



Identifying, Applying and Utilizing Tribal Water Infrastructure Programs

EPA Region 4 | Safe Drinking Water Branch
Presented by Erskine Benjamin II and Chris Johnson

Overview

- EPA Tribal Water Infrastructure Programs
 - What water infrastructure needs do we currently support?
 - How much funding is available for FY23/FY24?
 - What are the available drinking water and wastewater programs?
- Identifying Funding Needs
 - Developing Capital Improvement Plans
 - Reviewing Tribal Records (needs survey, sanitary surveys, maintenance records, etc.)
- Applying for EPA Tribal Water Infrastructure Funds
 - Using grants.gov
 - Required forms for a complete submission
- Utilizing EPA Funding and Other Resources
 - Leveraging other sources of funds
 - Coordinating with technical assistance providers (environmental finance centers, etc.)



EPA Tribal Water Infrastructure Programs

EPA Tribal Water Infrastructure Programs

- What water infrastructure needs do we support?
 - EPA can support drinking water and wastewater infrastructure needs
- We can fund the following:
 - Planning activities
 - **Use funds to develop a preliminary engineering report (PER)**
 - PERs are used to identify multiple alternatives to address infrastructure needs
 - Collects data on environmental impacts of proposed project, water or wastewater system, operating budget, personnel, total project costs, etc.
 - Signed by a licensed, professional engineer
 - **Use funds to conduct pilot tests** – this is best for water systems (or wastewater systems) that want to learn more about the potential operational and financial impacts of a new infrastructure, treatment, technology, etc.
 - **Use funds to conduct a technical review**

EPA Tribal Water Infrastructure Programs

- We can fund the following:
 - Design activities
 - **Use funds to develop a plan set**
 - Funds may be used for contractual support to develop a design of the proposed infrastructure need
 - **Use funds to develop/support other construction documents**
 - Surveying (e.g., geotechnical, video), modeling (e.g., hydraulic), subsurface investigations, mapping, etc.
 - **Use funds to support software for drafting activities**
 - Construction activities
 - Use funds for remediation of emerging contaminants (e.g., per- and poly-fluorinated substances (PFAS))
 - Installation of granular activated carbon (GAC) filtration, reverse osmosis, ion exchange systems
 - Use of funds to identify and replace lead service lines
 - Use of funds to rehabilitate, upgrade, or build new drinking water or wastewater systems
 - Source, treatment, distribution, storage, facilities, etc.

EPA Tribal Water Infrastructure Programs

Funding Source	Type	FY23 Funding Allocation	Considerations/Restrictions
Annually Appropriated Programs	Grants	\$38,470,000*	Commercial interests cannot be funded
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law	Grants	\$168,580,000*	Commercial interests cannot be funded Some programs must address water systems who serve <10K
Water Infrastructure Investments for the Nation (WIIN) Act	Grants	\$22,641,000	Commercial interests cannot be funded Water systems must serve <10K
Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA)	Loans	Pending	Repayments must begin within 5 years of substantial completion; must be repaid in 35 years.
America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA)	Grant	25,000,000&	Water systems must serve <10K
Total		\$254,691,000	

*Funding allocations have not yet been made final.

& Represents state and tribal authorization.



Tribal Drinking Water Infrastructure Programs

Tribal Drinking Water Infrastructure Programs

- Eight programs to consider
 - Drinking Water Infrastructure Grant Tribal Set-Aside (DWIG-TSA)
 - DWIG-TSA Supplemental
 - DWIG-TSA Lead Service Line (LSL) Replacement Grant
 - DWIG-TSA Emerging Contaminants
 - Emerging Contaminants in Small, Underserved & Disadvantaged Communities (SUDC) Tribal Grant
 - SUDC Tribal Grant (formerly WIIN Act Section 2104)
 - Reducing Lead in Drinking Water Grant – SUDC
 - Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Grant

DWIG-TSA & DWIG-TSA Supplemental Programs

- **FY23 National Allocation: \$2.2B – DWIG-TSA Supplemental ONLY**
- Eligible activities include:
 - New sources (e.g., ground water well studies, etc.)
 - Treatment (e.g., disinfection, complete plants, other components)
 - Distribution (e.g., transmission/distribution lines – repair, replace, new install)
 - Finished water storage (e.g., storage tanks)
 - Facilities (e.g., new utility building, treatment facility, raw water facility, etc.)
 - Asset protection/security/other (e.g., security cameras, SCADA,)
 - Water efficiency (e.g., installation of water meters, water audit/loss study)
 - Equipment purchases (e.g., media filters, basins, etc.)
- No cost share is required
 - However, commercial interests are ineligible and will require a cost share!

