

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law & Support for Decentralized Wastewater Infrastructure

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Onsite Wastewater Mega-Conference
October 21, 2024

Outline

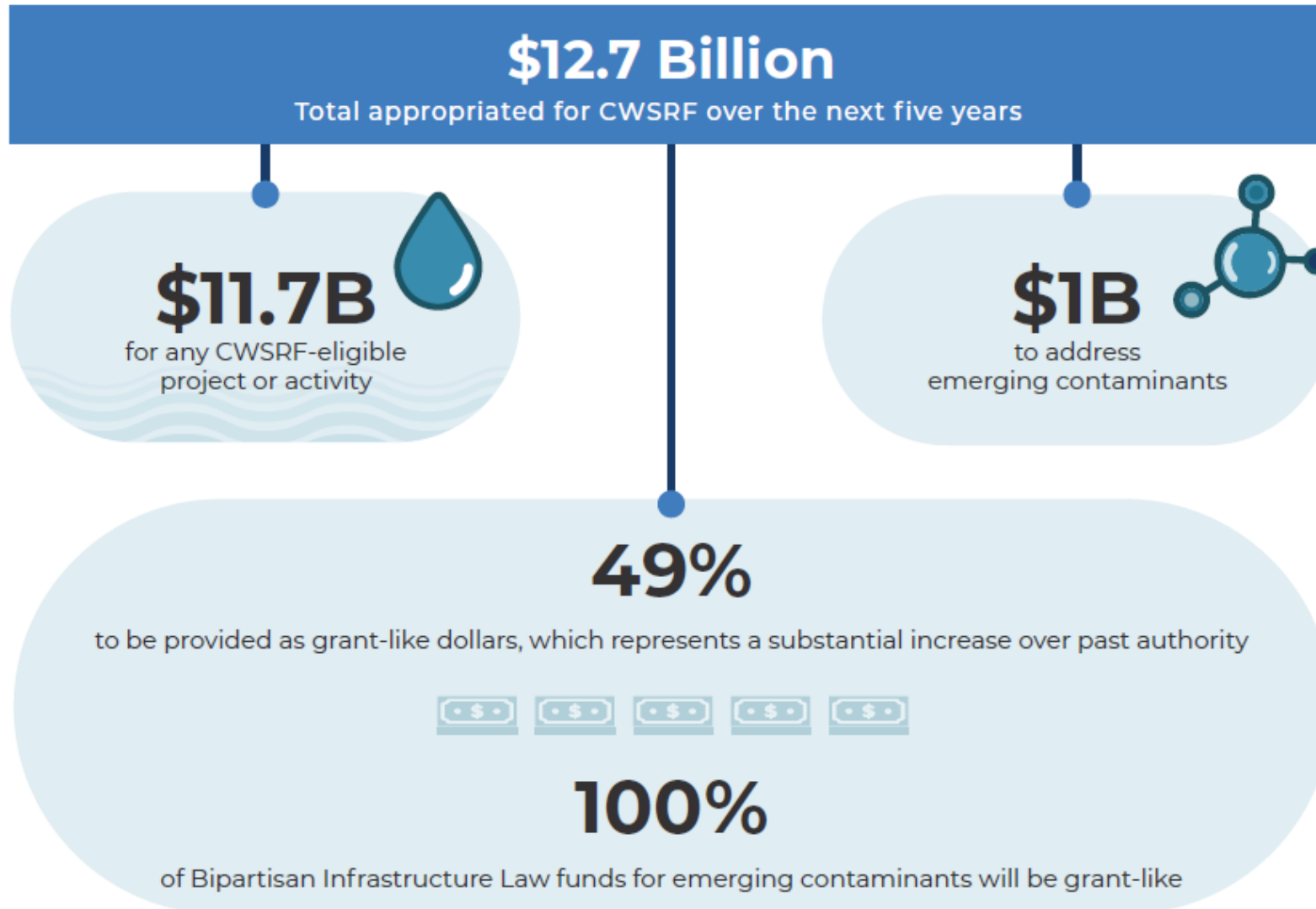
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)
- EPA Water Technical Assistance (WaterTA) Program
- Clean Watersheds Needs Survey (CWNS)
- Closing America's Wastewater Access Gap (CAWAG)

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

- Signed by President Biden on November 15, 2021.
- Historic investment in key programs and initiatives implemented by EPA to build safer, healthier, cleaner communities.
- Includes \$50 billion to strengthen the nation's drinking water and wastewater systems – the single largest investment in water that the federal government has ever made.
- Approximately \$43.4B of this funding goes through the existing CWSRFs and DWSRFs.
- 49%* of SRF dollars to be provided in the form of grants and forgivable loans

*Emerging contaminants funds will be provided entirely as grants and forgivable loans.

