



NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
Drinking Water Bureau

Public Involvement Plan (PIP)

For the
State of New Mexico Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
Intended Use Plan and Project Priority Lists

May 2020

APPROVAL PAGE

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Date

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I. Public Involvement Plan (PIP) Overview

The New Mexico Environment Department (Department), Drinking Water Bureau (DWB) developed this Public Involvement Plan (PIP) for the State Fiscal Year 2021 Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Intended Use Plan (IUP) statewide public review process. The DWSRF IUP outlines the goals of the program, the financial status and expected expenditures of the program, and the priority system used to rank infrastructure projects including the current list of actual projects to be funded. The purpose of this PIP is to provide public participation opportunities and information that may be needed to participate in the public comment period designated for the DWSRF IUP.

This PIP integrates information about the affected communities and identifies resources needed by the Bureau to successfully incorporate community participation activities into the decision-making process for the public comment period for the DWSRF IUP. DWB encourages public water systems statewide to understand the annual IUP and to participate in the DWSRF program. The PIP identifies the Department staff and resources needed to accomplish these activities.

The IUP requires public notification of the availability of the plan for public comment. The Bureau will meet the public participation requirements for the DWSRF IUP by following this PIP, which includes all applicable policy, regulatory and statutory public participation requirements. The PIP identifies the DWB staff and resources needed to accomplish these activities.

In developing this PIP, state-wide community participation needs were assessed to ensure appropriate promotion of public outreach by identifying whether there is a combination of environmental and demographic factors (i.e., low income community, minority community, limited English proficiency individuals, Linguistically Isolated Households, etc.) that may impact public participation¹. This assessment identifies community outreach needs and provides for public access opportunities above and beyond statutorily mandated requirements and underscores the provision of adequate public access to information about the DWSRF IUP.

As much as possible, public participation and informational activities related to the DWSRF IUP will be held within the timelines outlined in the table below. This timeline is tentative and subject to change.

Activity	Dates
Post PIP on DWB website	May 22, 2020
Public Notice for Draft SFY20 DWSRF IUP - website and newspapers	May 29, 2020
Draft SFY20 DWSRF IUP Public Comment Period	30 Days May 29, 2020 to June 29, 2020
Final SFY20 DWSRF IUP becomes official if no adverse public comment is received and posted to website and submitted to EPA	July 1, 2020

The DWSRF IUP comment period is open for thirty (30) days and is a state-wide document pertinent to a relatively large community of Spanish speakers, and DWB will provide pertinent information in both English

¹ See Section IV Location and Demographics for Demographic Summary.

and Spanish in public comment notices in newspapers and on the website. During public comment periods, hardcopies of relevant documents may be reviewed at the information repositories listed in "Public Participation and Outreach Activities" in Section V of this document.

More detailed information about planned Bureau outreach is available in this PIP.

This PIP is a "living" document that may be amended after considering public comments and feedback. The Bureau Chief provides final approval of the PIP and amendments.

II. Contacts

Bureau contacts for questions regarding the State of New Mexico Intended Use Plan, the public review and comment process, the Bureau's website, or this PIP, are listed below:

Jill Turner, Sustainable Water Infrastructure Group Manager
Drinking Water Bureau
1190 St. Francis Dr.
Santa Fe, NM 87505
Phone: (505) 476-8637
Fax: (505) 476-8656
Email: jill.turner@state.nm.us

A. Non-English Language Speaker Assistance and Accommodations

In accordance with the DWB Limited English Proficiency Customer Service Plan non-English speakers may call the Bureau contact listed below and request language assistance services, such as an interpreter, so they can learn more about the State of New Mexico IUP.

Pedro Archuleta
Spanish Language Service for Drinking Water Bureau
1190 St. Francis Dr.
Santa Fe, NM 87505
Phone (505) 476-8636
Email: pedro.archuleta@state.nm.us

B. Department Websites

New Mexico Environment Department - <https://www.env.nm.gov/>

Drinking Water Bureau - https://www.env.nm.gov/drinking_water/

C. Intended Use Plan and Project Priority List Website

The Bureau and NMFA maintain website locations for the Intended Use Plan (see website addresses below). These websites will be kept up to date and has information about the DWSRF program and important documents.

https://www.env.nm.gov/drinking_water/wifunding/

<https://www.nmfa.net/financing/water-programs/drinking-water-revolving-loan-fund>.