DWIG-TSA LSL Replacement Grant

- **FY23 National Allocation: \$3B**
- Provides funding to tribes to support service line inventory and lead replacements
- Lead & Copper Rule Revisions requires a service line inventory for all qualifying public water systems (PWS) by **October 16, 2024**
 - A qualifying PWS includes:
 - Any community water system
 - Any non-transient, non-community water system
- Failure to submit an inventory for a qualifying PWS by the deadline will result in a treatment technique violation.

DWIG-TSA LSL Replacement Grant

- Eligible activities
 - Developing a service line inventory
 - Video-lining, excavation, mapping of lead service lines, data collection/review of documentation to verify inventory
 - Planning, design, and/or construction directly associated with full replacement of lead service lines
 - Development of a preliminary engineering report, environmental assessments, etc.
 - Development of project plans and budgets
 - Mobilization/demobilization of force/equipment, installation work, removal work, etc.
- No cost share is required except for commercial interests!

Reducing Lead in Drinking Water

- Targets small public water systems on tribal reservations
- Competitive program managed by HQ
- **\$1,000,000** is set aside annually for tribes and is **NOT** competed
 - Funding is available for FY22 and FY23
 - Must be executed as an interagency agreement
 - Submit project descriptions to your regional EPA offices – **does not have to be on SDS!**
- Eligible activities include
 - Lead sampling
 - Replacing lead service lines including copper lines (lead solder)
 - Developing service line inventories
 - Other drinking water construction efforts to reduce lead
 - Outreach associated with lead remediation efforts

DWIG-TSA EC & EC in SDC Programs

- **FY23 National Allocation: \$800M – DWIG-TSA EC**
- **FY22/23 National Allocation: \$38.6M – EC in SDC**
- DWIG-TSA Emerging Contaminants
 - PFAS – **primary priority**
 - Other emerging contaminants listed on **any** Contaminant Candidate List (CCL) <https://www.epa.gov/ccl>
- Emerging Contaminants (EC) in Small & Disadvantaged Communities (SDC)
 - **Water systems must serve a population < 10,000**
 - **Baseline sampling should be prioritized before requesting remediation projects**
 - Focus on PFAS; other emerging contaminants may be explored too

DWIG-TSA EC & EC in SDC Programs

- Eligible activities include:
 - Monitoring for PFAS and other emerging contaminants
 - Identification/selection of appropriate treatment technologies
 - Installation of drinking water infrastructure to reduce PFAS/other emerging contaminants
 - Equipment purchases to test for PFAS/other emerging contaminants
 - Facility purchases including a new laboratory – **must solely test for ECs!**
 - Technical assistance
 - Planning, design, and/or construction to address PFAS/other emerging contaminants
- No cost share is required except for commercial interests!

SUDC Tribal Grant

- **FY23 National Allocation: \$80M – states and tribes**
- **Small, Underserved and Disadvantaged Communities Tribal Drinking Water**
 - Must focus on small/disadvantaged communities
 - Planning, design, and/or construction of drinking water infrastructure is eligible
 - Activities discussed under DWIG-TSA and DWIG-TSA Supplemental programs applies to this program too!
 - Program will be implemented through the DWIG-TSA

Drinking Water System Resilience and Sustainability Grant

- **FY23 National Allocation: \$25M – states and tribes**
- **Targets small, underserved communities**
 - Water systems must serve a population < 10,000
- Planning, design, and/or construction of drinking water infrastructure is eligible
- Program may be used to address considerations for climate change, weatherization, and other resiliency efforts to support drinking water systems
- Activities discussed under DWIG-TSA and DWIG-TSA Supplemental programs applies to this program too!



