Tools/Funding Opportunities:

- Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona (WIFA)
- Rural Water Infrastructure Committee (RWIC)
- Greater Arizona Development Authority (GADA)
Water Infrastructure Finance Authority

- Independent state agency
- Manages Arizona’s water and wastewater State Revolving Funds

Maintain and improve water quality in Arizona by providing financial and technical assistance for basic water infrastructure.

Water Infrastructure Finance Authority

- Provide **loans and grants** for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure throughout Arizona
  - Loans: planning, design, improvement, construction, acquisition
  - Grants: planning and design phases
- **$2 billion** of investment in AZ’s communities since 1992
  - 400 projects
  - Steer resources to communities with the greatest needs
What WIFA Can Fund

- Projects primarily intended to serve future growth (DW)
- Projects needed mainly for fire protection
- Operation and maintenance costs
- Refinancing debt obligations of privately-owned systems
- Water rights, except if the water rights are owned by a system that is being purchased through consolidation (DW)
- Projects for systems in significant non compliance unless funding will ensure compliance

What WIFA Cannot Fund
Who Can Apply

Wastewater/Stormwater
- Cities, towns, tribal entities and special districts that own a wastewater facility
- Cities, towns, tribal entities and special districts that manage stormwater (permitted MS4s and unpermitted) 
  *Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s)*

Drinking Water
- Cities, towns, tribal entities and special districts that own a community water system
- ACC-regulated private entities that own a community water system

County, state and federal entities are NOT eligible for WIFA funding.

Pima County Exception

Quick and Easy Application Process

1. Brief e-application – Project Priority List

2. Debt authorization
   - Public entities require approval of governing body or bond election
   - Private water companies require ACC financing approval

3. Project Finance Application

www.azwifa.gov
What Makes WIFA a Good Financing Option

- Low-interest financial assistance
  - Average for most recent years under 3% for 20-year term (for public entities)
- No application fees or closing costs

What Makes WIFA a Good Financing Option

- Financing available year-round
  - No application deadlines
  - Loans approved at bimonthly board meetings

Go from completing an online application to closing on your loan in just a few months!
What Makes WIFA a Good Financing Option

- No minimum or maximum loan amount
  - Smallest loan amount: $2,968
  - Largest loan amount: $87.7 M
  - Largest multi-loan project: $346 M

WIFA is an excellent source of funding for Arizona’s larger cities and towns as well as small rural areas.

Special WIFA Incentives

- 1% interest rate 3-year design-only loans
- Discounts for disadvantaged communities
  - Longer loan term
  - Reduced interest and fee rate
  - Forgivable principal
- Incentives for green projects
  - Lower rate for loans
  - Match waived for grants
Green Project Examples

**Water Efficiency**
- Leak detection
- Effluent reuse
- Automatic meters

**Green Stormwater Infrastructure**
- **Low Impact Development**
  - Porous pavement, bioretention, curb cuts
- **Riparian Improvements**
  - Riparian buffers, wetlands, bioengineered stream banks

**Energy Efficiency**
- Alternative energy
- Solar power for drinking water and wastewater facilities

WIFA Planning and Design Grants

- Grants are for **planning and design** only
- Funds help get an infrastructure project started
- Feasibility studies, capital improvement plans, preliminary engineering reports, final design
- Funds used to contract with engineer or other consultant
- Awards capped at $35,000
  - 40% local match
WIFA Planning and Design Grants

Next Grant Cycle (Grant Cycle 1, FY15)
- Applications available July 1, 2014
- Drinking water, wastewater and stormwater projects
- $300K available
- Applications due August 29, 2014 at 3 p.m.
- Awards in October

Grant Cycle 2 (FY15)
- Applications available January 2, 2015
- Drinking water only
- $150K available
- Applications due February 27, 2015 at 3 p.m.
- Awards in April
Committee of federal and state agencies who provide loans, grants and technical assistance to Arizona’s rural communities

