

Financing Nutrient Management Improvements in Underserved Communities: Resources

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The U.S. EPA administers a broad set of federal programs to aid municipal wastewater treatment plant construction and improvement and provide technical assistance and support for communities across the U.S. as they work to provide clean water for their constituents. Originally established as a grant program in 1972 under the authority of the Clean Water Act (CWA), EPA now capitalizes state loan programs through the clean water state revolving loan fund (CWSRF) program and the drinking water state revolving loan fund (DWSRF) program. More recently, the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (WIFIA) established the WIFIA program, a federal credit program administered by EPA for eligible water and wastewater infrastructure projects.

- State Revolving Fund (SRF) Contacts:
 - Clean Water SRF. [State CWSRF Program Contacts | US EPA](#)
 - Drinking Water SRF. [State DWSRF website and contact\(s\) | US EPA](#)
- Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Finance Program Handbook. [WIFIA Program Handbook \(epa.gov\)](#)
- Environmental Finance Centers (EFCs). [Environmental Finance Centers | US EPA](#)
 - Targeted technical assistance to and with states, tribes, local governments, and the private sector, providing innovative solutions to help manage the costs of environmental financing and program management.
- Source Water Protection Program. <https://www.epa.gov/sourcewaterprotection>

U.S. EPA Water Finance Clearinghouse

The U.S. EPA Water Infrastructure Resiliency Finance Center is an information and assistance center, helping communities make informed decisions for drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure to protect human health and the environment. The Center provides financing information and assistance through programs like the Water Finance Clearinghouse, Technical Assistance, and the Environmental Financial Advisory Board (EFAB).

- The [Water Finance Clearinghouse](#) is an easily navigable web-based portal to help communities locate information and resources that will assist them in making informed decisions for their drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure needs. The Clearinghouse includes two searchable databases: one contains available funding sources for water infrastructure and the

second contains resources, such as reports, weblinks, webinars etc. on financing mechanisms and approaches that can help communities access capital to meet their water infrastructure needs.

- The Water Finance Clearinghouse was developed by [EPA's Water Infrastructure Finance and Resiliency Center](#), an information and assistance center identifying water infrastructure financing approaches that help communities reach their public health and environmental goals.
- <https://clearinghouse.epa.gov/ords/wfc/f?p=wfc:12>

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

The USDA Rural Development Water & Environmental Program provides funding for the construction of water and waste facilities in rural communities and is proud to be the only Federal program exclusively focused on rural water and waste infrastructure needs of rural communities with populations of 10,000 or less.

- USDA Rural Development. [Water & Environmental Programs | Rural Development \(usda.gov\)](#)
- USDA Rural Development State Offices. [State Offices | Rural Development \(usda.gov\)](#)
- RD Apply. [RD Apply | Rural Development \(usda.gov\)](#)
- Circuit Rider Program [State Associations | NRWA](#)
 - Provides technical assistance to rural water systems through a contract with the [National Rural Water Association](#) Rural water system officials may request assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, or Rural Utilities Service staff may request assistance on behalf of the system.

Training and Technical Assistance Providers

EPA and USDA also work with on-the-ground partners to provide financial technical assistance to communities including objective financial advice to help communities make informed decisions on funding drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure projects, and access to tools that help utilities make financing decisions to meet their local infrastructure needs. These partners include:

- [Capacity Development Program](#)
Every state has a capacity development program to help small systems improve their finances, management, infrastructure, and operations.
- [Environmental Finance Center \(EFC\) Network](#)
EFCs and their partners provide innovative solutions to states, tribes, local governments and the private sector to help manage the costs of environmental financing and program management.
- [National Rural Water Association \(NRWA\)](#)
NRWA is a national network of non-profit organizations serve rural and small communities across the U.S. and provides training and technical assistance on operating, managing, and financing water and wastewater
- [Rural Community Assistance Partnership \(RCAP\)](#)
RCAP is a national network of non-profit organizations that provides training and technical assistance through six regional organizations on financing, managing, and operating water and wastewater systems.