Tribal Wastewater Infrastructure Programs

Wastewater Infrastructure Programs

- Three programs
 - Clean Water Indian Set Aside (CWISA)
 - CWISA Supplemental
 - CWISA Emerging Contaminants
- **CWISA & CWISA Supplemental**
 - **FY23 National Allocation - \$2.2B – CWISA Supplemental ONLY!**
 - Wastewater projects **must** be submitted to Indian Health Service (IHS) as part of the Sanitation Deficiency System (SDS) list.
 - Tribes should work with Nashville IHS to ensure drinking water and wastewater projects are added to their SDS list!

Wastewater Infrastructure Programs

- **FY23 National Allocation - \$225M - CWISA Emerging Contaminants**
- Eligible projects include
 - Planning
 - Testing for PFAS/emerging contaminants, development of wastewater treatment management plans, preliminary engineering reports
 - Feasibility plans, pilot tests, technical review, etc.
 - Identification/selection of appropriate treatment technologies
 - Design
 - Architectural/engineering work for plan sets associated with infrastructure that will address PFAS/emerging contaminants
 - Construction
 - Installation of wastewater infrastructure to treat or otherwise remedy PFAS/emerging contaminants



Identifying Tribal Water Infrastructure Needs

Identifying Funding Needs

- Tribes may identify water infrastructure needs from the following sources
 - Capital improvement plan (CIP) – multi-year planning documents that identify drinking water and/or wastewater infrastructure projects
 - Upgrades, rehabilitation/improvements, or new projects
 - Identifies a total cost per project list
 - Sets a schedule for when the project is needed
 - Sanitary surveys – evaluates the operation of public water systems
 - Identifies deficiencies and recommendations for improved operations of the system
 - May be used to develop water infrastructure studies or projects such as rate studies, pilot testing of a new water source, installation of a new filtration system, etc.
 - Also is used to identify financial or managerial needs – staffing, financial controls, etc.

Identifying Funding Needs

- Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment (DWINSA)
 - Conducted by EPA every four years for states (up to 10 years for tribes)
 - Water systems are voluntarily selected by population served
 - If tribes decide to participate, the survey asks each water system to develop
 - Projects with a 20-year planning horizon – projects must be needed within the next 20 years
 - Developed based on current water system configuration, documented asset life cycle, known maintenance issues, projects slated to be funded (with exceptions), and other documentation
 - Only drinking water projects are developed

Identifying Funding Needs

- Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Programs
 - Records generated to document preventative and/or corrective maintenance actions can be used to develop drinking water or wastewater infrastructure projects
 - Corrective maintenance documentation may be used to support more high-priority water infrastructure projects
 - A program may also help to improve the ranking of a project in the Sanitation Deficiency System (SDS)
 - SDS is managed by the Indian Health Service (IHS)
 - It contains drinking water, wastewater and solid waste infrastructure needs for tribes
 - SDS drinking water projects may be submitted to EPA for funding

Identifying Funding Needs

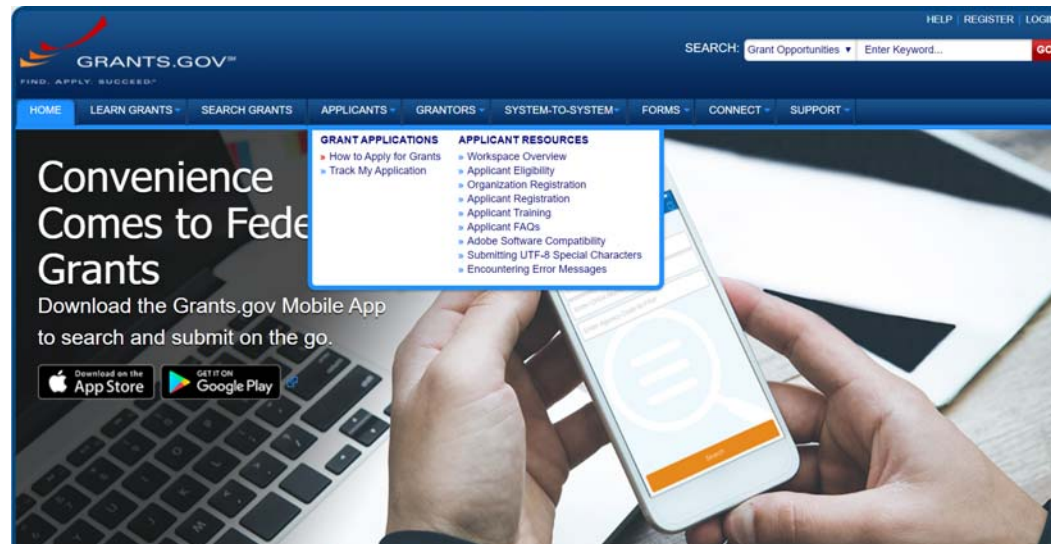
- Technical, Managerial, and Financial Capacity
 - **Technical capacity** refers to a water system's ability to utilize internal/external resources (e.g., staff or access to support) to run efficiently and effectively
 - **Managerial capacity** refers to a water system's ability to demonstrate ownership accountability, staffing and organization, and effective external linkages.
 - **Financial capacity** refers to a water system's ability to maintain sufficient revenue, demonstrate fiscal controls, and sustain a level of credit worthiness.
 - Tribes may assess their funding needs for each of these capacity categories to develop projects that can be funded