III. Regulatory Framework

The 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act created a public involvement requirement that applies to the DWSRF program. Specifically, the DWSRF IUP requirements as part of the capitalization grant application and the “meaningful public review and comment” requirement are detailed in 40 CFR 35.3555.

Through the enactment of the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund Act (Fund Act), Chapter 6, Article 21A, NMSA 1978, as amended, the New Mexico Legislature created a revolving loan fund (Fund). The purpose of the Fund Act “is to provide local authorities in New Mexico with low-cost financial assistance in the construction and rehabilitation of necessary drinking water facilities through the creation of a self-sustaining revolving loan program so as to improve and protect drinking water quality and public health” §6-21A-2 NMSA (2017).

The Fund is administered by the New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA) as the State’s grantee for Capitalization Grants allotted to the State, and it administers the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRLF) which consists of the annual Capitalization Grant from the EPA, and the 20% State Match required by the SDWA. The amount of annual the Capitalization Grant is determined by Congress and administered by the EPA. The SDWA allows each state the discretion to utilize up to 31% of each annual DWSRF Capitalization Grant to fund four different Set-Aside categories, with the remainder of the Capitalization Grant directed to the state’s loan funds:

1. Administration and Technical Assistance (up to 4%);
2. Small System Technical Assistance (up to 2%);
3. State Program Management (up to 10%); and
4. Local Assistance and Other State Programs (up to 15%).

The duties and responsibilities of the NMFA and the DWB are described in a Memorandum of Understanding in carrying out the provisions of the Fund Act and in monitoring construction projects receiving financial assistance. The NMFA, as grantee, is responsible for the administration of DWSRLF financing and related functions funded by the Administration Set-Aside of the Capitalization Grant. The DWB, as the State’s regulatory drinking water agency, is responsible for the oversight and implementation of the Small Systems Technical Assistance, State Program Management, and Local Assistance Set-Asides.

Each state fiscal year as part of the capitalization grant application, New Mexico prepares DWSRF IUP to describe how it proposes to use the DWSRF to meet the objectives of the SDWA and the New Mexico DWSRLF Act. This IUP is the central component of the State’s FFY 2020 Capitalization Grant application to the EPA, and it communicates the plans to stakeholders and covers the period of July 1, 2020 through July 1, 2021. This document describes the short- and long-term goals of the program, the priority setting process used to rank projects on the Fundable Priority List, and it describes how the State will use the set-asides to support the program.

To ensure the public has an opportunity to review and provide input on the DWSRF IUP, the draft document will be made available to the public through notifications in three major newspapers, by email notification to all community public water systems with available email addresses and by posting to both the DWB website at https://www.env.nm.gov/drinking_water/wifunding/ and NMFA’s website at <https://www.nmfa.net/financing/water-programs/drinking-water-revolving-loan-fund>.

The public comment period will be open for 30 days, where comments should be received by June 29, 2020. A summary of the comments received and the DWB response will be included as part of Appendix F in the final version of State Fiscal Year 2020 IUP, which will be posted on both agency's websites once complete or by July 1, 2020.

IV. Location and Demographics

The IUP is a statewide document, and thus contains the proposed projects and program goals for the entire state.

A. Demographic Summary

Using U.S. Census Quick Facts² for the State of New Mexico for 2019 New Mexico has an estimated population of 2,096,829 where 49% identify as Hispanic or Latino (which may be of any race) and 10.9 percent identify exclusively as American Indian. For the rest of the United States 18.3% identify as Hispanic or Latino and 1.3% identify exclusively as American Indian. The percent of persons over 5 years of age that communicate in a language other than English (non-English) at home is 34.8%, compared to 21.5% for the United States. Census data of Detailed Languages Spoken at Home and Ability to Speak English for the Population 5 Years and Over: 2009-2013³ estimates 79.5% of this population speaks Spanish in the home. The 5-year median household income in 2018 dollars for New Mexico is \$48,059 compared to the national figure of \$60,293, with 19.5% of New Mexico's population living in poverty.

