

**Environmental Protection Agency  
Listsers and Technical Assistance**

*Dream.org*

*Heron Bridge Education*

*Miami Climate Alliance*

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# 1. EPA Technical Assistance

## a. [Water Technical Assistance](#)

### i. Water Technical Assistance

1. All communities deserve access to safe, clean, and reliable water. Yet, too many communities across America—rural, urban, and suburban, small and large—face challenges in providing safe drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services to their residents. EPA's free water technical assistance (WaterTA) supports communities to identify water challenges, develop plans, build technical, financial, and managerial capacity, and develop application materials to access water infrastructure funding.
2. Communities may request (subject to availability) free EPA WaterTA by filling out a simple interest form:
3. [Request WaterTA here.](#)

### ii. What types of WaterTA are available?

1. EPA WaterTA provides a variety of services in order to address water and wastewater challenges. These services include:
  - a. Identifying water infrastructure or water quality improvement needs,
  - b. Planning for capital improvements,
  - c. Building technical, managerial, and financial capacity, and
  - d. Preparing for and developing applications materials for financing a project through the State Revolving Funds (SRF) and other EPA-supported funding opportunities.

### iii. Challenges that TA can help your community address include:

1. Lead service line identification and replacement,
2. Drinking water treatment plant and pipe upgrades or building new drinking water infrastructure,
3. Wastewater treatment plant and pipe upgrades or building new wastewater infrastructure,
4. Connecting households or small drinking water/wastewater systems to larger systems,
5. Stormwater, green infrastructure, and water conservation projects,
6. Source water protection,
7. Emerging contaminant (e.g., [PFAS](#)) challenges,
8. Improving cybersecurity, and Improving climate resiliency.

### iv. Who can receive WaterTA services?

1. Local governments/communities
2. Drinking water utilities/systems
3. Wastewater utilities/systems
4. Stormwater utilities/systems
5. States, tribes, territories
6. Non-governmental organizations (in pursuit of Clean Water SRF financing)

- v. Learn About:
  - 1. [Lead Service Line Replacement Accelerators](#)
  - 2. [Closing America's Wastewater Access Gap Pilot: EPA and USDA-RD Community Technical Assistance Partnership](#)
  - 3. [Environmental Justice Grants, Funding, and Technical Assistance](#)
  - 4. [WaterTA Programs](#)
  - 5. [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#)
  - 6. [Clean Water State Revolving Fund](#)
  - 7. [Drinking Water State Revolving Fund](#)
  - 8. [Water Finance Clearinghouse](#)
  - 9. [Water Finance Webinars and Forums](#)

b. [Technical Assistance Services for Communities \(TASC\) Program](#)

- i. Overview
  - 1. The national Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) program provides independent assistance through an EPA contract to help communities better understand the science, regulations and policies of environmental issues and EPA actions. The services are determined on a project-specific basis and provided at no cost to communities.
- ii. The materials below provide additional information on TASC services:
  - 1. [TASC Brochure English \(PDF\)](#)
  - 2. [TASC Brochure Spanish \(PDF\)](#)
  - 3. [2007-2009 TASC Annual Report \(PDF\)](#)
  - 4. [2010-2012 TASC Program Report \(PDF\)](#)
  - 5. [Statement of Work for Superfund Redevelopment and Technical Assistance Services Contract \(PDF\)](#)