Applying for Tribal Water Infrastructure Needs

Navigating Grants.gov

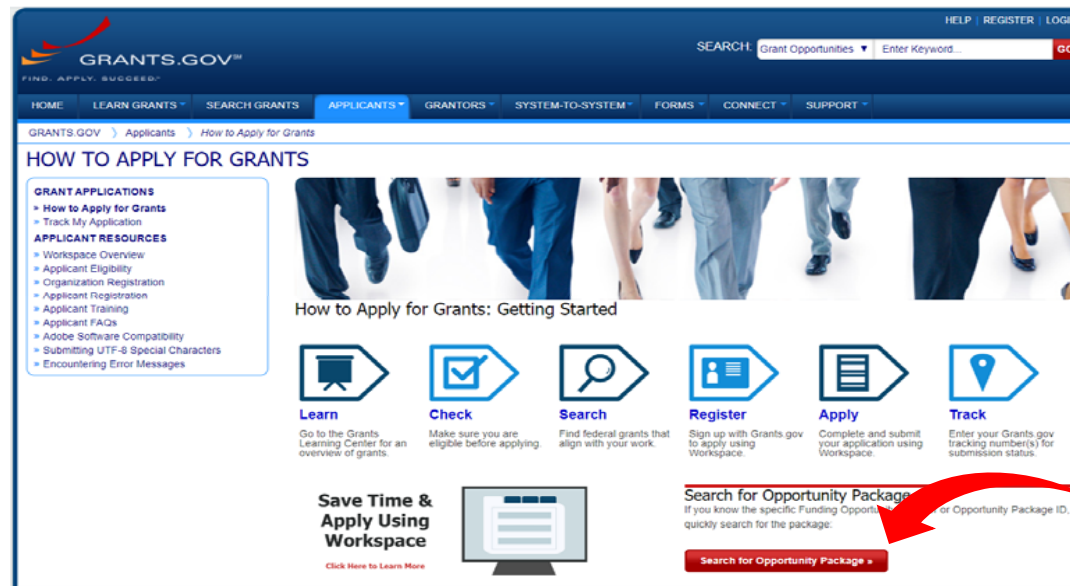
STEP 1: Type in grants.gov in the URL for your browser. Place your mouse over the APPLICANTS tab until the drop-down menu appears as shown below:



STEP 2: From the drop-down menu, select "How to Apply for Grants". You should see the following page appear:

Navigating Grants.gov

STEP 3: Click the “Search for Opportunity Package” tab on this page.



Navigating Grants.gov

STEP 4: Enter EPA-CEP-01 into the Funding Opportunity Number query field AND leave the Opportunity Package ID query field blank. Then, click the “Search” tab.

GRANTS.GOV™
FIND. APPLY. SUCCEED.

SEARCH: Grant Opportunities ▾ Enter Keyword... 🔍

HOME LEARN GRANTS SEARCH GRANTS **APPLICANTS** GRANTORS SYSTEM-TO-SYSTEM FORMS CONNECT SUPPORT

GRANTS.GOV > Applicants > Search for Opportunity Package

SEARCH FOR OPPORTUNITY PACKAGE

GRANT APPLICATIONS

- » How to Apply for Grants
- » Track My Application

APPLICANT RESOURCES

- » Workspace Overview
- » Applicant Eligibility
- » Organization Registration
- » Applicant Registration
- » Applicant Training
- » Applicant FAQs
- » Adobe Software Compatibility
- » Submitting UTF-8 Special Characters
- » Encountering Error Messages

Search for Opportunity Package

To search for an opportunity package, enter the **Funding Opportunity Number** or **Opportunity Package ID** and click the **Search** button. If you do not remember the Funding Opportunity Number for the grant opportunity, return to the Search Grants section to locate the grant opportunity.

