Smart Planning for Future Funding

STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Thursday, September 4, 2025

Location: DEQ State Office, 1410 N. Hilton St. Boise, ID 83706

Workshop Overview:

Idaho communities are facing unprecedented demand to provide immediate and substantial investments in drinking water and wastewater infrastructure. Unfortunately, these demands far exceed the available state and federal funding sources the many communities have historically relied on to fund their projects. This workshop will focus on what communities can do when they find themselves in a position of a crucial project that does not receive state or federal funding. The workshop will explore the concept of moving towards sustainable infrastructure today amidst the uncertainty of tomorrow's funding shortfalls.

Workshop Agenda:

Session	*Speaker*	*Topic*	*Minutes*	*Start*	*End time*
Infrastructure and Funding Landscape in Idaho	Jerri Henry and MaryAnna Peavey, DEQ	This session will provide an overview of current challenges including funding outlooks, infrastructure demands, project costs drivers, and anticipated trends.	45	8:30 AM	9:15 AM
From Surviving to Thriving	Nicolas Hiebert, DEQ	This session will lay the framework of strategies that allow systems to remain sustainable and solvent amidst funding uncertainty. It will attempt to provide practical self assessment for systems to strategically move towards this goal.	45	9:15 AM	10:00 AM
Break			15	10:00 AM	10:15 AM
Project Strategies without Federal Funding	Agency Panel (IRWA/IBBA/AIC/ Bond Attorney)	This session will build upon the previous sessions to provide practical steps for shovel ready projects that are unable to secure funding. It will explore tips and tricks for alternative funding solutions.	45	10:15 AM	11:00 AM
Proactive Compliance in Uncertainty	DEQ Panel (James Craft, Cassandra Lemons, Valerie Greear)	This session will step back and assess a more comprehensive view of what is driving infrastructure demands and potential solutions to address underlying issues. It will specifically provide insights into how to manage your system through proactive compliance efforts with DEQ.	45	11:00 AM	11:45 AM
Lunch (on your own)			75	11:45 AM	1:00 PM
Planning Efforts without Breaking the Bank	Ty Leydig, RCAC	Proactive and effective planning is foundational to remaining sustainable during uncertain times. This session will dive into the details of rate studies, capital improvement plans, and other strategies that systems can complete themselves.	45	1:00 PM	1:45 PM
Case Study - Operating your System Like a Business?	Laurelei McVey, City of Meridian	A system's perspective on what it takes to operate a drinking water or wastewater system sustainably. Tips and tricks for proactively setting up your system for success without relying on federal funding.	45	1:45 PM	2:30 PM
Break			30	2:30 PM	3:00 PM
Discussion and Breakout Sessions - In Person Only	Various	This in person only session will provide opportunities for collaborative discussion and to tackle specific questions. There will also be an opportunity to hear from involved agencies, and technical assistance providers and breakout tables to speak individually with these representatives .	60	3:00 PM	4:00 PM

Thank you for attending!

Provide training feedback at *grants.loans@deq.idaho.gov*