- iii. EPA Resources
    - 1. [EPA Regional TASC Coordinators](#)
    - 2. [Technical Assistance Services for Brownfields \(TAB\) Communities Program \(PDF\)](#)
    - 3. [EPA Technical Assistance Grants \(TAGs\)](#)
    - 4. [EPA Technical Assistance Plans \(TAPs\)](#)
    - 5. [EPA Regional TASC Coordinators](#)
    - 6. [EPA SuperJTI](#)
    - 7. [EPA Regional TASC Coordinators](#)
    - 8. [Community Involvement Home](#)
    - 9. [Technical Assistance for Communities](#)
    - 10. [Overview](#)
    - 11. [Frequent Questions](#)
    - 12. [TASC in Communities](#)
    - 13. [Contact Us](#)
  - iv. TASC in Communities
    - 1. [The TASC Program: By the Numbers](#)
    - 2. [Map of TASC Projects](#)
    - 3. [Communities New to TASC](#)
  - v. Map of TASC Projects
    - 1. [View larger map](#)
- C. [EPA Advance Program](#)
- i. The Advance Program was established by the EPA Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards in 2012. It is a voluntary, collaborative initiative between EPA, state and local governments, tribes, and other organizations to address [ground-level ozone](#) and [particle pollution](#) in attainment areas.
  - ii. Program Goals
    - 1. Improving public health by reducing ozone and particulate matter emissions and their respective precursor pollutants.
    - 2. Ensuring areas currently attaining the ozone and PM2.5 National Ambient Air Quality Standards remain in attainment.
    - 3. Integrate this Program's work into:
      - a. Climate Planning, Adaptation, and Mitigation
    - 4. Air Toxics and Multi-pollutant Planning
    - 5. Environmental Justice Communities
  - iii. Program Elements
    - 1. EPA's Advance Program promotes local actions in attainment areas to reduce ozone and/or fine particle pollution to help these areas continue to maintain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The program provides:
      - a. EPA technical assistance
      - b. Information on grants and training, opportunities for collaboration, and other support to states, tribes, and local

governments that want to take proactive steps to keep their air clean.

- c. Advance plans include a range of programs addressing education and outreach; transportation and mobile sources; energy efficiency and renewable energy; innovative finance; wood smoke reduction; stationary sources; green infrastructure, and more.
- d. Currently, 46 areas with a combined population of 54 million are actively participating in the Advance program.

iv. [Technical Assistance](#)

d. [Environmental Justice Grants, Funding and Technical Assistance](#)

i. Grants Information

- 1. [EJ Grants](#)
- 2. [Other Funding Opportunities](#)
- 3. [Technical Assistance](#)
- 4. [Informational Video on the Environmental and Climate Justice Communities Grants Program](#)
- 5. [How-to-Apply](#)
- 6. [EJ Program Funded Projects Map](#)
- 7. [Other Community Grants](#)
- 8. [Grants.gov](#)
- 9. [Current Funding Opportunities](#)

ii. EJ Grants

- 1. The Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking (EJ TCGM) Program
  - a. The new Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking (EJ TCGM) Program is a competition to select multiple Grantmakers around the nation to reduce barriers to the application process communities face and increase the efficiency of the awards process for environmental justice grants. [EJ TCGM 2023 grant opportunities now available!](#)
- 2. Environmental and Climate Justice (ECJ) program
  - a. The Environmental and Climate Justice Block Grant Program, created by the Inflation Reduction Act provides funding for financial and technical assistance to carry out environmental and climate justice activities to benefit underserved and overburdened communities. [Learn more about the ECJ Program and Upcoming Engagement Opportunities](#)
- 3. The Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving (EJCPS) Cooperative Agreement Program
  - a. EPA's EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program provides funding for eligible

- applicants for projects that address local environmental and public health issues within an affected community. [Learn more about the EJPCS Cooperative Agreement Program](#)
4. The Environmental Justice Government-to-Government (EJG2G) Program
    - a. Formerly known as EPA's State Environmental Justice Cooperative Agreement Program (SEJCA), this program has been renamed to better reflect the multiple entities eligible for the funding as well as the purpose of the program. The EJG2G program provides funding to governmental entities at the state, local, territorial and tribal level to support and/or create model government activities that lead to measurable environmental or public health results in communities disproportionately burdened by environmental harms and risks. [Learn more about the EJG2G Program](#)
  5. The Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (EJ TCTAC) Program
    - a. EPA's new EJ Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers Program will establish technical assistance centers across the nation providing technical assistance, training, and related support to communities with environmental justice concerns and their partners. The services provided will include training and assistance on writing grant proposals, navigating federal systems such as Grants.gov and SAM.gov, effectively managing grant funds, community engagement, meeting facilitation, and translation and interpretation services for limited English-speaking participants.
    - b. [Learn more about the Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers \(EJ TCTAC\) Program.](#)
  6. The Environmental Justice Small Grants Program
    - a. EPA's EJ Small Grants Program supports and empowers communities working on solutions to local environmental and public health issues. The program is designed to help communities understand and address exposure to multiple environmental harms and risks.
    - b. [Learn more about the Environmental Justice Small Grants Program.](#)
- iii. Other EJ-Related Funding Opportunities
1. Brownfields Grants
    - a. EPA's Brownfields Program provides direct funding for brownfields assessment, cleanup, revolving loans, and environmental job training. To facilitate the leveraging of public resources, EPA's Brownfields Program collaborates