CWSRF and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law



Technical Assistance to Help Communities Access BIL SRF Funding

- **Need:** Many communities need support to develop quality SRF projects and apply for SRF funding.
- **Goal:** Expand availability of technical assistance (TA) to help underserved communities access SRF funding, in partnership with states, tribes and territories.
- **Focuses:**
 - Proactive outreach to disadvantaged or underserved communities in rural, urban, suburban, and tribal areas.
 - Community-centered, locally driven solutions.
 - SRF applications that result in sustainable, affordable, and resilient projects.

EPA WaterTA Supports Communities to:



Identify water challenges



Plan for solutions



Increase community engagement



Improve compliance and access to safe and clean water services



Build technical, financial, managerial capacity



Develop application materials to access water infrastructure funding



EPA WATER TA

Environmental Finance Centers

Closing America's Wastewater Access Gap

Lead Service Line Replacement Accelerators Pilot

Direct Technical Assistance

Clean Water Rural, Small & Tribal Assistance

Get the Lead Out (GLO) Initiative

Preliminary Engineering Support

Community Solutions Team Pilot

Training and Technical Assistance for Small Systems

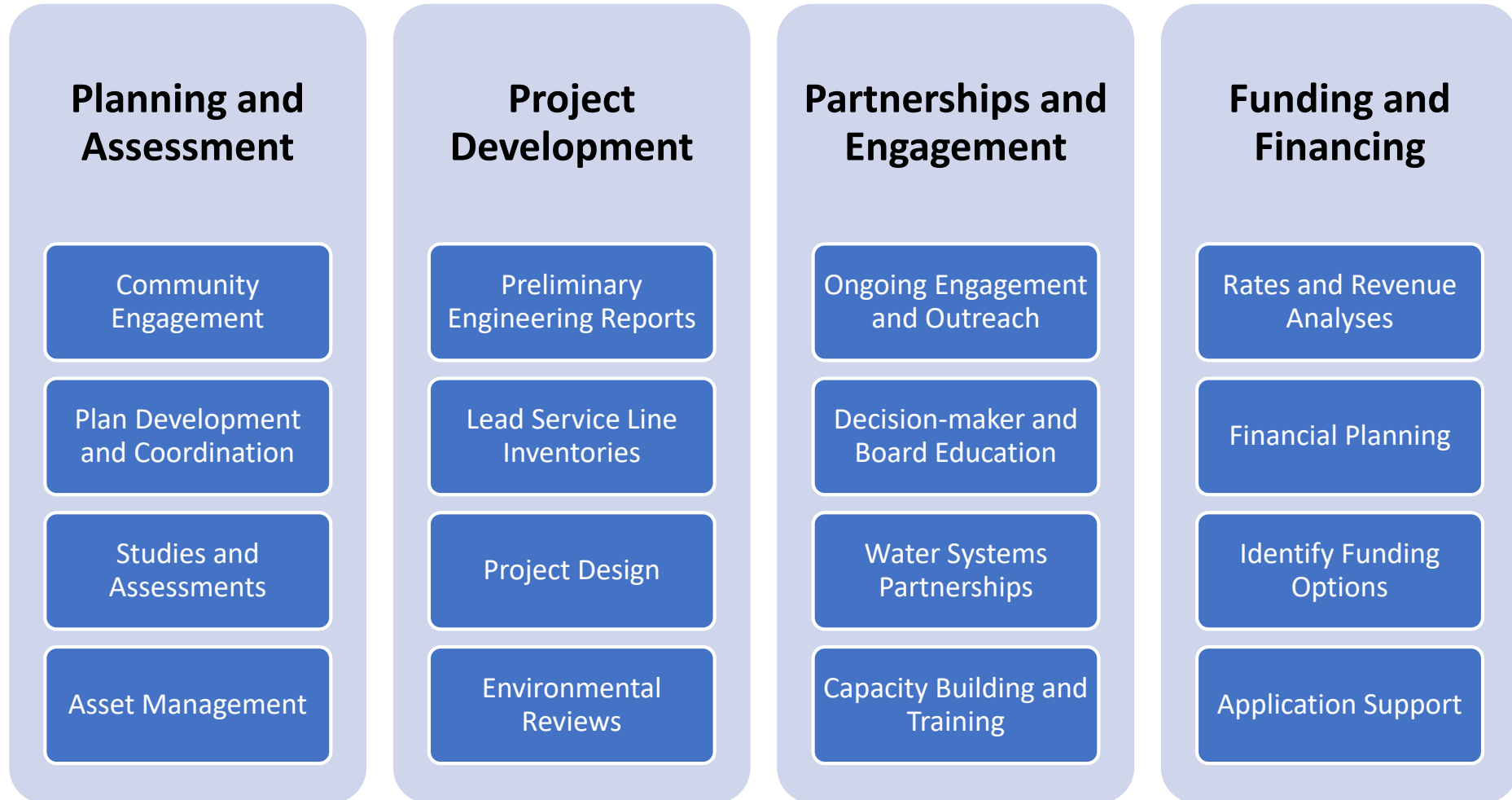
Cybersecurity Technical Assistance

Creating Resilient Water Utilities

TA for Rural, Small, and Tribal WW Systems

and more!

WaterTA Services

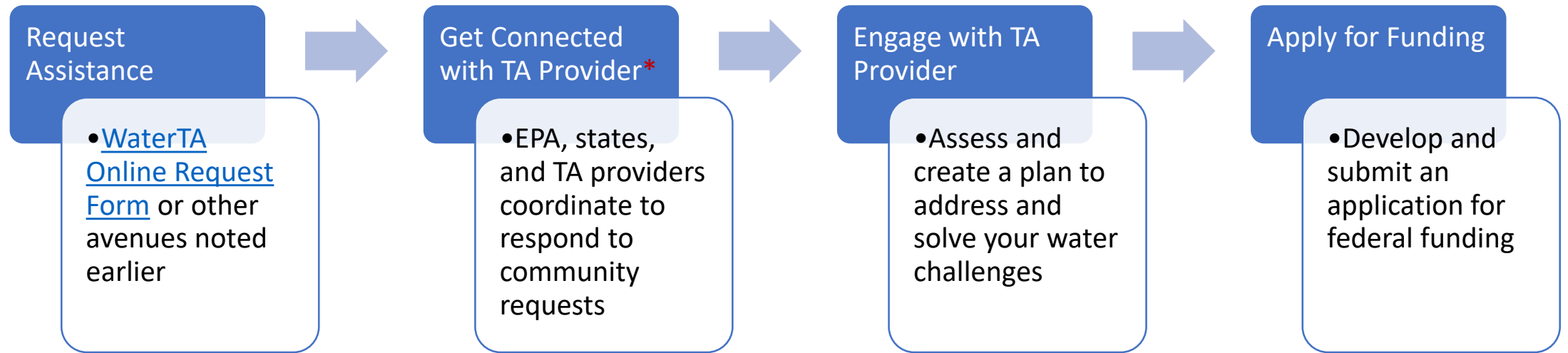




Who is eligible to receive EPA WaterTA Services?

- Local governments/communities
- Drinking water utilities/systems
- Wastewater utilities/systems
- Stormwater utilities/systems
- States, Tribes, territories
- Non-governmental organizations
- **Questions? Contact WaterTA@epa.gov**

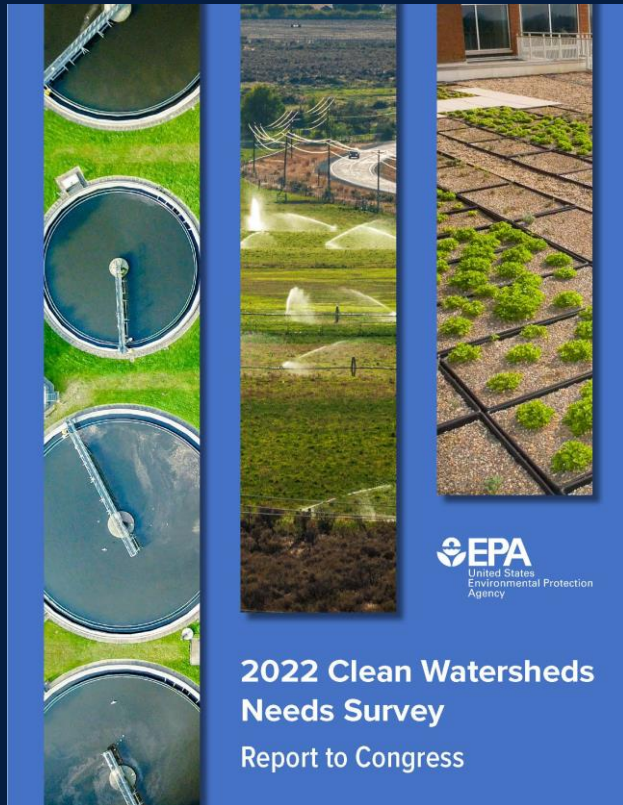
WaterTA Process



The end result: *more communities with applications for federal funding, leading to advances to quality water infrastructure projects, and more reliable water services*

*Not every request may be offered WaterTA, and participation in this or other EPA technical assistance programs does not guarantee funding through the State Revolving Funds or other programs.

