

COORDINATING INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING IN WASHINGTON

Local infrastructure is essential to a vibrant economy, a high quality of life, public health and safety, and a healthy environment. There are many programs available to help fund infrastructure projects in Washington. This focus sheet explains why these programs exist and how agency staff help applicants access the funding opportunities offered by different programs.

Programs work together to coordinate funding for infrastructure projects

While different funding programs have different requirements, program staff work together to maximize funding opportunities for clients and use the limited dollars wisely. Two groups facilitate this coordination:

- **The Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council (IACC)** helps communities identify and obtain the resources they need to develop, improve, and maintain infrastructure. Members include state and federal funding and regulatory agencies and non-profit technical assistance organizations.
- **The Maximizing Resources Workgroup** is a subgroup of the IACC that meets quarterly. Major goals of the Maximizing Resources Workgroup are to:
 - Fully fund high priority infrastructure projects.
 - Use all federal infrastructure funds (not just the State Revolving Funds) that come into the State.
 - Minimize the burden of applying for funding and develop consistent processes where possible.
 - Coordinate on providing technical assistance, particularly to smaller communities with limited resources. Providing technical assistance is a key goal of all the funding programs.

Multiple funding programs offer advantages

The various infrastructure funding programs operating in Washington were created by the Legislature or Congress to meet specific needs. Each has its own mission, goals, rules, policies, sources of funds, and limitations on projects it can fund. Program diversity mirrors the diversity of need.

- **Some projects are too expensive for a single program to fund.**
For example, the \$353 million project at Pierce County's Chambers Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant will require funding from several sources before it can be completed.
- **No single program can fund all the need.**
For example, each year requests for Ecology and Health funding for clean water and drinking water projects, respectively, are typically \$75-\$100 million more than each agency has available. Other programs are needed to fill the gaps.
- **Many projects involve multiple systems.**
However most funding programs can fund only specific types of systems. For example, for a single project which involves patching leaky water pipes, replacing broken sewer lines, and repaving streets, it is essential to have multiple funding programs working together.

State programs leverage federal, local, and private funding and create jobs.

- The Transportation Improvement Board's urban programs between 2010 and 2013 leveraged over \$140 million in federal funds (representing 19% of project costs), and more than \$25 million in private contributions for street improvement projects.
- The Community Development Block Grant program leverages approximately \$2 for every CDBG dollar.
- Based on OFM models, Ecology estimates that the \$202 million offered during its most recent funding cycle will create approximately 2,200 jobs in our state, of which nearly half will be local construction jobs.
- Some programs provide revolving loans – money that is repaid to the state and is reinvested in more infrastructure loans.

Contact Information

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Maximizing Resources Workgroup

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