Please enter criteria and click Search:

Funding Opportunity Number:

Opportunity Package ID:

Search

Navigating Grants.gov

STEP 5: Scroll down until you find the applicable CFDA number. Then click “APPLY” under the Actions Column.

Select Grant Opportunity Package

PLEASE READ BEFORE APPLYING!
If you view and complete your application package using Grants.gov downloadable PDF forms, you MUST have Adobe Reader installed. You may receive a validation error using incompatible versions of Adobe Reader. To prevent a validation error, it is now recommended you uninstall any earlier versions of Adobe Reader and install the latest compatible version of Adobe Reader. If more than one person is working on the PDF forms, ALL applicants must be using the same Adobe Reader version. [Click for more information on Adobe Reader Compatibility.](#)

Opportunity Package(s) Currently Available for this Funding Opportunity:

CFDA	Competition ID	Competition Title	Opportunity Package ID	Opening Date	Closing Date	Actions
66.001			PKG00213703		10/04/2030	Preview Apply
66.032			PKG00214049		10/04/2030	Preview Apply
66.034			PKG00214050		10/04/2030	Preview Apply
66.038			PKG00214051		10/04/2030	Preview Apply
66.040			PKG00214052		10/04/2030	Preview Apply
66.042			PKG00214046		10/04/2030	Preview Apply
66.121			PKG00214048		10/04/2030	Preview Apply
66.124			PKG00214043		10/04/2030	Preview Apply
66.125			PKG00214045		10/04/2030	Preview Apply
66.202			PKG00214047		10/04/2030	Preview Apply
66.418			PKG00214053		10/04/2030	Preview Apply
66.419			PKG00214103		10/04/2030	Preview Apply
66.432			PKG00214104		10/04/2030	Preview Apply
66.433			PKG00214105		10/04/2030	Preview Apply
66.437			PKG00214106		10/04/2030	Preview Apply
66.454			PKG00214107		10/04/2030	Preview Apply
66.456			PKG00214108		10/04/2030	Preview Apply
66.458			PKG00214109		10/04/2030	Preview Apply
66.460			PKG00214110		10/04/2030	Preview Apply
66.466			PKG00214111		10/04/2030	Preview Apply

Required Standard Application Materials

- Standard Form (SF) 424
- Budget Forms
- Key Contacts Form
- Indirect Cost Rate Agreement
- Preaward Compliance Review Report
- Lobbying Certification

