

NATIONAL WATER REUSE ACTION PLAN

COMPLETED ACTION



Action 6.1 Compile Existing Federal Funding Sources for Water Reuse and Develop an Interagency Decision Support Tool

Background

Multiple existing federal programs are available to support community and state efforts that meet cross-cutting policy goals, including water reuse (e.g., EPA Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA), the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Title XVI Program, and USDA's Rural Development). However, navigating these different programs and their eligibilities can present a challenge for communities. This action initially planned to create a tool that would help communities navigate potential funding sources but due to funding limitations was repurposed into a webpage that compiles funding sources. In addition, this action also looked to identify existing programs that can support water reuse.

Action Team

Action Leaders

- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**
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 - Dave Smith (retired)

Accomplishments/Impact

- Through this action, focus groups and meetings were held with stakeholders to develop specifications for a potential decision support tool to help potential customers in identifying federal funding programs. These specifications and recommendations may be used by EPA's [Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center](#) to update the [Water Finance Clearinghouse](#) to enhance its capabilities in assistance communities access funding.
- Through engaging with various federal agencies, several federal funding programs were identified that can support water reuse infrastructure. These funding sources have been summarized in a [website](#) to help potential customers easily identify sources of funding for projects.

Water Finance Clearinghouse

Home About Resources Funds Map Learning Modules Submit Feedback or Resource Search...

Resource Search Results: Apply search filters below to narrow your resources

Sectors Funding Sources Financing Approaches Special Topics Wastewater Treatment Technologies Scope Author Resources Types Dates

The Water Finance Clearinghouse is 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 can be accessed [here](#).



Lessons Learned

Through the implementation of this action, EPA learned from the unique perspectives of different stakeholders and their specific needs when trying to access federal fundings for water infrastructure. These perspectives, along with input from different federal funding programs, were collected to inform future efforts to develop tools and resources to guide users to appropriate sources of funding. One specific lesson that was learned is that many federal funding programs receive a high volume of applications that are not eligible for their programs and incorrectly respond to submission requirements. It is the hope that future tools and resources will help communities clearly identify programs that are best suited to meet their needs. Meanwhile, the implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law presents a unique opportunity to catalyze investments in water reuse and establishes a clear need to help communities access these funds.

Potential Future Activity

Through the [Water Reuse Interagency Working Group](#), additional federal infrastructure programs will be engaged to determine the eligibilities of water reuse and how these funds can be accessed by utilities and communities to support infrastructure development. We plan to coordinate with these additional programs and add information to our existing funding program [website](#) as appropriate. This will coordinate with ongoing efforts on the implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Additional Resources

- WRAP [action 6.2A](#) has developed materials detailing how the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Programs can support water reuse.
- WRAP [action 6.2B](#) detailed how the WIFIA program can support water reuse and identified examples of water reuse projects that have been financed by WIFIA.
- Through the implementation of the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#), EPA is providing funding to existing assistance programs that can support water reuse projects.