Resource: Tribal Cybersecurity Grant Program

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), announced more than $18.2 million in Tribal Cybersecurity Grant Program (TCGP) awards to assist Tribal Nations with managing and reducing systemic cyber risk and threats. These are the first-ever Tribal Cybersecurity Grants to be awarded. The grant program was established by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the more than 30 grant awards represent the largest number of awards ever provided by the Department to Tribal Nations in a single grant program.

The Tribal Cybersecurity Grant Program will fund efforts to establish critical governance frameworks for Tribal Nations to address cyber threats and vulnerabilities, identify key vulnerabilities and evaluate needed capabilities, implement measures to mitigate the threats, and develop a 21st-century cyber workforce across local communities.

All Tribal Cybersecurity Grant Program recipients are required to participate in a limited number of free services provided by CISA. These services are:
• Cyber Hygiene Vulnerability Scanning – Evaluates external network presence by continuous scanning public, static internet protocol (IPs) for accessible services and vulnerabilities.
• Nationwide Cybersecurity Review – A free, anonymous, annual self-assessment designed to measure gaps and capabilities of a recipient's cybersecurity programs.

The grants will significantly improve national resilience to cyber threats by giving Tribal Nations much-needed resources to address network security and take steps to protect against cybersecurity risks to help them strengthen their communities. In addition, federally recognized tribes are eligible to apply for millions more in tribal cybersecurity funding that will be announced later this year.

[DHS - Tribal Cybersecurity Grant Info](#)

EPA also has the following resources available to Systems. These resources are a listed as a requirement to successfully apply for the DHS cyber grant and will aid in understanding system cybersecurity vulnerabilities that can then produce strategies to address any issues found.

EPA Free Cybersecurity Assessment Service
https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience/cybersecurity-assessments- EPA conducts free cyber assessment for drinking water and wastewater utilities using EPA's Cybersecurity Checklist derived from CISA's CPGs. Utilities receive a summary report and a Risk Management Plan to help in prioritizing cybersecurity efforts.

CISA's Free Cyber Vulnerability Scanning for Water Utilities
https://www.cisa.gov/resources-tools/resources/cisas-free-cyber-vulnerability-scanning-water-utilities- You can reduce the risk of a cyberattack at your utility by externally scanning your networks for vulnerabilities caused by publicly facing devices. CISA can help your drinking water and wastewater system identify and address vulnerabilities with a no cost vulnerability scanning service subscription. CISA, the Water Sector Coordinating Council, and the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators encourage drinking water and wastewater utilities to use this service.

For questions or support for obtaining Cybersecurity assistance for your system, you can contact Bryce Faliskie, Region 8 Drinking Water Security Coordinator at Faliskie.Bryce@epa.gov or (303) 312-6651

Announcement: EPA Announces Final Rule to Improve Public Awareness of Drinking Water Quality

On May 15, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced the final Consumer Confidence Rule revisions to make annual drinking water quality reports more understandable and accessible to the public. These reports are an important tool that drinking water systems use to inform residents about water quality and any contaminants that have been found in the water. Starting in 2027, this final rule will ensure that these reports are easier to read and support access to translations in appropriate languages while enhancing information about lead in drinking water. EPA is also taking steps to streamline the delivery of reports by encouraging electronic methods.

The final revised rule will support public education by more clearly communicating important information in water quality reports and improving access to the reports. Water systems are currently required to provide annual drinking water reports to customers each year, and with this rule systems serving over 10,000 customers will be required to distribute reports twice per year. The final rule also introduces a new reporting requirement that will provide EPA with better information to make decisions on oversight, enforcement, regulatory revisions, and training and technical assistance. The final revised rule will require states to submit compliance monitoring data they already receive from public water systems to EPA annually.

Announcement: Proposed Water System Restructuring Assessment Rule (WSRAR) Listening Sessions

Learn more about EPA's Revised Consumer Report Rule, including upcoming webinars and fact sheet that provides more detail on the new requirements.

EPA will be hosting two listening sessions July 17th and 24th, 2024, to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Water System Restructuring Assessment Rule (WSRAR). The proposed WSRAR outlines a framework for states, public water systems, and the communities they serve to evaluate options for restructuring to help ensure safe, reliable drinking water. Water system restructuring may include operational changes, upgrades to or replacement of water system infrastructure, interconnection with another system, consolidation, or transfer of ownership.

The listening sessions will be from 1:00 to 3:00 PM ET to allow for maximum public participation and engagement during the public comment period. Each listening session will include the same material and is open to all interested parties who wish to attend. Participants who wish to speak or provide comments for up two minutes during the listening session are required to register ahead of time.

- Click to register for the July 17, 2024 Session
- Click to register for the July 24, 2024 Session

For more information: https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/water-system-restructuring-assessment-rule

Training Resource: EPA Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Series: Drinking Water System Resilience

EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) and Office of Water (OW), in collaboration with the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA), host this free webinar series to communicate the latest information on solutions for challenges facing small drinking water systems. The series topics vary each month and are primarily designed for state, territory, and tribal staff responsible for drinking water regulations compliance and treatment technologies permitting. Others may also benefit from the webinars, including water system operators, technical assistance providers, NGOs, local government personnel, academia, and private sector.

