

Water Infrastructure Grant Writing Resources

Drafted April 17, 2018

Updated January 28, 2021

Foundations and other funders increasingly recognize the importance of upgrading New Jersey's water infrastructure and want to see that potential grantees are coordinating their efforts as part of a larger movement. For these reasons, you may find it helpful to explain how your project reflects the purpose and goals of Jersey Water Works. To help, Jersey Water Works members are encouraged to draw from the following information and text as a resource when applying for grant funding opportunities. Please contact the [Jersey Water Works' program manager](#) with any questions.

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1. General Jersey Water Works Information

As a member, you can insert the following to describe JWW:

"Jersey Water Works is a collaborative effort of [over 600](#) members who represent a variety of diverse organizations and embrace the common purpose of transforming New Jersey's inadequate water infrastructure by investing in sustainable, cost-effective solutions that provide communities with clean water and waterways; healthier, safer neighborhoods; local jobs; flood and climate resilience; and economic growth."

An embedded link to the JWW member list is included in the above paragraph to help you consider whether your proposal would be strengthened as a joint venture with other members.

Also useful:

- [Committee descriptions and links to work plans and accomplishments](#). Use language from the work plans and accomplishments to demonstrate your project is part of a larger effort that will have a greater outcome.
- [Report: Our Water Transformed](#). The first section of this report includes clear and concise examples of Jersey Water Works committee accomplishments to date. These can be useful in proposals to provide credibility for your program design.
- [Information for New Members](#). This packet provides information on JWW history, organizational structure, and collaborative operations and decision making.

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2. Sample Text for Water infrastructure Problem Statements

Sample text here: [Water infrastructure matters to New Jersey](#)

Short responses to:

- Inadequacy of NJ wastewater and drinking water infrastructure
- How:
 - smart water investments expand economic opportunities
 - fixing pipes protects water sources, saves money and improves health
 - green approaches tackle flooding and improve neighborhoods
 - water and sewer utilities can be community anchors and environmental champions
- Common-sense innovations that lower costs and strengthen communities

[Goals of JWW](#) – (Pick those that apply to your grant) includes sub-goals that can also be used as grant outcomes.

- Effective green and gray infrastructure that delivers quality service and reduces flooding
- Smart plans that end combined sewer overflows and protect waterways and health
- Financially sustainable and affordable systems that operate efficiently
- Empowered stakeholders who participate actively and shape local water systems

3. Detailed Descriptions and Data for the State of New Jersey’s Water Infrastructure

Data about the scale and scope of the problem as well as priority solutions regarding asset management, financing and educating the public here: [Report: Our Water Transformed](#) (see the second section of this report, Transforming New Jersey’s Water Infrastructure: A Call to Action and Innovation November 2017). You are encouraged to reference this document and pull out useful data and content. Be sure to give attribution to the authors of this section.

Detailed descriptions and targeted urban area data here: [Water Infrastructure in New Jersey’s CSO Cities: Elevating the Importance of Upgrading New Jersey’s Urban Water Systems](#). While this report focuses mostly on combined sewer overflow systems it also includes data on water infrastructure more generally. For useful text on the problem and solutions see:

- Executive Summary
- Chapter 1 Introductions

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- Chapter 5 Findings & Recommendations

A short problem statement taken from this report is: (please give attribution to the report)

“While we now have sophisticated water supply and sewage treatment systems to protect public health and the environment, some of the original 1800’s water infrastructure of our cities is still in place, still serving (or perhaps underserving is the better word) the public. While most suburbs in New Jersey were created in the 1940’s and beyond, our historic urban areas have many water supply lines that are over 100 years old, and likewise still have combined sewers made of bricks and mortar. New Jersey on the whole has underinvested in water infrastructure over the decades, focusing on those aspects of the system that are directly regulated (e.g., drinking water quality, water pressure, and effluent water quality) and not on the pipes that get the fluids to and from the customers. What is clear from the evidence is that many of these systems are degrading and will fail unless upgraded or replaced with more modern systems. In too many municipalities (though not all, as some systems have engaged in forward thinking and investment), emergency repair costs are increasing and service disruptions are occurring too frequently”

4. Evaluation Metrics

Depending on the strategy you have chosen for the grant you should be able to use the [Jersey Water Works Measurement System](#) to link to relevant goals/outcomes, indicators and 2020 benchmarks to complete any evaluation section of a grant proposal. This statewide evaluation work is aspirational since some of the data systems either are not available yet or do not have local data. Getting funding to contribute to the dataset would be very helpful to the entire system.

5. Letters of Endorsement from Jersey Water Works

As long as your grant request advances the purpose statement and shared goals of Jersey Water Works, you can request a letter of endorsement from the Steering Committee. See [Operating Procedures](#) for more information on communication and leveraging resources and/or contact the [Jersey Water Works’ program manager](#) to initiate this process.