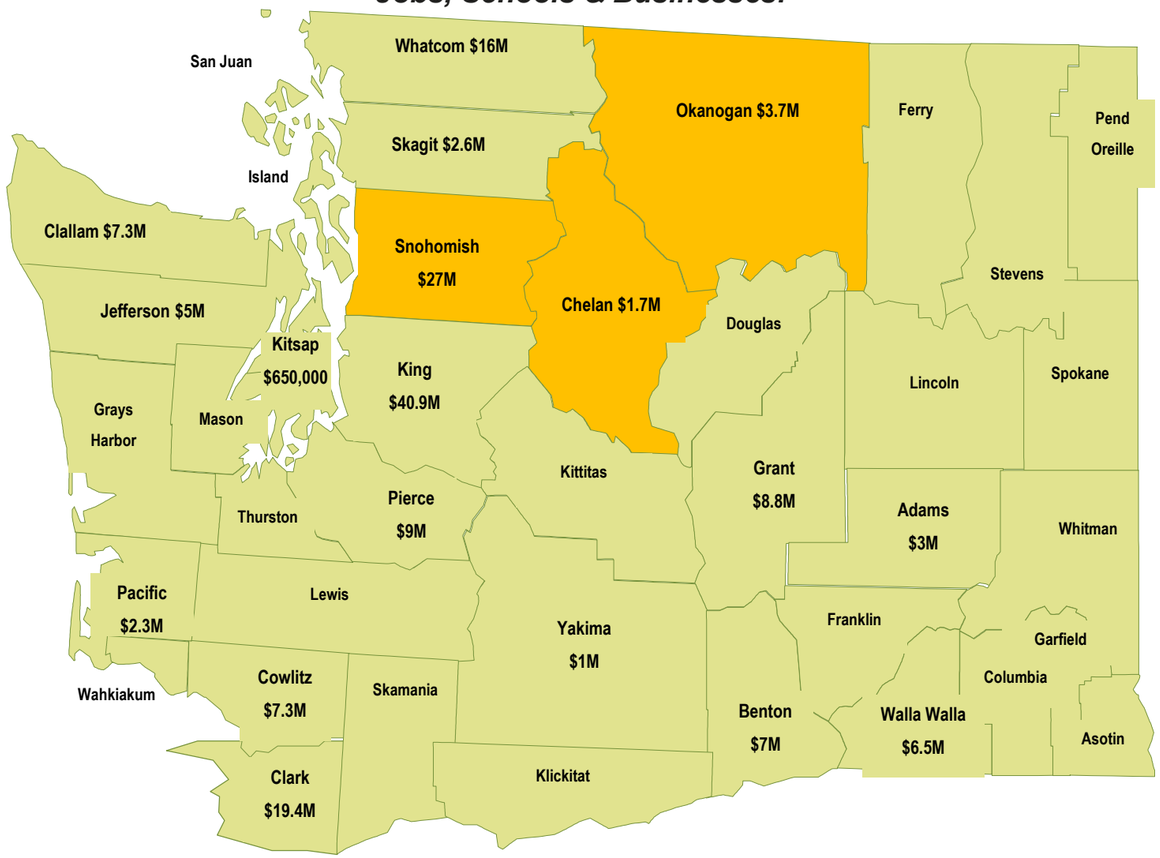
Since 1985, the Board has made over 1,900 loans and has had no defaults. The Board's administrative costs to manage a $2.8 Billion portfolio has been lower than 1%.

The Board is a citizen board, consisting of 13 Governor-appointed members chosen from stakeholder groups and the general public. It gets its statutory authority from RCW 43.155 and RCW 70.119A.170.

The Board's mission is to provide financial and technical assistance to Washington's communities for critical public health, safety and environmental infrastructure that support community and economic development.

2016 Construction Loan Funding Recommendations

Jobs, Schools & Businesses!



These requests are leveraged with an additional $215 Million in other funds and will create over 1,500 jobs. Over 14,000 businesses, 200 schools and 150 community facilities will be served.

Revolving loan repayment funds from the Public Works Assistance Account will fund these projects, at 2.55% interest. Projects located within an area declared a natural disaster (highlighted) will receive reduced interest rates.

"Other funding programs (particularly federal) fix critical infrastructure that is broken. The Public Works Board funds projects to prevent critical infrastructure from breaking."
– Katy Isaksen, former Public Works Board member

The Cost of Going to the Bond Market

The City of Bellingham (Whatcom County) was impacted when their 2014 Public Works Board application for wastewater treatment improvements wasn't funded, and they were forced to go to the bond market.

Funding in the amount of $13.6 Million from the Public Works Assistant Account (PWAA) was factored into the City's original financial model before construction began in 2012. Governor Gregoire's recommendation of reducing the funding offer to $6.3 Million would have helped as well, but to be told that their funding went away completely with construction nearly 50% complete on their $55 Million project was alarming.

While Bellingham was able to successfully manage the reduction in recommended funding, the net result is that it will cost several hundred thousand dollars annually in interest on the bonds because they will now pay 4.7% interest instead of the .5% interest that the PWAA offered. The additional cost to the City is $6.6 Million in debt service. These are dollars that could be better spent on providing other City services. PWAA funds are an economic engine that creates jobs in communities while providing a low-cost mechanism for much needed essential City services.

Helping Washington's Smaller Communities

The City of Leavenworth (Chelan County) Phase I - Division & Front Street Stormwater / Utility Improvements

"The City is very appreciative of the PWB program, which is helpful to small cities in getting their projects completed. A big thank you to the Board and the work the staffers do."
– Joel Walinski, City Administrator

This project, completed in 2012, was the full street reconstruction of a five city block area which included the addition of sidewalks, pedestrian lighting, curb and gutter and stormwater/utility improvements. A PWB Pre-construction loan funded the planning and design based on the City's Downtown Master Plan, which identified the community streetscape enhancements that are incorporated in commercial district revitalization to encourage economic development and neighborhood revitalization.

Construction funding came from the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB), a PWAA loan, City Utility and Transportation Benefit District funding. The total project cost was $1,963,905 with $966,344 from the PWAA, which funded the water and sewer utility improvements and addressed the stormwater issues associated with this project. This equates to approximately 19 jobs created or retained.