2022 Clean Watersheds Needs Survey (CWNS) Report to Congress



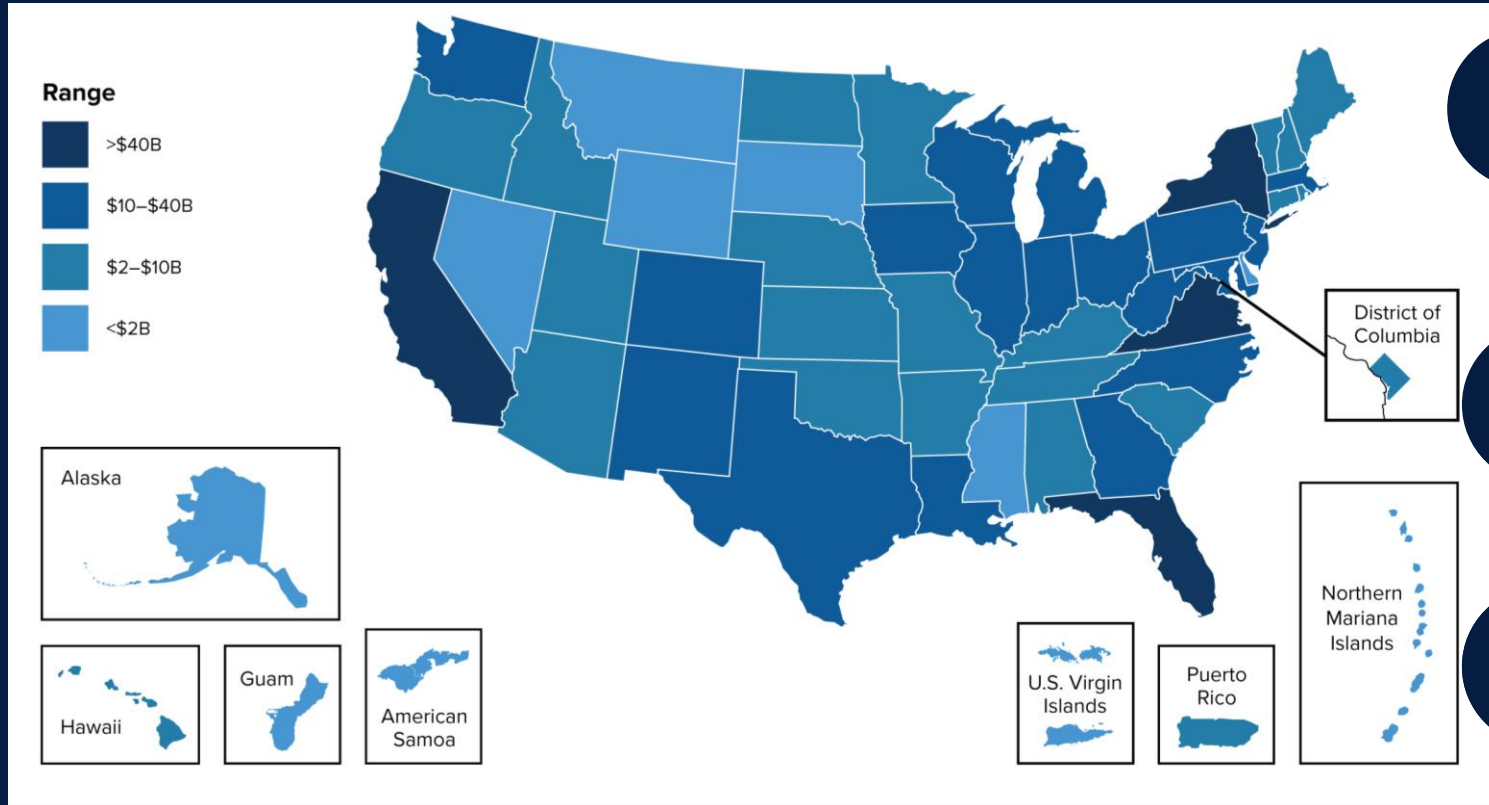
“...a comprehensive assessment of the capital costs (“needs”) to meet the water quality goals of the CWA and address water quality and water-quality-related public health concerns.”

