The NRWA Rural Water Loan Fund was established under a grant from USDA/RUS to provide financing to eligible utilities for pre-development costs associated with proposed water and wastewater projects. RWLF funds can also be used by water-wastewater systems for short term costs incurred for replacement equipment, small scale extension of services or other small capital projects that are not a part of your regular operations and maintenance.

Systems applying must be public entities. This includes municipalities, counties, special purpose districts, Native American Tribes and corporations not operated for profit, including cooperatives, with up to 10,000 population and rural areas with no population limits.

“We were in a desperate situation and if it had not been for the loan from Revolving Loan Fund the project would have failed. We could not have accomplished our project without the help of the loan.”

President of the Board, Small Mutual Water System
What are the loan amounts?
Loan amounts may not exceed $100,000 or 75% of the total project cost whichever is less. Applicants will be given credit for documented project cost prior to receiving the RWLF loan.

What are the loan terms?
The law authorizing the program allows a maximum repayment period of 10 years. Additional ranking points are awarded in the selection process for applicants that propose a quicker repayment of the loan. The repayment period cannot exceed the useful life of the facilities or financed item. Fidelity bond insurance is required of all applicants.

Priority is given to energy efficiency upgrades to reduce costs and increase rural system sustainability. Implementing energy efficient projects such as installing variable speed pumps can quickly pay for themselves by reducing costs up to 25%.

What is the interest rate?
Loans will be made at the lower of the poverty or market interest rate as published by RUS, with a minimum of 3% at the time of closing. The most current rates are available on the RUS Water and Environmental Programs Home page at www.rurdev.usda.gov/uwp-int-rate.htm.

Where should applications be filed?
Applications, information and forms can be acquired via the internet at www.nrwa.org. Information can be emailed to loans@nrwa.org or mailed to:

NRWA-RWLF
2915 South 13th, Duncan, OK 73533
1-800-332-8715

Applicants can also contact any State Rural Water Association for assistance in acquiring, preparing and submitting the required documents. NRWA’s straightforward application process and rapid turnaround time is designed to meet your system’s needs, allowing a quick return to normal operation.

“...you provided the help that we needed, when we needed it and in a timely manner. Thank you for making it possible and so convenient to obtain a loan in our time of need…”

Director - Rural Water PWS

“The loan helped us replace our aging water tank and make needed improvements at the tank site. Our loan application was quickly responded to and the entire process was smooth and efficient. The Rural Water Loan Fund is certainly a much needed resource for small rural water systems such as ours.”

Treasurer - Small Rural Mutual Water Consumer’s Association

Contact Your State Rural Water Association or National Rural Water Association