with other EPA programs, other federal partners, and state agencies to identify and make available resources that can be used for brownfields activities. [Learn more about Brownfields grants.](#)

2. Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grants
    - a. EPA's Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training grants allow nonprofit and other organizations to recruit, train, and place predominantly low-income and minority, unemployed and under-employed people living in areas affected by solid and hazardous waste. [Learn more about Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grants.](#)
  3. Urban Waters Small Grants program
    - a. The goal of the Urban Waters Small Grants program is to fund research, investigations, experiments, training, surveys, studies, and demonstrations that will advance the restoration of urban waters by improving water quality through activities that also support community revitalization and other local priorities. [Learn more about the Urban Small Grants program.](#)
  4. Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Grants
    - a. Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Grants - Since 2008, EPA has funded nearly 60,000 pieces of clean diesel technology through the National Clean Diesel Campaign. These technologies include emissions and idle control devices, aerodynamic equipment, engine and vehicle replacements, and alternative fuel options. [Learn more about Diesel Emissions Reduction Act \(DERA\) Grants.](#)
  5. Extramural Research: STAR Grants, P3, Fellowships, & SBIR Programs
    - a. Extramural Research: STAR Grants, P3, Fellowships, & SBIR Programs - EPA supports leading edge extramural research in exposure, effects, risk assessment, and risk management through competitions for STAR grants, fellowships, and research contracts under the Small Business Innovative Research Program. [Learn more about Extramural Research: STAR Grants, P3, Fellowships, & SBIR Programs.](#)
- iv. Other EPA Technical Assistance Resources
1. Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) Program
    - a. EPA's national Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) program provides independent assistance through an EPA contract to help communities better understand the science, regulations and policies of environmental issues and EPA actions.
    - b. TASC services can include:

- i. information assistance and expertise
      - ii. community education
      - iii. information assistance needs evaluation and plan development
      - iv. other assistance to help community members work together to participate effectively in environmental decision-making
    - c. [Learn more about the Technical Assistance Services for Communities \(TASC\) Program.](#)
  - 2. Brownfields Technical Assistance, Training and Research
    - a. The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) Brownfields Amendments authorize EPA to provide funding to organizations to conduct research and to provide training and technical assistance to communities to help address their brownfields challenges. [Learn more about Brownfields Technical Assistance, Training and Research.](#)
  - 3. Financial Technical Assistance and Tools for Water Infrastructure
    - a. The Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center works with on-the-ground partners to provide financial technical assistance to communities.
    - b. The Center provides:
      - i. Objective financial advice to help communities make informed decisions on funding drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure projects.
      - ii. Access to tools that help utilities make financing decisions that meet their local infrastructure needs.
    - c. [Learn more about Financial Technical Assistance and Tools for Water Infrastructure.](#)
  - 4. Smart Growth Technical Assistance Programs
    - a. EPA offers technical assistance to help communities learn about and implement smart growth approaches.
    - b. [Learn more about Smart Growth Technical Assistance Programs.](#)
- e. [Technical Assistance Plan \(TAP\)](#)
  - i. [Community Involvement Home](#)
  - ii. [Technical Assistance for Communities](#)
    - 1. A Technical Assistance Plan (TAP) enables community groups to retain the services of an independent technical advisor to help interpret and understand technical site information. The TAP can also provide resources for a community group to help other community members learn about site decisions. TAPs are funded by potentially responsible parties (PRPs) through provisions in a negotiated settlement agreement.

