

**From:** Minister of Infrastructure <[Minister.MOI@ontario.ca](mailto:Minister.MOI@ontario.ca)>

**Sent:** Monday, January 29, 2024 10:48 AM

**To:** Minister of Infrastructure <[Minister.MOI@ontario.ca](mailto:Minister.MOI@ontario.ca)>

**Subject:** A Message from the Minister of Infrastructure: Housing Enabling Water Systems Fund – Application Intake Launch

Good morning,

In the *2023 Fall Economic Statement*, the Ontario government announced \$200 million in funding over three years for a new Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund (HEWSF). This program will target critical water projects to help unlock more housing in Ontario, bringing us one step closer to our government's goal of building at least 1.5 million homes by 2031.

I am pleased to announce the application intake has officially launched today for this program. The deadline for municipalities to apply through Ontario's online grant portal, [Transfer Payments Ontario \(TPON\)](#) will be **April 19, 2024**.

Key highlights of the program include:

- All municipalities that own water infrastructure are eligible to submit one application with a maximum project provincial contribution cost of \$35 million or less.
- Joint municipal applications are eligible and encouraged.
- Projects must include a capital component and:
  - Be in the process of, or have completed, the design and planning phases.
  - Start by September 30, 2024, and be completed by March 31, 2027.
- Projects will be evaluated based on technical merit and outcomes, including housing, project readiness, and health and safety.

To ensure a seamless application process and to provide municipalities with ample time to prioritize projects, ministry staff will continue to host webinars open for all municipalities to attend. Additionally, if you have any program inquiries, please send your questions to [HEWS@ontario.ca](mailto:HEWS@ontario.ca).

While we are moving forward with addressing the urgent need for critical water projects, we understand that significant infrastructure needs persist across the province. Ontario remains steadfast in our call on the federal government for new federal-provincial infrastructure funding to support the province's rapidly growing population, unlock more housing opportunities, and spur economic growth.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership as we work to protect and grow communities across Ontario.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Kinga Surma  
Minister of Infrastructure