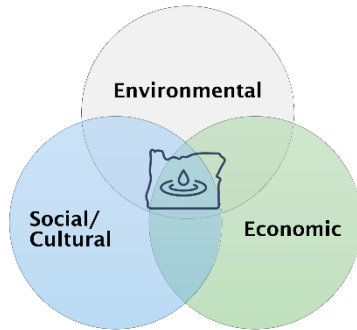


Water Project Grants & Loans Irrigation Modernization Funding

Application Scoring Overview

The Water Project Grants and Loans (WPGL) and Irrigation Modernization (IM) funding opportunities fund projects that result in public benefits in three categories:



Applications are scored using **18** questions listed in ORS 541.673 to assess the project's public benefits. These questions are divided evenly into the three public benefit categories. Each question receives points based upon the following scale. A score of 12 is not common and the benefit must *truly* be exceptional.

12	Exceptional benefit
6	High benefit
3	Medium benefit
1	Minor benefit
0	No benefit
- 1	Minor negative impact
- 3	Medium negative impact

For WPGL projects, there are **240** total points available. For IM projects, there are **250** points available:

6	Questions in each public benefit category
12	Maximum points for each question
72	Available points in each public benefit category
216	Total available points in the 3 public benefit categories
24	Potential preference points (<i>see callout box</i>)
10	Additional potential preference points for irrigation modernization projects only (<i>see callout box</i>)

To be funded, projects must receive a minimum score of **7 in each of the 3 public benefit categories**. A category score of 7 indicates the public benefits are more than "Minor." Projects are ranked by the total score and the top-ranked projects are funded first, subject to available funding. A score of 240 or 250 is unlikely for any project (*see callout box*). See the [Scoring Criteria](#) document for more information.

By the Numbers

- Since 2020, **35** applications scored using current scoring criteria
- Of the **18** applications funded:
 - **125** - highest total score
 - **79** - average total score
 - **37** - lowest total score

Preference Points Matter

Preference points are added to the total of the 3 public benefit category scores and can positively impact the project's ranking for funding.

Applications can only receive preference points for legally protecting water instream or collaborative planning efforts.

1. Legally Protecting Water Instream:

Up to **12** points: WPGL and IM projects receive additional preference points that are equal to the score received for the [environmental public benefit question 2a](#), which provides points for legally protecting water instream.

10 points: IM projects receive an additional 10 points if the project proposes to legally protect a portion of the conserved water instream commensurate with the amount required under the approach described in ORS 537.470.

2. Collaborative Planning Efforts:

Up to **12** points: WPGL and IM projects receive additional points that are equal to the score received for the [social/cultural public benefit question 3f](#), which provides points for promotion of collaborative basin planning efforts.

Since 2020, funded applications received an average of 10 preference points. Unsuccessful applications received an average of 2 preference points.