- All 50 states and territories participated
- Data on unfunded CWSRF eligible projects as of January 1, 2022

Report was delivered to Congress on May 13, 2024

- Summary document, manuals and additional materials available

CWNS National Need



Total National Needs
\$630.1 Billion

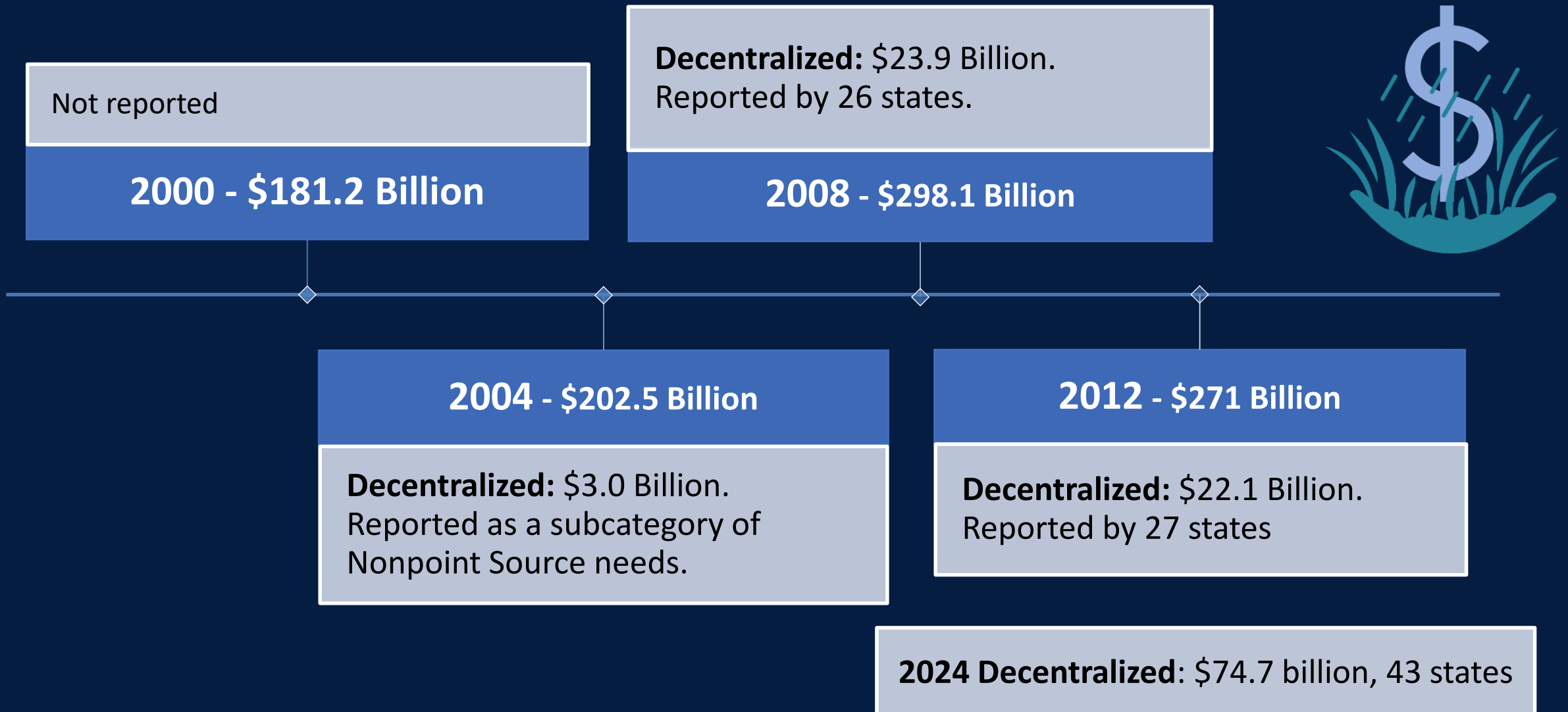


Total Decentralized
\$74.7 Billion



Number of States
Reporting Decentralized:
43

Historical Decentralized Needs



Closing America's Wastewater Access Gap (CAWAG) Initiative

Providing Technical Assistance to Communities with Failing Wastewater Infrastructure