These results indicate for the State of New Mexico, the percentage of Spanish speaking communication is considerable (i.e., substantially greater than the national percentage) and there are demographic factors such as low-income and minority communities, that may impact public participation.

Therefore, the Bureau will provide notification in Spanish and in English to announce the invitation for the public to review and make comment on the DWSRLF IUP, both on the Bureau website and in three newspapers of general circulation around the State.

V. Public Participation & Outreach Activities

The public may ask questions about the IUP at any time. Interested community members do not need to wait for a formal public comment period to contact the Bureau. However, the Bureau emphasizes that to be included in the official record, comments solicited by public notices about the IUP must be submitted during the noticed comment periods, and in accordance with the public notice.

Specific outreach activities related to the draft DWSRF IUP include:

- Maintaining specific DWB and NMFA web pages with attachments and links to all pertinent documents,
- Developing a public notice announcing the opening of the 30-day public comment period in both English and Spanish,
- Posting this notice to the DWB website,
- Emailing this public notice to DWB's DWSRF email list through the GovDelivery e-mail delivery service (over 1,500 email addresses as of May2020),
- Publishing the public notice in three newspapers, the Santa Fe New Mexican, the Albuquerque Journal and the Las Cruces Sun to encourage the widest circulation across the state.

² <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/NM,US/PST045219#PST045219>

³ <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2013/demo/2009-2013-lang-tables.html>

Based on the demographics report discussed in the PIP, basic information in the public notice will be in both English and Spanish.

A. Postal Mailing or E-Mailing of Notices to Persons on the Drinking Water Bureau's Email List

DWB maintains an extensive email list (over 1,500 email addresses as of May 2020) that includes individuals interested in funding information, water system board members and administrative contacts from the SDWIS database for community public water systems that are eligible for the DWSRF program.

Interested persons providing both an address and email may receive physical mail upon request and an email. Additional individuals, organizations, and other interested parties are added to the email list as requested.

B. Email Updates

The Bureau regularly maintains contact information which is updated or supplemented, if additional information is found or existing information has changed. The Bureau's website liaison is Pedro Archuleta at (505)476-8636 or email at Pedro.archuleta@state.nm.us.

C. Public Meeting Notices, Public Comment Notices, and Other Notices

Based on the Bureau's evaluation of the community needs, public notices will be translated into Spanish. In addition, the Bureau posts notices on the DWB Announcements and Public Notices webpage at https://www.env.nm.gov/drinking_water/notices/ and Department's Events Calendar at: <https://www.env.nm.gov/events>.

D. Informational Pamphlets

The Bureau has developed informational pamphlets for the DWSRF loan program that briefly explains the program and who is eligible for funding and what the interest rates and contact persons are. The Bureau may determine whether they will be available in languages other than English, online (e.g., Bureau website) and in print (hardcopy) at the information repositories listed in this PIP. They may also be distributed via email to interested organizations and individuals, including those who sign up for email notices through the website.

E. Public Comment Period

The 30-day public comment period on the draft 2021 DWSRF IUP is planned to start May 29, 2020, and end June 29, 2020, at midnight.

F. Other Outreach

Other means of outreach such as flyers announcing public comment periods may be posted in locations throughout the community (e.g., local businesses, schools, libraries) and on the Department's website, at the Bureau's discretion after consideration of public interest and input.

G. Information Repositories

Copies of the draft 2021 DWSRF IUP may be obtained via download from the Bureau's website at

<https://www.env.nm.gov/dwb/wif.htm> , NMFA website at <http://nmfa.net> or by contacting Karen Torres by phone at (505) 827-0027, byemail karenm.torres@state.nm.us , or by writing, P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87502-5469.