- iii. [EPA Guidance on TAPs](#)
  - 1. A Technical Assistance Plan (TAP) enables community groups to retain the services of an independent technical advisor to help interpret and understand technical site information. The TAP can also provide resources for a community group to help other community members learn about site decisions.
- iv. [EPA Guidance on TAPs](#)
  - 1. [Technical Assistance for Communities](#)
- f. [Resources and Technical Assistance](#)
  - i. EPA Resources
    - 1. Planning Measures
      - a. [Air Quality Planning](#)
      - b. [Green Infrastructure, Heat Island, Road-side Vegetation](#)
    - 2. Communities and Sustainability
      - a. [Community Revitalization, Smart Growth and Sustainable Communities](#)
    - 3. Transportation
      - a. [Mobile and Transportation](#)
      - b. [Diesel Emissions Quantifier](#)
    - 4. Stationary and Area Sources
      - a. [Stationary Sources of Air Pollution](#)
    - 5. Climate
      - a. [Climate Change](#)
      - b. [Energy Efficiency / Renewable Energy / Climate](#)
      - c. [Stormwater Program](#)
      - d. [Climate Change Adaptation Resource Center \(ARC-X\)](#)
    - 6. Environmental Justice
      - a. [Environmental Justice](#)
      - b. [EJScreen: Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool](#)
      - c. [Resources for Creating Healthy, Sustainable, and Equitable Communities](#)
    - 7. External Climate Resources
      - a. [U.S. Department of State – Climate Crisis](#)
      - b. [U.S. Global Change Research Program](#)
      - c. [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – Climate](#)
      - d. [U.S. Department of Agriculture – Climate Solutions](#)
      - e. [NASA – Sustainability and Government Resources](#)
      - f. [Department of Energy – Climate Change](#)
      - g. [Climate Xchange – State Climate Policy Dashboard](#)
      - h. [United Nations – Climate Change](#)



2. [EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment \(OGD\)](#)
    - a. Provides information about various EPA grant and fellowship programs. Includes updated forms and instructions for including a DUNS identification number on SF 424, which now is required for all federal assistance applications. (Organizations can receive a DUNS number at no cost by calling the dedicated toll-free DUNS Number request line at 1-866-705-5711.
  3. [EPA's "How to Apply for Grants" Page](#)
    - a. EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment (OGD) page providing tips for writing a grant proposal and preparing a budget; a grants tutorial; and grant application forms.
  4. [Making Sure Your TAG Gets Environmental Results \(PDF\)](#)
    - a. Provides instructions to TAG applicants for incorporating environmental result outputs and outcomes in TAG applications, and to TAG recipient groups for reporting on environmental result outputs and outcomes in quarterly progress reports.
  5. TAG Management Information
    - a. [Technical Assistance Grants \(TAGs\): Managing Your TAG \(PDF\)](#)

Provides an overview of TAG financial, reporting and record-keeping responsibilities.
    - b. [Technical Assistance Grants \(TAG\): How to Find and Select a Technical Advisor \(PDF\)](#)

Provides questions often asked by TAG recipients about finding and choosing a technical advisor.
  6. TAG Recipient Manual
    - a. [Section 1: Overview and First Steps \(PDF\)](#)
    - b. [Section 2: Tracking TAG Activities and Finances \(PDF\)](#)
    - c. [Section 3: Reporting Requirements \(PDF\)](#)
    - d. [Section 4: Procurement—Spending TAG Funds \(PDF\)](#)
    - e. [Section 5: Requesting Payment \(PDF\)](#)
    - f. [Section 6: Changing, Extending, or Ending Your TAG \(PDF\)](#)
    - g. [Section 7: TAG Enforcement, Termination, and Your Right to Appeal \(PDF\)](#)
    - h. [Section 8: Blank Forms \(PDF\)](#)
    - i. [Section 9: Blank Worksheets and Other Tools \(PDF\)](#)
- h. [Tools, Training, and Technical Assistance for Small and Rural Wastewater Systems](#)
- i. EPA and its partners have developed many tools and resources for planning, designing, constructing, and maintaining wastewater infrastructure for small and rural communities.