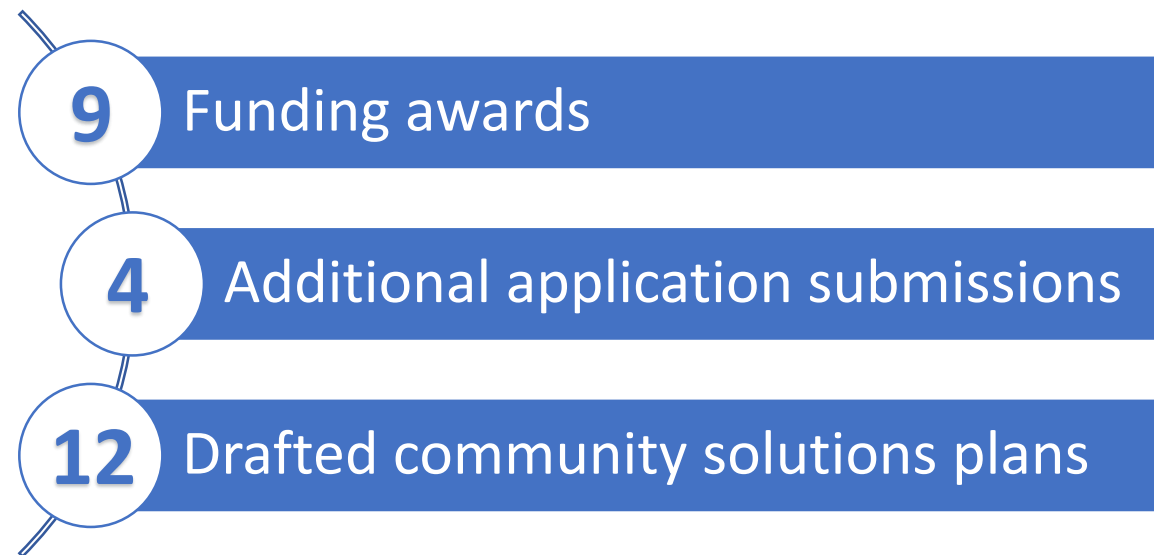
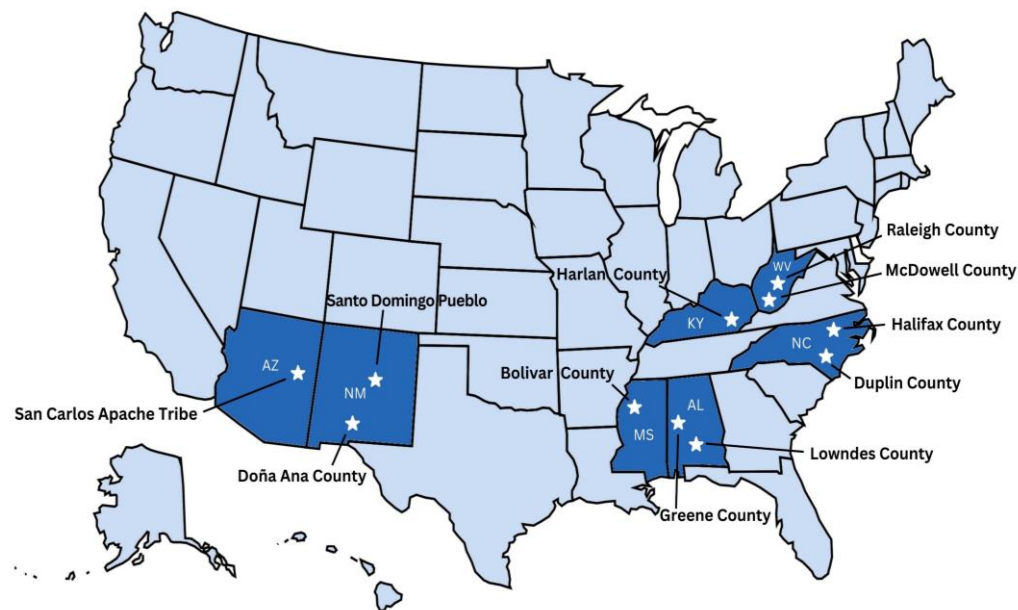


Wastewater Challenges in Rural America

- Small, rural communities often struggle to provide adequate sanitation services to residents.
- An estimated 2.2 million people in the U.S. lack basic running water and indoor plumbing in their homes.
- The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) presents a historic opportunity to invest in communities and address wastewater infrastructure needs.
- The BIL provides \$11.7 billion through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF).



11 Pilot Communities



Projects continue, with funding applications in development and all solutions plans being finalized and posted to EPA's [Closing America's Wastewater Access Gap webpage](#) in the early spring.

Expanding to 150 Communities

- In February 2024, EPA announced the expansion of its successful Closing America's Wastewater Access Gap pilot initiative to 150 additional communities.
- The expansion will increase EPA's ability to help communities address inadequate, non-existent or failing wastewater infrastructure.
- Recipients of technical assistance will access solutions-oriented guidance that focuses on community's wastewater needs.



Who Can Qualify?

