

## US 50 SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 6 & 7

**STATE PROGRAM:** Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

**ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT:** Athens County Commissioners

**ASSISTANCE AMOUNT:** \$7.1M



### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Athens County, Ohio, partnered with the City of Athens to develop a regional solution to meet the area's wastewater needs. The City will receive and treat the sewage collected and pumped from the surrounding unsewered areas in the County. The area served by this project is part of Ohio's Appalachia region, which is characterized by a lack of financial and infrastructure resources. Many of the residents served by the new regional sewer system have aging and failing household sewage treatment systems, which cannot be upgraded due to technical and affordability limitations.

The Phase 6 & 7 sewer improvement project is designed to serve approximately 1,280 users through the regional sewer system. The proposed service area was divided into project phases to make the County's sewer installation work more manageable and to maximize opportunities for securing grant and SRF loan funding. To help ensure that the proposed sewer system could be affordably implemented for the area's many lower income residents, Athens County secured \$7.1 million in CWSRF funds (\$4,000,000 in principal forgiveness and \$3,097,500 as a 0% interest rate loan), \$2.6 million in local American Rescue Plan Act funds, \$750,000 in Community Development Block Grant money, and \$500,000 in Appalachian Regional Commission grant dollars to pay for the \$10.9 million project. This combination of funding has helped make the new sewers and central wastewater treatment affordable for residents.

This project eliminates potential health threats associated with failing household sewage treatment systems and restores and protects water quality in area streams and rivers. Since flooding is an increasing threat in many parts of the project service area, a well-managed central wastewater system, including back-up power sources for pumps and other critical components, will help ensure that residents have adequate sewage disposal even during times of flood

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