

WEST VIRGINIA CODE: §22C-1-6a

§22C-1-6a. Additional powers of the West Virginia Water Development Authority; Creation of Economic Enhancement Grant Fund.

(a) The Water Development Authority shall create and establish a special fund of moneys made available by appropriations, grants, contributions or other sources to be known as the West Virginia Economic Enhancement Grant Fund. This fund shall be governed, administered and accounted for by the directors, officers and management staff of the Water Development Authority as a special program account separate and distinct from any other money, fund or funds owned and/or managed by the Water Development Authority. The Economic Enhancement Grant Fund shall consist of subaccounts as deemed necessary by the Water Development Authority for the deposit of any appropriations, grants, gifts, contributions or other moneys received by the Economic Enhancement Grant Fund from any source, public or private, and all income earned on moneys held in the Economic Enhancement Grant Fund. Amounts in the Economic Enhancement Grant Fund shall be administered by the Water Development Authority separate and apart from its other assets and programs. Amounts in the Economic Enhancement Grant Fund may not be transferred to any other fund or account or used for the payment of any other programs of the Water Development Authority except the Water Development Authority may use funds in the Economic Enhancement Grant Fund to reimburse itself for any administration costs incurred by it. Pending distribution of any money in the Economic Enhancement Grant Fund the Water Development Authority shall invest and reinvest the money subject to the limitations of §22C-1-15 of this code.

(b) The Water Development Authority shall establish the Matching Grant Subaccount in the Economic Enhancement Grant Fund to be expended to provide the local or state match for any federal or other programs that require a match for projects and infrastructure projects as defined in §31-15A-2 of this code and where the commitment of the matching funds is required to be made and submitted with the application for the federal or other grant. Upon receipt of a recommendation from the West Virginia Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council and/or the West Virginia Department of Economic Development, the Water Development Authority shall review the application of a governmental agency or not-for-profit and if the governmental agency or not-for-profit is eligible for the federal or other matching grant funding, set aside moneys in the subaccount and provide a written binding commitment to the governmental agency or not-for-profit to submit with its application. If the federal or other programs subsequently approve funding to the governmental agency or not-for-profit, the Water Development Authority shall enter into a grant agreement with the governmental agency or not-for-profit providing the grant funding if the governmental agency or not-for-profit is in compliance with §12-4-14 of this code. The Water Development Authority shall disperse funds under the grant agreement from time to time to comply with the terms of the other funding sources.

(c) The Water Development Authority shall establish the Enhancement Grant Subaccount in the Economic Enhancement Grant Fund to be expended as grants to governmental agencies or not-for-profits to cover all or a portion of the costs of projects or infrastructure projects as defined in §31-15A-2 of this code and more specifically:

(1) To cover the cost of bid overruns for projects and infrastructure projects approved by the West Virginia Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council;

(2) To cover all or a portion of the costs of extending or expanding water, stormwater and/or wastewater service to enhance economic development and/or tourism when recommended by the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Economic Development and/or the Secretary of Tourism;

(3) To cover the costs of facilitating the merger and/or consolidation of water or wastewater providers where all parties to the proposed merger make joint applications to the West Virginia Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council;

(4) To cover the cost of water, stormwater and/or wastewater projects for governmental agencies where the combined rates for water, stormwater and wastewater exceed 1.5% of the governmental agency's Median Household Income;

(5) To cover the startup costs for governmental utilities that are providing or extending service to unserved areas of the State;

(6) To provide a commitment to cover the difference between the cost of funded projects and the updated cost estimate, and when the project is bid, to provide a grant for the dollar difference between the committed funding and the bid results; and

(7) To cover all or a portion of the infrastructure projects to enhance economic development and/or tourism when recommended by the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Economic Development and/or the Secretary of Tourism.

(d) The Water Development Authority is hereby authorized to enter into grant agreements with governmental agencies and not-for-profits to evidence the grant which agreements shall include the following provisions:

(1) The estimated cost of the project or infrastructure project, the amount of the grant and the other funding sources;

(2) The specific purpose for which the grant proceeds shall be expended and the conditions and procedures for distributing the grant proceeds;

(3) The duties and obligations imposed regarding the acquisition, construction, improvement, or operation of the project or infrastructure project; and

(4) The agreement of the governmental agency or not-for-profit to comply with all applicable

federal and state laws, and all rules and regulations issued or imposed by the Water Development Authority or other state, federal, or local bodies regarding the acquisition, construction, improvement, or operation of the infrastructure project or project.

(e) The Water Development Authority shall cause an annual audit to be made by an independent certified public accountant of its books, accounts and records with respect to the system and distributions and all matters relating to the financial application of the Economic Enhancement Grant Fund including all subaccounts therein. The Water Development Authority shall provide copies of the audit report to the Legislature.