



Geneva Receives \$1.5 Million in State Funding for Critical Water/Wastewater Infrastructure Upgrades

(COLUMBUS, Ohio) – The City of Geneva is one of 76 projects receiving state grants to address critical water and wastewater infrastructure projects in Ohio communities. In total, 59 counties will receive \$122.7 million.

The funding is part of the sixth round of the Ohio BUILDS (Broadband, Utilities, and Infrastructure for Local Development Success) [Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Grant Program](#). Funding will provide \$84.5 million in support of 43 new critical infrastructure projects and \$38.2 million in gap funding for 33 previously funded projects with costs that exceeded initial estimates.

Since 2021, the Ohio BUILDS Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Grant Program has provided nearly \$620 million to support hundreds of local water projects in all of Ohio's 88 counties.

“The investments we've made through this program have been transformational in many Ohio communities,” said Ohio Governor Mike DeWine. “The projects we're funding are about more than new pipes - they're about protecting the health and wellbeing of Ohioans across the state.”

The grants announced today will help reduce or eliminate the financial burden community leaders face in addressing critical infrastructure needs such as new water distribution systems, waterline extensions, water tower replacements, and new pipes and water mains. Grants will also fund projects to replace sanitary sewer systems, prevent sewer system backups, and extend sewer lines to support economic growth.

Today's award will support the City of Geneva with the W. Main Street Sewer Replacement Project, Phase I. Planning for this major infrastructure project began in 2015 and has been ongoing to the point of finally securing a contractor bid in October, 2023. During this time, the cost of the project increased exponentially and the City has been working diligently to secure funding not only get the project started, but to also reduce their reliance on long term debt financing.

In addition to this recent grant, the City has also secured funding from ODOD Small Cities Program in the amount of \$2.25M, ODOD Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Grant Program for \$3M, Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) in the amount of \$650K, and has secured the balance in a Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) Construction Loan.

“Investments in our communities' infrastructure are key to expanding sites for new businesses and housing that the people who work at these businesses will need to live and thrive,” said Lt. Jon Governor Husted. “This program is a key part of our efforts to ensure every community has the foundation in place to improve the quality of life to make Ohio a great place to live, work, and raise a family.”

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds were appropriated by the Ohio General Assembly and awarded through three rounds in [October](#), [November](#), and [December](#) 2021, as well as rounds in [June](#) and [July](#) 2023. The sixth round of funding was made possible through continued support in the 2023 biennium budget bill, which included more than \$120 million to support water infrastructure projects. The Ohio Department of Development administers the program.

“Whenever I travel the state, I’m inevitably greeted by Ohioans who share the transformative impact water/wastewater projects have had on their communities,” said Lydia Mihalik, director of the Department of Development. “But our work is far from over, and thanks to Governor DeWine, Lt. Governor Husted, and our partners in the Ohio General Assembly, we have the opportunity to create sustainable solutions in even more parts of the state.”

The program received 703 grant applications for this round, requesting more than \$1.4 billion in funding, demonstrating the continued need for water infrastructure improvements across the state.

“We are thrilled to learn of the \$1.5M grant award through the ODOD’s Water/Wastewater Infrastructure Grant Program”, said Geneva City Manager Joseph Varckette. “This additional gap funding for our W. Main Street Sewer Replacement Project will enable us to significantly reduce our project loan debt obligation as well as ease our overall leverage”. Varckette continued, “We are very thankful to Gov. DeWine and Director Mihalik of the ODOD as the result of these funds will benefit the health and wellbeing of our residents and the entire region for decades to come”.

In addition to water infrastructure upgrades, Ohio BUILDS strategically invests in a broad range of projects to improve quality of life and support economic growth, such as broadband expansion, brownfield redevelopment, the demolition of blighted buildings, and more.

The Ohio Department of Development empowers communities to succeed by investing in Ohio’s people, places, and businesses. Learn more about our work at development.ohio.gov.

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