- ii. Training and Technical Assistance
  - 1. [Asset Management: A Best Practices Guide \(PDF\)](#)(4 pp, 242 K, [About PDF](#))
    - a. Explains asset management and its benefits, provides best practices, and explains how to implement an asset management plan.
  - 2. [Asset Management for Local Officials](#)
    - a. Offers the basics of asset management for community leaders and local officials who play a vital role in implementing a successful asset management program.
  - 3. [Building an Asset Management Team \(PDF\)](#)( [About PDF](#))
    - a. Discusses the components of a successful asset management team and how forming and having a team can help systems implement asset management practices.
  - 4. [Effective Utility Management](#)
    - a. Effectively managing all aspects of operations is critical for all utilities, regardless of size or location, to ensure their long-term sustainability and keep the communities they serve strong, safe, and sustainable. EPA and the Rural Utilities Service at the U.S. Department of Agriculture developed several training and technical assistance tools targeted to rural and small water and wastewater systems.
  - 5. [Environmental Finance Centers](#)
    - a. Deliver targeted technical assistance to, and partner with, states, tribes, local governments, and the private sector in providing innovative solutions to manage the costs of environmental financing and program management.
  - 6. [Training and Technical Assistance for Rural, Small, and Tribal Wastewater Systems](#)
    - a. Grantees provide training and technical assistance to rural, small, and tribal wastewater systems. This technical assistance may include, but is not limited to, circuit-rider and multi-state regional technical assistance programs, training and site visits, online webinars, and technical assistance to diagnose and trouble-shoot wastewater system operations and Clean Water Act compliance-related problems and to identify potential solutions.
  - 7. Water and Wastewater Utility Operation and Management for Small Communities
    - a. A basic training program of several video modules to help operate and manage small water and wastewater treatment facilities. These modules include:
      - b. [Introductory Case Studies](#)
      - c. [Sewer System Operation and Management](#)
      - d. [Lift Station Operation and Management](#)

- e. [Lagoon System Management](#)
  - f. [Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems](#)
  - g. [Asset Management](#)
  - h. [Developing a Rate Structure](#)
  - i. [Drinking Water Distribution Systems](#)
  - j. [Potable Water](#)
  - k. [Water Storage Tanks](#)
8. Providing Process Control Technical Assistance to Small Mechanical Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs) Series (October 2022)
- a. [Part 1: Introduction](#) - Provides an introduction and overview of the training material.
  - b. [Part 2: Wastewater Treatment Plant Walkthrough](#) - Provides background and an overview of WWTP process units such as the equalization basin, aeration tank, clarifier, and more.
  - c. [Part 3: Tools and Equipment](#) - Focuses on the tools and equipment used to diagnose and troubleshoot WWTP operation issues.
  - d. [Part 4: Troubleshooting](#) - Focuses on sampling, measurement, and analysis techniques that can be used to troubleshoot WWTP issues.
9. [Asset Management Switchboard](#)
- a. The Southwest Environmental Finance Center has partnered with EPA to create a repository of documentation and tools related to Asset Management.
10. [Reference Guide for Asset Management Tools 2020 \(pdf\)](#)
- a. This document is designed for state staff and technical assistance providers who are assisting small- and medium-sized drinking water or wastewater systems in identifying resources that can be used to implement asset management practices.
- iii. Additional Assistance for Tribal Communities
- 1. [Environmental Protection in Indian Country](#)
    - a. Resources on water and other environmental programs, consultation and coordination, grants, and other topics of interest to tribal communities.
  - 2. [Homeowner's Guide to Septic Systems for Tribal Communities](#)
    - a. EPA and the Indian Health Service guide focusing on the unique factors of tribal communities and homeowners on tribal lands in caring for their systems.
  - 3. [Tribal Infrastructure Task Force \(ITF\)](#)
    - a. Led by EPA, ITF is a federal partnership of five Departments that aims to improve access to safe drinking water, basic sanitation, and solid waste management in Indian country.

i. [Integrated Planning Technical Assistance](#)

i. EPA is providing states and municipalities free technical assistance to support the integrated plan development and review process.

