

HB 2302 Grant Programs FAQ

1. *What kinds of projects qualify for the grants?*

Both grants relate to “water infrastructure projects” or “water-related infrastructures”. Water infrastructure and water-related infrastructures are not defined in statute, meaning that projects related to both hard infrastructure and green infrastructure may qualify. We encourage you to apply with all types of projects related to water infrastructure.

2. *Do wastewater, stormwater, or drinking water projects qualify?*

Yes.

3. *Can these funds be used for active projects? For example to meet overages on construction bids that came in over budget or have stretched beyond the original timeline, creating additional costs?*

Yes. We understand that the current conditions have caused supply chain issues and rising costs among other issues. We hope these funds could assist small communities with these rising costs and help to complete a project, even in an active construction phase.

4. *Can funds be used to reimburse for past projects?*

No, a project must be active/ongoing or planned for the future to qualify.

5. *Can the Water Projects Grant Fund be used for design/planning?*

No. Statute states that the Water Projects Grant Fund may be used for “construction, repair, maintenance, or replacement of water-related infrastructure and other construction related costs”. These programs do not consider design/planning as a construction related cost. We suggest you apply for the Technical Assistance Grant instead which does include design/planning as a qualifying expenditure.

6. *Can funds be used for contractors or consultants? For example, an engineering firm or a grant application consultant?*

Yes. We anticipate most awardees for both grants to utilize contractors or consultants in their technical assistance, grant application, or construction projects.

7. *What if I have more than one qualifying project? Can I submit more than one application?*

Yes. An entity can submit applications for multiple projects for the Technical Assistance Grant, the Water Projects Grant, or a mixture of the two. Each project requires its own application.

8. *Can I apply for the Technical Assistance Grant and the Water Projects Grant for the same project at the same time?*

Yes. However, it should be noted that projects with shorter timelines will be prioritized when awarding the Water Projects Grant. Therefore, a project may receive a Technical Assistance Grant, but not a Water Projects Grant in the same award cycle.

9. *Does receiving one grant now disqualify us or decrease our chances of receiving another grant or another type of grant in the future?*

No.

10. *What is an affidavit and what does it need to say?*

An affidavit is a notarized document providing sufficient assurance that (1) the applicant has acquired, or at least applied for, all federal, state and local permits that may be relevant to their proposed project and (2) they have acquired legal access to all property necessary for their proposed project. The affidavit should contain a very brief statement that includes:

- Applicant's name.
- Title of the proposed project.
- County or counties in which the project will be located.
- Statement that the applicant has acquired, or has applied for, all necessary federal, state and local permits and a statement that they have acquired all legal access to the property needed for purposes of the proposed project.

11. *Is there a date the project must be completed by in order to qualify for the grants?*

There is no completion deadline in order to qualify for the grants. However, quarterly reporting is required to ensure progress is being made and funds are being used for eligible costs.

12. Can the Water Project Grant be used for payoff USDA loans?

No, only loans through KDHE's Public Water Supply Loan Fund and Kansas Pollution Control Fund are eligible for the Water Projects Grant Fund.

13. Can the Technical Assistance Grant be used for a preliminary engineering report?

Yes.

14. Is it possible for partial grants be awarded?

HB 2302 does allow the Kansas Water Office to award partial grants.

15. When will the next round of funding be available?

The Kansas Water Office will receive its next allocation of funding in July 2024. The exact application timeframe and deadline has not been established.