Required Program Specific Application Materials

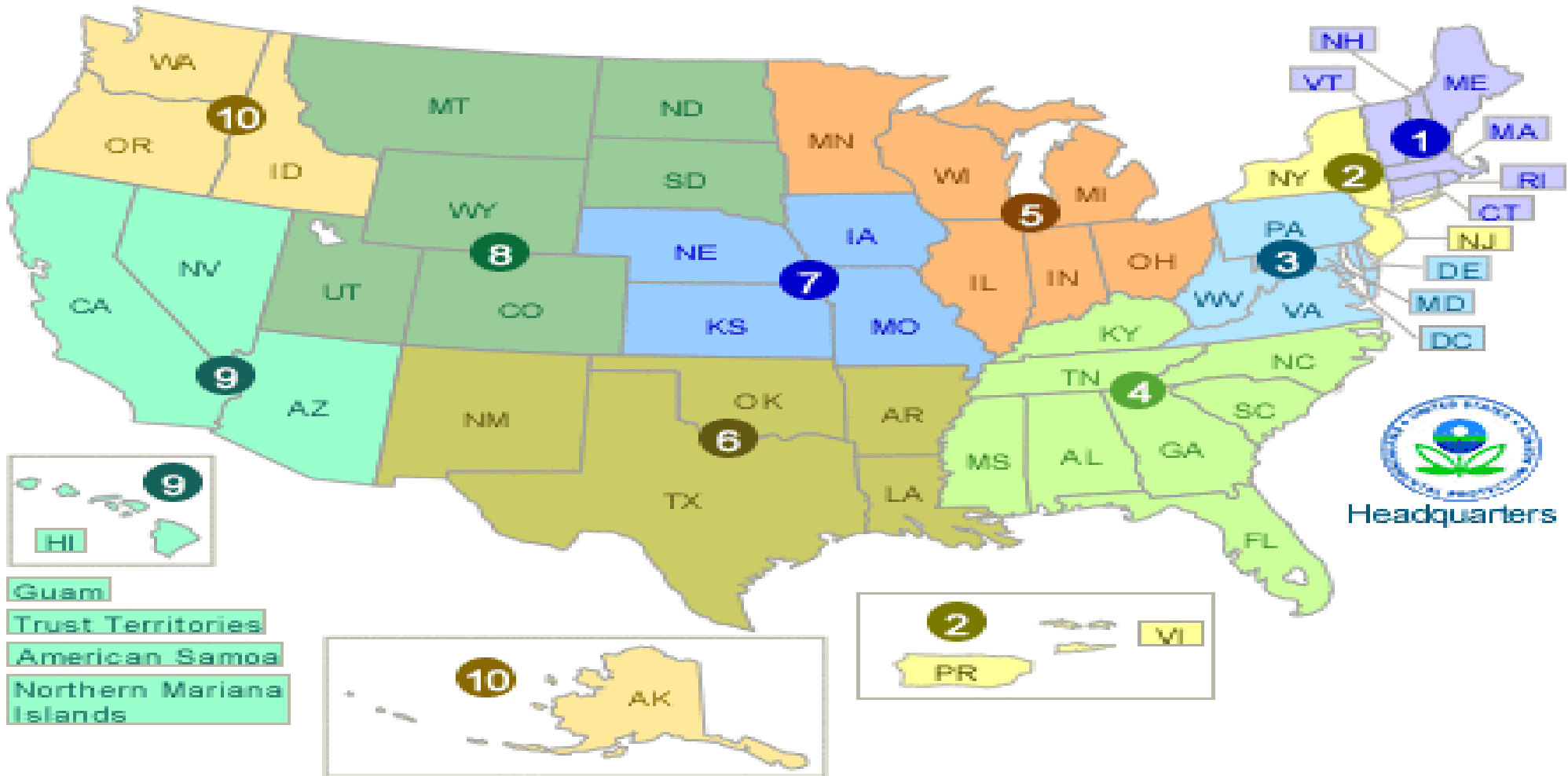
- Budget Justification
- Workplan
- Supplemental Workplan



Utilizing EPA Funding and Other Resources

Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Funding

- Tribes may access these resources by:
 - Requesting assistance through regional EPA offices
 - Some tribal infrastructure programs have set-asides for such support – e.g., CWISA program sets aside \$2M each year for TTA
 - Tribes work with EPA and/or IHS to develop TTA support projects
 - Requesting assistance through the state
 - State revolving fund (SRF) programs also have TTA funding that tribes can access
 - Tribe must work with state to determine how much of these funds are available and be willing to use their process for submitting funding request
 - Requesting assistance through environmental finance centers (EFCs)
 - EPA has funded several EFCs to provide an array of infrastructure needs



Category 1 - Regional Multi-Environmental Media EFCs

EPA Region	EFC
1	University of Maine System
2	Syracuse University
3	Low Impact Development Center Inc.
3	University of Maryland
4	University of North Carolina
4	Urban Sustainability Directors Network
5	Michigan Technological University
6	University of New Mexico
7	Wichita State University
8	National Rural Water Association
9	University Enterprises, Inc. dba Sac State Sponsored
10	Rural Community Assistance Corporation

Category 2 – Regional Water Infrastructure EFC with Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding

EPA Region	EFC
1	University of Maine System
2	Syracuse University
3	University of Maryland
4	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
4	Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project Inc.
5	WSOS Community Action Commission Inc.
5	Delta Institute
6	University of New Mexico
7	Wichita State University
8	National Rural Water Association
9	Rural Community Assistance Corporation
9	Hawaii Community Foundation
10	Rural Community Assistance Corporation

Environmental Finance Centers

- EFCs may assist with the following:
 - Planning and Assessment
 - Community engagement, plan development and coordination, studies and assessments, asset management, etc.
 - Project Development
 - PERs, service line inventories, environmental reviews, etc.
 - Partnerships and Engagement
 - Ongoing engagement and public outreach, decision-making and board education, water system partnerships, capacity building, etc.

