



Overview Local Government Planning Fund

Formerly known as the Water & Wastewater Planning Fund, the Local Government Planning Fund was created by 2002 Legislature to provide upfront capital necessary to prepare a Preliminary Engineering Report to provide proper planning of vital water and wastewater projects and provide the basis of an application for federal funding

Original statute required that entity repay the “grant” if funding for project was received and requires “grant” recipients to annually report on the status of their studied projects. In 2005, the Legislature broadened project eligibility to include master plans, conservation plans & economic development plans (necessary to enact Local Economic Development Act ordinances). 2005 amendment allowed NMFA to forgo repayment of grant if entity finances project through NMFA (including Water Trust Board)

2012 Legislature amended to remove all repayment requirements and broadened eligibility to include planning for infrastructure and energy audits. NMFA Board of Directors revised its policies to accept applications quarterly to fund the follow planning documents that must be completed in compliance with approved guidance documents.

1. ***Preliminary Engineering Report Guidance Documents USDA Bulletins for Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste.*** These guidance documents have been used by the NMED and NMFA since the inception of the Local Government Planning Fund. Pursuant to an MOU with the New Mexico Environment Department, the NMED Construction Programs Bureau serves as the reviewing agency for these planning documents.
2. ***Environmental Information Documents that are compliant with the State’s Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund’s State Environmental Review Process (SERP).*** The EPA approved the NMFA’s SERP approximately 15 years ago for the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund. The NMFA maintains contracts with Environmental Engineering firms who reviews the Environmental Information Documents for compliance with the SERP.

3. ***Economic Development Plan Requirements contained in the Certified Community Initiative for plans developed to implement the Local Economic Development Act.*** The New Mexico Economic Development Department developed the Certified Community Initiative. Historically, the NMEDD has served as NMFA's reviewing agency for these plans.
4. ***Comprehensive Plans drafted by a certified planner using the Comprehensive Plan Template*** by Steven Burstein, AICP. This template is currently used by Department of Finance and Administration. NMFA reviews and approves the Comprehensive Plan Documents.
5. ***Asset management plans developed by Qualified Planning Grant Entity under the guidance of A.M. Kan Work (by New Mexico Environmental Finance Center).*** Planning funds may be used to hire a licensed New Mexico professional engineer to compile asset inventories and to provide technical assistance relative to the operation of the utility as well as to hire facilitators to work through public hearings. NMFA reviews and approves the Asset Management Plans.
6. ***Energy audits shall meet minimum criteria of an ASHRAE Level 2 Energy Audit and will be required to be contracted using the Model Investment Grade Energy Audit and Project Proposal Contract*** prepared by the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department which contains minimum project scoping criteria. Further, the contractor must be ***a licensed New Mexico Professional Engineer***. Currently, EMNRD reviews energy audits for governmental entities considering energy efficiency projects that are financed by pledging future energy savings pursuant to the Public Facilities Energy Efficiency and Water Conservation Act [NMSA 1978, 6-23]
7. Water Conservation Plans. Recommended Guidance Document: The Office of the State Engineer completed its Water Conservation Plan Guidance Document which the NMFA expects to officially adopt as its guidance document.
8. Economic Development Feasibility Studies. No Guidance Document for Economic Development Feasibility Studies. Applicants seeking funding for these studies must submit with their applications a full scope of services for the proposed project along with a letter of recommendation from the Economic Development Department Cabinet Secretary or his designee.