- Do septic systems back-up into homes or cause sewage to pool in yards?
- Does the town struggle to provide adequate sanitation services to their residents?
- Does the community struggle to rebuild wastewater and septic systems damaged by natural disasters?

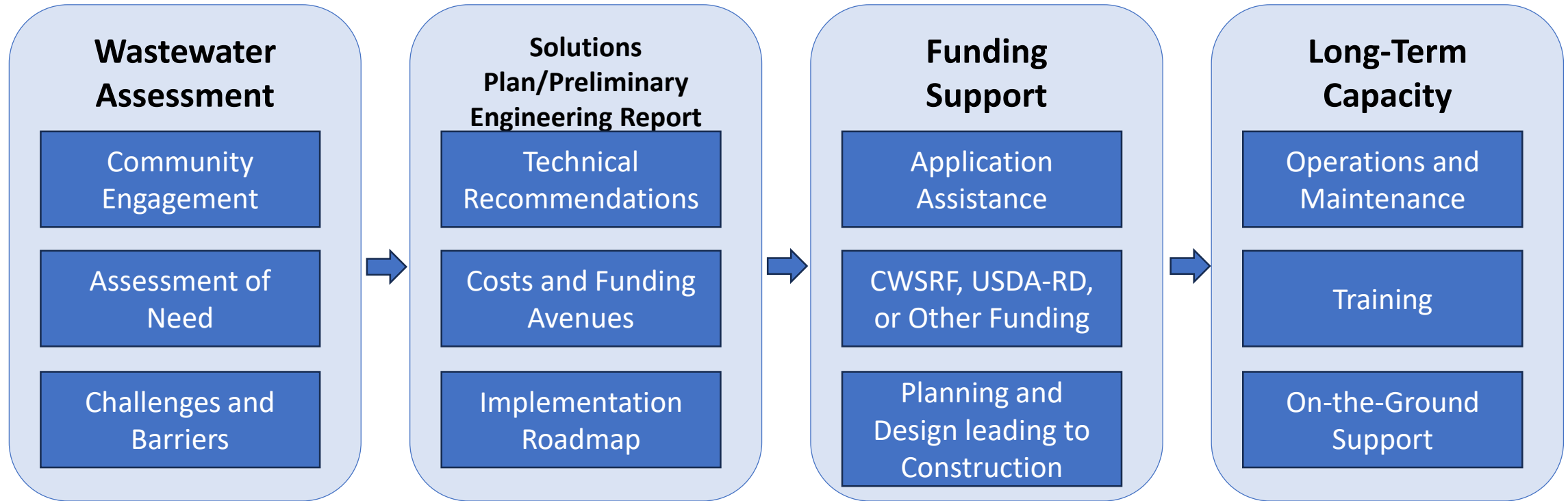
If any of these conditions apply, then communities may be eligible through this program.



Community Identification and Selection

- EPA is collaborating closely with the EPA Regions, Tribes, states (and their municipalities), and territories to identify communities that would be a good fit for this technical assistance.
- EPA is prioritizing needs in disadvantaged communities and communities that would otherwise be unable to address their wastewater infrastructure needs.
- EPA welcomes suggestions from TA providers on communities that would be a good fit for assistance through this initiative.
- Community selection based on need, failing wastewater infrastructure and openness to receiving TA.

CAWAG Assistance Provided



Rural, Small and Tribal (RST) Support

- TA providers are critical in reaching RST communities.
- EPA has awarded grants under the RST Program to RCAP, NRWA, and SW EFC to provide TA for communities with decentralized needs.
- EPA recently announced \$49 million in TA for RST communities (Deadline Nov 25, 2024).



EPA Announces \$49 million in Technical Assistance to Help Rural, Small, and Tribal Communities Address Wastewater Challenges
September 25, 2024

