Funding for Infrastructure & Public Facilities

Playing to Win the Grants Game

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Introduction

- Jim Thatcher / j.thatcher@ctmale.com
- Manager of Community Development – 2015
- Funding Consultant for 20 Years
- Upstate NY since 1977
- 45 Communities / $50 Million in Funding

Find and Get Money / Help You Spend it Right!
Why Now?

- NYS: $2.5 Billion / Clean Water and Sewer
- As Fed Rate goes up, State loan rates better
- Flood and Disaster Resiliency
- Capacity to support JOBS and Housing
- Energy Conservation / Green Practices
As for Infrastructure from the Feds......?
Project Planning

- What do we WANT to do?
- What do we HAVE to do?
- What are we starting with?
- When can be be ready?
Getting Ready

- Prioritize *needs* and *capacity*
- Identify the desired solution and alternatives
- Work with Engineers on probable costs
- Funding options / Application eligibility and thresholds, district formation, financing plans
- **Committing to a Project and Local Financing**
Knowledge is Power

Engineering Reports & Cost Estimates

- There is GRANT funding for Engineering Plans
- EFC / NYS CDBG Program
- Competitive / Could set project schedule back
- Can you fund technical reports and capital plans locally to avoid delays – **TIP:** Focus on entire system as an infrastructure master plan to carve out phased projects in more specific areas
Must Haves to Pass Go

- District formation - (new systems / extensions)
- Engineering Report and Cost Estimates
  - Varies in detail and up-front work
- Plan of Finance – How to pay?
- SEQR / SHPO
- When will you need the funds?
Plan of Finance

- Don’t count on 100% GRANT funds
- Short-term BANs to cover ALL costs
- Plenty of Federal / State loans
- Market rates vs. subsidized loans + fees
- Submit *Hardship Application* early
Readiness

- Application threshold OR points?
- Bond Resolution for State funding - *intent*
- What work can you front load?
  - Project Boundaries / Map Plan & Report
  - Income Survey / EDU count
  - Archaeology – *talk to SHPO early*
  - Financing Info to EFC - *to determine Hardship*
Basic Services
Planning Money

- **Environmental Planning Grant Program – (EFC)**
  - Engineering studies of WWTP and Collection (I&I)
  - Muni with certain MHI / $30k to $100k with 20% Match

- **NYS Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program**
  - Planning Grant / $50,000 with 5% CASH Match
  - Engineering plans and initial design work
  - Intent is to prepare a Project for a future CDBG Application
  - Benefit to low and moderate income residents / district
NYS Water Grants Program (WIIA)

- NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC)
- Drinking Water (60%) / Wastewater (25%)
- Finance remainder with State loan or Local Bonds
- WIIA is \textit{NET} any other Grants
- Comply with State Revolving Fund (SRF) Rules

\textit{Early Fall 2019 - Generally Annual Funding Cycles}
NYS Water Grants Program – (WIIA)

- Scoring by the DEC (for Sewer) / DOH for Water
- Hardship Criteria - 0% Loan for remainder of Project
- Bond Resolution or other funds to show readiness
- Engineering Report with the grant application
- SEQR / SHPO finished when you apply

*Up front work….But more plentiful funding*
Design / Build Funding

Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP)

- Wastewater Treatment / Conveyance
- Municipalities, MS4s, Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- Annual funding cycle through the CFA
- Focus on local and regional *water quality* problems
- 25% to 75% of hard construction costs
- Funding maximums generally < $5 Million

*Be mindful of annual priorities and scoring factors*
Design / Build Funding

NYS Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

- **Infrastructure** — Water, Sewer, Storm-water
- **Public Facilities** — Senior / Youth Centers
- **Microenterprise Assistance** — Start-ups and Businesses with five (5) or fewer employees
- **Planning** — Engineering / Needs Assessments for Public Infrastructure / Facilities such as Senior Centers
$20-$25 Million Annual
- Municipalities - (only)
- Counties - (Non-HUD Entitlement)
- Joint Muni Applications
- Co-Funding of Infrastructure Projects is Encouraged – (if other funds are committed)

**The Skinny**
- Highly Competitive
- Income Targeted
- 100% Grant (generally)
- Why NOT other funds?
- Meets local priorities
- Prep Time (months)
Up to $750k for Water, Sewer, Storm Drainage Projects

Up to $1 Million if the Project is “Co-Funded” with other Federal or State grant and/or loan programs - awarded

Benefit to Low and Moderate Income persons - Income Survey of Project Area or community might be required

