

# Concise Explanatory Statement

## Chapter 246-296 WAC, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program

Comment Received	Department of Health Determination
<p>The old definition of “Disadvantaged Community” obscured the significant disparities that exist within larger communities. The new definition will support the effective distribution of resources to Washington’s vulnerable communities and promote equitable access to essential drinking water services.</p>	<p><b>No change to proposed rule.</b> Thank you for your interest and support for this rule revision.</p>
<p>We are happy to see that all public water systems owned by a federally recognized Tribe are considered disadvantaged communities.</p>	<p><b>No change to proposed rule.</b> Thank you for your interest and support for this rule revision.</p>
<p>Support the greater flexibility for the consideration of partial or full principal loan forgiveness.</p>	<p><b>No change to proposed rule.</b> Thank you for your interest and support for this rule revision.</p>
<p>Requested amendment to the second sentence of the definition of “Disadvantaged Community.” The suggestion was to insert the words “but not limited to” after “including” and to replace the “and” with an “or”, to read: “Potential qualifying areas will be assessed by indicators established in state guidance including, but not limited to: population served, social vulnerability, environmental health disparities, or economic hardship.”</p>	<p><b>Clarifying, non-substantive change to proposed rule.</b> The department determined that this is a clarification that the list of indicators that will be used in determining areas that will qualify as disadvantaged communities is not exhaustive in nature.</p>

Notes: The Department of Health did not receive written comments for WAC 246-296-100 or 246-296-130.