Contact Information

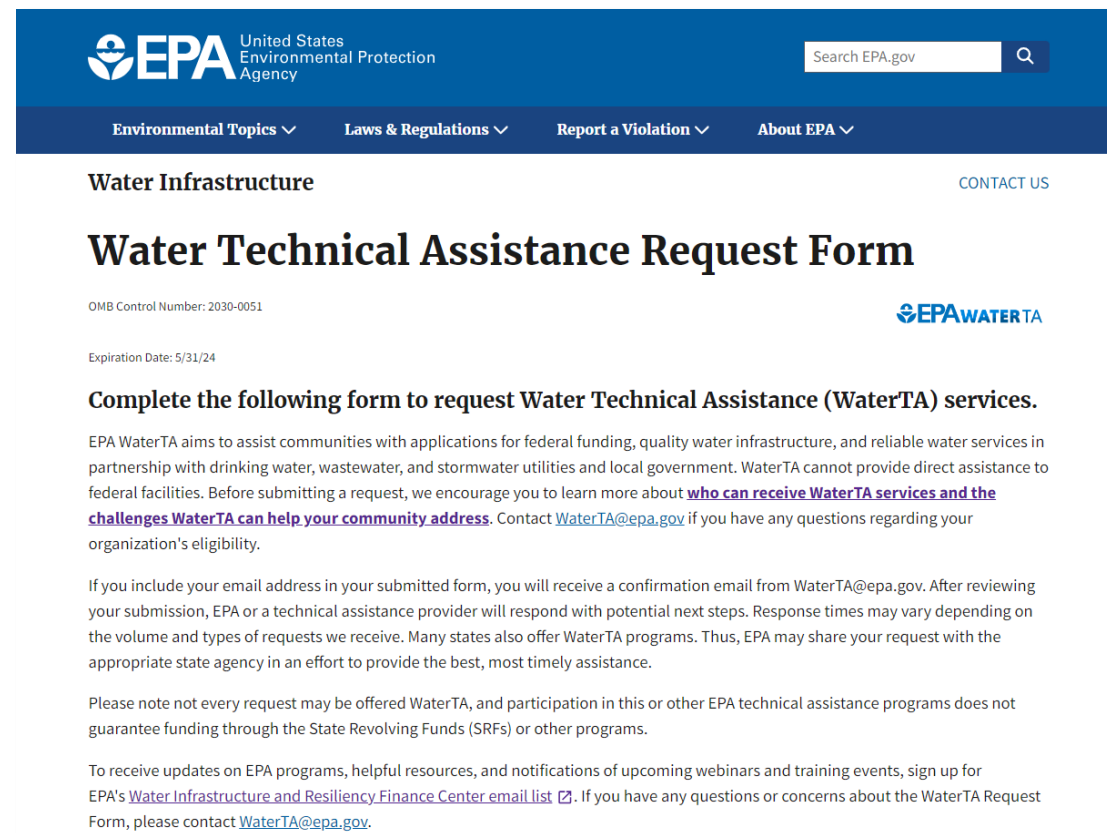
EPA Press Office (press@epa.gov)

WASHINGTON - Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the availability of \$49 million in new technical assistance funding to help rural, small and Tribal communities address critical wastewater and water quality challenges.

The new funding will be awarded to technical assistance providers who will help communities identify their water infrastructure needs and guide them toward appropriate funding options.

How to Request Help


- Technical assistance can be requested through the WaterTA request form.
- Communities – including homeowners and utilities – and all states, Tribes, and territories can submit the request.
- Communities are selected on a rolling basis; there is no deadline to apply.
- For questions, email SepticHelp@epa.gov.



The screenshot shows the EPA website header with the logo and navigation menu. The main content area is titled "Water Infrastructure" and "Water Technical Assistance Request Form". It includes the OMB Control Number (2030-0051), the EPA WaterTA logo, and the expiration date (5/31/24). The text explains that the form is used to request WaterTA services, which aim to assist communities with federal funding, water infrastructure, and water services. It also provides contact information for questions and a link to the request form.

Water Infrastructure CONTACT US

Water Technical Assistance Request Form

OMB Control Number: 2030-0051 

Expiration Date: 5/31/24

Complete the following form to request Water Technical Assistance (WaterTA) services.

EPA WaterTA aims to assist communities with applications for federal funding, quality water infrastructure, and reliable water services in partnership with drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater utilities and local government. WaterTA cannot provide direct assistance to federal facilities. Before submitting a request, we encourage you to learn more about [who can receive WaterTA services and the challenges WaterTA can help your community address](#). Contact WaterTA@epa.gov if you have any questions regarding your organization's eligibility.

If you include your email address in your submitted form, you will receive a confirmation email from WaterTA@epa.gov. After reviewing your submission, EPA or a technical assistance provider will respond with potential next steps. Response times may vary depending on the volume and types of requests we receive. Many states also offer WaterTA programs. Thus, EPA may share your request with the appropriate state agency in an effort to provide the best, most timely assistance.

Please note not every request may be offered WaterTA, and participation in this or other EPA technical assistance programs does not guarantee funding through the State Revolving Funds (SRFs) or other programs.

To receive updates on EPA programs, helpful resources, and notifications of upcoming webinars and training events, sign up for EPA's [Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center email list](#). If you have any questions or concerns about the WaterTA Request Form, please contact WaterTA@epa.gov.

www.epa.gov/water-infrastructure/forms/water-technical-assistance-request-form