Post offices, community centers and public libraries, at the Bureau's discretion after consideration of public interest and input, may serve as access areas for the Bureau to leave hard copies of important documents and information about how to comment on the IUP. The following is a list of locations where hard copies of relevant documents will be available to the community:

None identified at this time.

H. IUP Final Submission and Approval including Responses to Comments

To address stakeholder and community members submitted comments, the Bureau will prepare the final DWSRF IUP to include a summary of the public comments received and the DWB response to any comments received following the close of the public comment period in Appendix F. The Bureau is required to submit the final DWSRF IUP to EPA Region VI for review and approval. The final draft IUP and all appendices will be available to the public via download from the Bureau website, or upon request. The Bureau will also send a copy of responses to comments directly to the commenter.

DWSLRF IUP PIP
ATTACHMENT A
CENSUS DATA

QuickFacts
New Mexico; United States

QuickFacts provides statistics for all states and counties, and for cities and towns with a *population of 5,000 or more*.

Table

ALL TOPICS	New Mexico	United States
Population estimates, July 1, 2019, (V2019)	2,096,829	328,239,523
PEOPLE		
Population		
Population estimates, July 1, 2019, (V2019)	2,096,829	328,239,523
Population estimates, July 1, 2018, (V2018)	2,095,428	327,167,434
Population estimates base, April 1, 2010, (V2019)	2,059,199	308,758,105
Population estimates base, April 1, 2010, (V2018)	2,059,180	308,758,105
Population, percent change - April 1, 2010 (estimates base) to July 1, 2019, (V2019)	1.8%	6.3%
Population, percent change - April 1, 2010 (estimates base) to July 1, 2018, (V2018)	1.8%	6.0%
Population, Census, April 1, 2010	2,059,179	308,745,538
Age and Sex		
Persons under 5 years, percent	▲ 5.9%	▲ 6.1%
Persons under 18 years, percent	▲ 23.0%	▲ 22.4%
Persons 65 years and over, percent	▲ 17.5%	▲ 16.0%
Female persons, percent	▲ 50.5%	▲ 50.8%
Race and Hispanic Origin		
White alone, percent	▲ 82.0%	▲ 76.5%
Black or African American alone, percent (a)	▲ 2.6%	▲ 13.4%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent (a)	▲ 10.9%	▲ 1.3%
Asian alone, percent (a)	▲ 1.8%	▲ 5.9%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent (a)	▲ 0.2%	▲ 0.2%
Two or More Races, percent	▲ 2.6%	▲ 2.7%
Hispanic or Latino, percent (b)	▲ 49.1%	▲ 18.3%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent	▲ 37.1%	▲ 60.4%
Population Characteristics		
Veterans, 2014-2018	148,264	18,611,432
Foreign born persons, percent, 2014-2018	9.6%	13.5%
Housing		
Housing units, July 1, 2018, (V2018)	943,208	138,537,078
Owner-occupied housing unit rate, 2014-2018	67.6%	63.8%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2014-2018	\$166,800	\$204,900
Median selected monthly owner costs -with a mortgage, 2014-2018	\$1,262	\$1,558
Median selected monthly owner costs -without a mortgage, 2014-2018	\$350	\$490
Median gross rent, 2014-2018	\$828	\$1,023
Building permits, 2018	4,813 ¹	1,328,827
Families & Living Arrangements		
Households, 2014-2018	775,651	119,730,128
Persons per household, 2014-2018	2.64	2.63
Living in same house 1 year ago, percent of persons age 1 year+, 2014-2018	86.4%	85.5%
Language other than English spoken at home, percent of persons age 5 years+, 2014-2018	34.8%	21.5%
Computer and Internet Use		
Households with a computer, percent, 2014-2018	83.8%	88.8%
Households with a broadband Internet subscription, percent, 2014-2018	72.3%	80.4%
Education		
High school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+, 2014-2018	85.3%	87.7%
Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+, 2014-2018	27.1%	31.5%