

TREASURE STATE ENDOWMENT PROGRAM

SUMMARY OF APPLICATION GUIDELINES CHANGES - 2019 BIENNIUM

II. Eligible Applicants

New section – **Additional considerations for Eligible Applicants**

- Informing potential applicants that Local Government Services reports are available online at <http://sfsd.mt.gov/LGSB>
- Applications involving projects with annexation into must provide annexation plans and other documents related to annexation.

III. Eligible Projects

Existing section -- **Additional Considerations for Eligible Projects**

- New guidance to applicants that budgets should be rounded to the nearest whole dollar amount.

Existing section – Matching Funding sources for TSEP projects

- Language added to clarify existing requirement that TSEP requires match of 1:1 for total project budget unless hardship grant is requested and approved

IV. Application submission

Existing section - **General Requirements**

- Language added regarding best method for submitting an electronic application and supporting documents

Existing section – **Environmental Review**

- Modifications made to entire section to reflect new categorical exemptions adopted by the Department at ARM 8.2.328, add the Montana Sage Grouse Program to the list of other state environmental requirements that may apply to a project awarded TSEP funds; and otherwise clarify existing environmental review requirements.

Appendix A

Existing section – **B. Ranking Applications on the Seven Statutory Priorities**

- Maximum possible points modified for all statutory priorities and total maximum possible points to apply heavier weight to public health and safety and financial need (Statutory Priorities #1 and #2)

Existing section – **C. TSEP Statutory Priorities and Ranking Criteria (Statutory Priority #2)**

- Narrative describing changes to scoring for Statutory Priority #2 to consideration of two factors: millage assessed in proportion to median household income and target rate comparison to user rates at end of project. Clarifies that all information necessary to consider and score Statutory Priority #2 will be obtained by Commerce or is already provided by the applicant in the *Uniform Application for Montana Public Facility Projects, Tenth Edition*.
- Provides the ability to submit additional information or documentation if an applicant faces extenuating circumstances that may not be accurately reflected in these financial factors.

Existing section – **D. Scoring Level Definitions (Statutory Priority #1, Bridge Projects)**

- Added factors to illustrative list of factors considered by program in scoring bridge projects under Statutory Priority #1

Existing section – **D. Scoring Level Definitions (Statutory Priority #2)**

- Existing narrative modified to reflect new financial factors used for scoring Statutory Priority #2

Appendix C

Existing Section – **Environmental Checklist**

- Sage Grouse adding to illustrative list of terrestrial and avian life and habitats (#9, Vegetation & Wildlife Species & Habitats) that should be considered in assessing impacts of proposed project

New Section – **Sample Resolution of Environmental Finding**

- Sample resolution to accept environmental findings provided for voluntary use by applicants