- Is not acceptable to pull Census data and assume

Preliminary Engineering Report submitted w/ Application

Must seek other funds first; Awards based on NEED
CDBG Infrastructure Grant
Village of Fort Edward
Town of AuSable
CDBG Planning Grant – 2015
Public Facility Grant - 2018

Reuse of the former
Keeseville Civic Center
CDBG Public Facility
City of Little Falls

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“Niche” Infrastructure Programs

- **Emerging Contaminants Project Planning Grant Program** – (EFC and DOH)
  - Engineering studies for Water Systems with known emerging contaminants – (PFOA, PFOS, 1,4-dioxane)

- **Inter-Municipal Grant Program** – (EFC)
  - Similar to WIIA / 40% of Project Costs / Shared Municipal Systems
  - SEQR / SHPO and Bond Resolution at Application
Economic Development Purpose

- Empire State Development Corp. (ESD)
  - Demolition, construction, water and sewer mains
  - Treatment facilities to sustain or increase capacity
  - Annual CFA or discuss with regional offices
  - Typically 20% of Project Costs

Project must attract companies and JOBS
Economic Development Purpose

- Empire State Development Corp. (ESD)
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Consider **GREEN** Project Components

- **Green Innovation Grant Program – (EFC)**
  - Implement “green” measures to reduce runoff / eliminate CSOs
  - Porous pavement / rain gardens / roof drains / stream day-lighting
  - Innovative and regionally important projects

- **Integrated Solutions Construction Grant - (EFC)**
  - Grant funding added to an existing EFC Project
  - Covers up to 50% of the cost associated with “green” solutions
Could Match Primary State Funds

- **USDA – Rural Development**
  - Population under 10,000
  - Limited GRANT funds / Must take their Loan deal
  - Based on MHI and target service charges
  - Low-interest financing for up to 38-40 years

- **Northern Border Regional Commission**
  - Certain counties / Up to $500,000 in GRANT / 80% of Costs
  - Regional Importance / Economic Development Impact
Year Long Process

- Consolidated Funding Application – **July**
  - Env. Planning Grant / CDBG / WQIP / GIGP
- WIIA – Annual / *Typically Early Fall*
- USDA / Empire State Development - *Rolling*
- Northern Border – **April / May** (*depends on Feds*)

*Plan Early – Know the Thresholds*
Review Program Guidelines for eligibility
Attend the REDC / EFC workshops & webinars
Pick feasible and phased Projects
Watch the threshold criteria just to apply
Use planning grants to get started
Talk to C.T. Male – We are a funding resource
Other Types of “Infrastructure”

*(All CFA)*

- **Municipal Parks and Recreation**
  - 50 / 50 or 75 / 25 Grant Program via the CFA

- **Local Waterfront Revitalization**
  - 75 / 25 for Planning and Implementation
  - Recommendations from your adopted LWRP (Plan)

- **Historic Preservation Grant Program**
  - Municipal or Non-Profit facilities listed on Register
Parks and Recreation

Parks Grant Program
- Municipalities
- Non Profits
- Planning and Design
- Land Acquisition
- Construction / Renovation
- Various Facilities
- Park Infrastructure

The Skinny
- 50% Matching
- 75% High Poverty CTs
- $600k Max Request
- Parkland in Perpetuity
- Regional Impact
- M/WBE Goals
Veterans Memorial Park
City of Little Falls

$484,000 Parks
$162,000 City In-Kind
Electrical, Courts, Bathrooms
Infrastructure Morsels

Additional GRANT Opportunities

- **NYS Council on the Arts**
  - Bricks and mortar for muni or non-profit facilities

- **Recreational Trails Program** – OPRHP
  - < $2 million / Lots of trail categories / 20% match

- **Canalway Grant Program** – NYS Canal Corp.
  - $1 million / 50% match / Facilities, trails, infrastructure
Funding Opportunities ➤ Challenges

- Bonds – Great Rates ➤ Political / Local Borrowing Limits
- SRF – Available Funds / Hardship ➤ Loans / Extra Fees
- NYS Water Grants - GRANTS ➤ Low % Total Cost / Eligibility
- CDBG – GRANTS ➤ Limited Funding / Income / Competition
- USDA – Available Loan Funds / 30+ Year Terms ➤ Small Grants / Long Processing Times / Paperwork
- WQIP – Grants ➤ Need impaired water body / Consent Order / Not a drinking water program
More Than Just GRANT Writing

- Identify grants and check your eligibility
- Project design / Income Surveys
- Prepare applications / Attend public hearings
- Engineering Reports / Cost Estimates

Funding “roadmap” - Target easiest grants first
Thank You
Questions / Comments

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