- “One Stop Shop”
  - Coordination of federal, state, local and private sector resources
  - Co-fund ("Bridge loans")
- Focus on rural communities
  - Population less than 10,000
  - Many partners can assist populations more than 10,000

Rural Water Infrastructure Committee (RWIC)

- Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona (WIFA)
- USDA Rural Development (USDA RD)
- North American Development Bank (NADB Bank)
- Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC)
- Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC)
- Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)
- U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)
- Governor’s Office of Energy Policy
- Rural Water Association of Arizona (RWAA)
- Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ)
USDA Rural Development (USDA RD)

Eligibility
- Rural areas and cities and towns with a population of 10,000 or less
- Municipalities, Counties, Special Districts, Native American Tribes and Non-Profit Corporations

Financial Assistance
- Water and wastewater loan and grant program
- Interest Rates
  - Set quarterly
  - 3 rates available: Poverty, Intermediate, and Market
  - Eligibility for each rate determined by the median household income of the area and the type of project
- Term
  - Not to exceed the useful life of the facility or improvement to be financed
  - Maximum term on all loans is 40 years

North American Development Bank (NADBank) & Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC)

Eligibility
- Finance projects located within 100 km north & 300 km south of the border
- Water, wastewater and storm drainage
- Also waste, air, renewable energy sectors

Two steps/two agencies:
1. BECC certifies projects
   - environmental, engineering, sustainability
2. NADBank provides financing

NADBank Loans (EPA-funded Border Environment Infrastructure Fund (BEIF))
- Market rate, 25 year term
- Up to 85% of project cost

Community Assistance Program (CAP) Grants
- Funding priority for projects in economically-distressed communities
- $500,000 maximum grant
### Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC)

**Eligibility**
- Nonprofit organizations, public agencies and tribal governments
- Rural areas with populations of 50,000 or less

**Technical Assistance**
- Board training
- Income survey

**Financial Assistance**

**Short term loans (1-3 years)**
- PERs, environmental reports, predevelopment, legal, construction
- 5.5% - 5.75% interest rate (subject to change)

**Intermediate term loans (up to 20 years)**
- 5% fixed interest rate

**Long term loans (up to 30 years)**

### Rural Water Association of Arizona (RWAA)

**Technical Assistance**
- Circuit riders provide on-site assistance in management, finance, operations compliance and security
- On-site/group training. Topics include:

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- Bi-annual conference
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

Technical Assistance
- Monitoring Assistance Program
  - All public water systems serving less than 10,000 people
  - Contractor collects and analyzes samples to simplify water quality monitoring

- System Evaluation
  - ADEQ provides private consultant to prepare standardized system evaluation

- Operations & Maintenance Package
  - Operating and Recordkeeping Procedures
  - Emergency Operations/Emergency Response Plan
  - Backflow Prevention and Cross Connection Control Plan

- Operator Certification Training
  - No-cost workshops around the state
  - Subscribe to Operator Certification Listserv [www.azdeq.gov/subscribe.html](http://www.azdeq.gov/subscribe.html)

Getting Started with RWIC

Quarterly Meetings
- 1st Tuesday of every quarter at 1 p.m.
- Various locations around the state
- Connect with a funding agency
- Determine next steps

Annual Funding Forum
- Usually in November in Phoenix
- Presentations by each funding agency
- Funding Expo

Fill out a Project Information Form
- General Information
- Demographic & Service Area
- Project Description
- Estimated Project Costs
- Type of Assistance Needed
Greater Arizona Development Authority (GADA)

- To assist Arizona communities and tribal governments with the development of public infrastructure projects that enhance community and economic development
  - Financial assistance loans
  - Technical assistance loans for infrastructure projects up to $250K
  - Past Examples Include:
    - Facilities (Public Safety, Library, Administrative, Fire, etc.)
    - Transportation Improvements
    - Debt Refinancing/Consolidation
    - Parks/Open Space
    - Water/Sewer
    - Flood Control

- Transferred to WIFA from Department of Commerce on July 1, 2012
- Approaching Legislature to re-fund the program