Environmental Finance Centers

- Funding and Finance
 - Rates and revenue analysis, financial planning, identifying funding options, application support
- Program Management Support
 - Bid support, change order review, project inspection, domestic preference regulations such as Build America, Buy America (BABA)
- Not all EFCs are created equal!
 - Keep in mind that some EFCs are funded to support technical requests while others can support multi-media requests!
 - Coordinate with your regional EPA offices to get connected with an EFC that is best for your tribe's water infrastructure needs

Leveraging Other Resources

- Tribes may apply for SRFs through their respective state
 - Drinking Water SRF (DWSRF) and Clean Water SRF (CWSRF) programs are available to tribes too!
 - These are loan programs, with options to provide low financing or loan forgiveness
 - BIL SRF programs will have greater capacity for such options
 - Tribes must follow SRF application process to secure funding
 - States have different application processes!
 - Work with your regional EPA offices for assistance in connecting with state SRF personnel
 - SRF loans **may not** be combined with DWIG-TSA funds to support a single project!
 - However, a phased project can be supported
 - Phase 1 could use DWIG-TSA funds and Phase 2 could use a SRF loan

Tribal Resource Directory Matrix of Federal Assistance for Water and Wastewater Treatment Services

	For Drinking Water Infrastructure	For Wastewater Infrastructure	Grants	Loans	Management / Administration Cost	Pre-Award Costs	Planning Cost	Asset Management	Design for New Systems	Design for System Rehabilitation	Construction for New Systems	Construction for Rehabilitation	Land Purchase for Right of Way Access	On-Site Well or Sewer	Laterals	Indoor Plumbing	HUD Homes	Emergencies	Technical Assistance/Training	Operation & Maintenance	Comments
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY																					
Alaska Native Village and Rural Communities Sanitation Grant Program	●	●	●		(L)	●	●	(L)	●	●	●	●	●	●	(L)	●	●	●	●	(L)	
Clean Water Act Section 106 Tribal Water Pollution Control Grant Program	(L)	●	●		●	●													●		
Clean Water Indian Set-Aside Grant Program		●	●			(L1)	●	●	●	●	●	●		(L2)		●		●			Limited to wastewater facilities. (L1) Exceptions can be made for pre-award costs. (L2) Some laterals are eligible.
Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program		●		●	(L)		●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●		(L3)			(L3) Emergency funds may be available if the state has these programs in place.
Drinking Water Infrastructure Grants Tribal Set-Aside Program	●		●				●	●	(L4)	(L)	●	(L)	●	(L)		●				(L5)	Limited to capitalization grants for drinking water facilities. (L4) Asset management system and software limited as part of project. (L5) The 2016 WIIN Act added flexibilities enabling support of operation and maintenance training and operator certification with DWIG funds.
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program	●			●			●	●		(L)	●	(L)	●	(L)		●		●	●		
Indian Environmental General Assistance Program			●			(L)	(L)													(L6)	(L6) Technical Assistance/ Training limited to capacity building costs only.
Nonpoint Source Grants (Section 319 Program)	(L)	(L)	●		(L)	(L)	(L)		(L)	(L)									●	(L)	Limited to source water protection activities (nonpoint source projects) that support drinking water or wastewater treatment.
U.S. Mexico Tribal Border Infrastructure Program	●	●	●		(L7)	(L)	●	●	●	●	●	●	(L8)	●	(L9)	●			●		(L7) Management/ Administration Costs limited, dependent on scope of project. (L8) Exceptions can be made. (L9) Some laterals are eligible.
Tribal PWSS	●		(L)				●									N/A			●		



For more information:

Erskine Benjamin II

Environmental Engineer

U.S. EPA Region 4

Benjamin.Erskine@epa.gov

Chris Johnson

Life Scientist

U.S. EPA Region 4

Johnson.Christopher01@epa.gov