

LEVERAGING CWSRF FOR ENR UPGRADES OF MARYLAND'S 67 MAJOR WWTPS

STATE PROGRAM: Maryland Department of the Environment

ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT: Multiple Wastewater Treatment Plants Statewide

ASSISTANCE AMOUNT: \$1.4B



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Maryland employed a creative financing mechanism by pairing CWSRF dollars with the State's Bay Restoration Fund (BRF) to accelerate water quality restoration in the Chesapeake Bay. Wastewater constitutes a large component of the Chesapeake Bay water quality impairment. To remedy the inputs of nutrients, bacteria, and pathogens, the state's major wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) required upgrades.

Since 2004, the BRF has expended nearly \$1.3 billion on the WWTP improvements and, in lock step, the CWSRF has contributed \$1.4 billion to complete the upgrades of 65 operational plants to date, with two more to complete in 2024, on the twentieth anniversary of the BRF. This extraordinary infusion of capital funds over two decades has reduced statewide nutrient pollution in the Bay by a total of 8.2 million pounds of nitrogen and 945,971 pounds of phosphorus on an annual basis. The initiative to upgrade Maryland's 67 Significant WWTPs to enhanced nutrient removal (ENR) functionality demonstrates how CWSRF investments have been leveraged with state capital dollars through the Bay Restoration Fund.

To read more about this case study, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-04/cwsrf-pisces-2023-recognition-program.pdf>.