Webinars are typically held on the last Tuesday of the month from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. ET with an optional Q&A session from 3:00 to 3:30 p.m. ET. For more information. Please see the Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Series website.

Webinar Details
- Date: Tuesday, July 30, 2024
- Time: 2:00-3:30 p.m. Eastern Time
- Registration: Registration information is available at the Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Series website.

Resource: Community Change Grant Program

EPA's new Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants program (Community Change Grants) will invest approximately $2 billion in Inflation Reduction Act funds in environmental and climate justice activities to benefit disadvantaged communities through projects that reduce pollution, increase community climate resilience, and build community capacity to respond to environmental and climate justice challenges. These place-based investments will be focused on community-driven initiatives to be responsive to community and stakeholder input. EPA expects most awards will be between $10-20 million for multi-faceted projects addressing a range of pollution, climate change, and other priority issues. For more information and a list of eligible activities, please click here. This grant is now open and the deadline to apply is November 2024. To learn more about the grant, view a recording of the December informational webinar here. Free Technical Assistance to help in preparing a grant application is available and can be accessed here.

Click here for more information
Deadline to apply is November 21, 2024

Resource: WaterTA

All communities deserve access to clean, reliable water. Yet too many communities across America face challenges in providing safe drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services to their residents. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law presents an unprecedented opportunity to address water infrastructure needs by providing $50 billion in new funding – the largest federal investment in water in the history of our nation. New and existing EPA Water Technical Assistance (WaterTA) programs will be utilized to support effective implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

What is WaterTA?

EPA's free Water Technical Assistance (WaterTA) supports communities to identify water challenges, develop plans, build capacity, and develop application materials to access water infrastructure funding. To implement WaterTA, EPA collaborates with states, tribes, territories, community partners, and other key stakeholders. Learn more about **WaterTA services and programs**.

Help for Your Community

EPA WaterTA aims to assist communities with applications for federal funding, quality infrastructure, and reliable water services. If your community is facing water infrastructure challenges and could benefit from support, we encourage you to learn more about **who can receive WaterTA and the challenges WaterTA can help your community address** then complete and submit a webform request by clicking on the link below:

Request Water Technical Assistance for Your Community

Resource: Lead Service Line Inventories (LSLI) Monthly Office Hours – Ask EPA

Jill Minter, Lead Service Line (LSL) Coordinator, and Erica Wenzel, Lead Copper Rule and LSL Specialist, will be holding virtual Lead Service Line Inventories monthly office hours, from 10am to 11am Central Time, and at the same time on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. The next office hours meeting is August 21. This will be a time for operators and managers to ask EPA any questions on developing lead service line inventories as well as hear questions from other operators. An email will be sent out each month to tribal public water system contacts with the LSLI Office Hours Teams meeting link, which is also copied below.

If interest is high, we can schedule additional LSLI Office Hours. We are thinking that holding monthly LSLI Office Hours will be an efficient way to answer questions and share information that may be common to multiple systems. The forum should also provide a good opportunity to learn from other operators who are also developing inventories and facing similar challenges. Do consider attending to listen in even if you do not have questions to ask that month. While we have scheduled monthly Office Hours, please know that water system operators and managers are always welcome to contact EPA with questions by email or by phone as well.

Monthly Meeting Info (3rd Wednesday of every month):

Microsoft Teams meeting
Join on your computer, mobile app or room device
Click here to join the meeting
Meeting ID: 216 909 557 054
Passcode: e2Efid
Download Teams | Join on the web

Or call in (audio only)
+1 202-991-0477,,904938593#   United States, Washington DC
Phone Conference ID: 904 938 593#
Find a local number | Reset PIN

Reminder: Public Water System Facility and Contact Changes

Please contact EPA Region 8 Drinking Water Program if your system has a change in the treatment process; you add or remove a water source; there is a change in the number of people served or the number of water connections; or different contact information becomes available for your water system. This allows us to keep you up to date on monitoring requirements and keeps our inventory current. Failure to notify EPA about water source or treatment changes may result in a violation.

To access the EPA's change form, send an email to R8DWU@epa.gov requesting the form or you can find the form on EPA Region 8 Drinking Water Operations website.

Upcoming Regulatory Deadlines

Date	Event	Location
Last day of every calendar month	Last day to collect monthly total coliform samples	Sites approved on your RTCR sample plan
10th of every month	Last day for EPA to receive total coliform and DBP samples collected during the previous month	N/A
September 30th	Last day to collect Lead and Copper samples for system who have a seasonal monitoring period of June – September (check your To-Do)	Sites approved on your LCR sampling plan

Key EPA Contacts

Region 8 Tribal Team

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Colby Brakke – Pierre, SD Office – 605-945-1192 brakke.colby@epa.gov
Megan Falk – Helena, MT Office – 406-457-5041 – falk.megan@epa.gov
Joe Faubion – Helena, MT Office – 406-457-5005 – faubion.joseph@epa.gov

Other R8 Drinking Water Employee Contact Information Can be Found Here.

This newsletter can be viewed online by visiting: https://www.epa.gov/region8-waterops/epa-region-8-tribal-drinking-water-monthly-newsletter.

If you would like to be added or removed from this newsletter distribution list, please email brakke.colby@epa.gov.