ii. Resources

1. In addition to supporting these community planning efforts, the projects resulted in three reports that provide practical examples and transferable tools to communities that are interested in integrated planning. The reports and related supporting documents below focus on three main themes: public outreach and engagement, prioritizing projects, and characterizing the value of water to inform decision-making.
2. [Using Stakeholder Input to Evaluate and Rank Alternatives \(EXCEL\) \(xlsx\)](#)
  - a. This spreadsheet tool can be used by communities to evaluate and rank project alternatives based on community-defined goals and priorities.
3. [Public Outreach for Integrated Wastewater and Stormwater Planning \(pdf\)](#)
  - a. This report focuses on public outreach, Element 3 of the integrated planning process. Includes case studies from Burlington, Vermont and Onondaga County, New York.
4. [Prioritizing Wastewater and Stormwater Projects Using Stakeholder Input \(pdf\)](#)
  - a. This report describes how communities can use stakeholder input to select and rank criteria and apply those criteria to prioritize stormwater and wastewater projects. Includes case studies from Burlington, Vermont, Onondaga County, New York, and Santa Maria, California.
5. [Integrated Planning: Characterizing the Value of Water to Inform Decision-Making \(pdf\)](#)
  - a. This document presents approaches for quantifying water resource users and estimating the value of water resources. Includes examples from the City of Springfield and Green County, Missouri.
6. [Estimating the Value of Water: A Literature Review \(pdf\)](#)
  - a. This document describes the methodology and results of a literature review of relevant studies that examined how communities similar to Springfield estimated their water resource value.

7. [Estimating Users of Water Resources: Springfield–Greene County Data Collection Plan \(pdf\)](#)
  - a. This data collection plan provides next steps for the Springfield and Green County project partners and ideas for other communities on how to collect water resource user data to help support an integrated planning process.
- j. <https://www.epa.gov/land-research/epas-technical-support-centers>
  - i. EPA Technical Support Centers
    1. [Engineering Technical Support Center](#)
      - a. Provides short- and long-term assistance to Superfund and RCRA Corrective Action staff. Assistance focuses on treatment technologies and engineering approaches to site management at any phase from problem identification through remedial action.
    2. [Ground Water Technical Support Center](#)
      - a. Provides support to EPA staff on issues regarding subsurface contamination, contaminant fluxes to other environmental media (e.g., surface water or air), and ecosystem restoration. The Center creates critical links between research and real-world problems, providing a testing ground for research and allowing scientists to focus on high priority problems.
    3. [Site Characterization and Modeling Technical Support Center](#)
      - a. Provides technical assistance on complex hazardous waste site characterization issues through specialized teams of scientists equipped to aid the regions with screening and site characterization. The diversity of expertise available through allows the Center to work with the regional programs at any time during a site characterization event.
    4. [Superfund Health Risk Technical Support Center](#)
      - a. Provides site-specific guidance and expertise for preparing human health risk assessments on the types of hazardous waste sites addressed by EPA land cleanup programs.
    5. [Ecological Risk Assessment Technical Support Center](#)
      - a. Provides technical information and addresses scientific questions on topics relevant to ecological risk assessment at hazardous waste sites for Superfund and RCRA Corrective Action staff. Center experts develop state-of-the science responses for ecological risk assessments. Serves as a central communication point distributing responses to interested parties outside the Agency.

6. [EPA Research](#)
  7. [Clu-In](#)
  8. [TechDirect](#)
  9. [Superfund](#)
  10. [RCRA Corrective Action](#)
  11. [Best Practices for Environmental Site Management: A Practical Guide for Applying Environmental Sequence Stratigraphy to Improve Conceptual Site Models](#)
- k. [Financial Technical Assistance and Tools for Water Infrastructure](#)
- i. Financial Technical Assistance and Tools for Water Infrastructure
    1. The Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center works with on-the-ground partners to provide financial technical assistance to communities. The Center provides:
      - a. Objective financial advice to help communities make informed decisions on funding drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure projects.
      - b. Access to tools that help utilities make financing decisions that meet their local infrastructure needs.
      - c. The Center does not fund water infrastructure capital or predevelopment projects.
  - ii. The Center provides technical assistance on:
    1. [Financial Tools](#)
    2. [Water Affordability](#)
    3. [Technical Assistance Partners](#)
    4. [WaterCARE](#)
  - iii. Financial Tools
    1. Water and wastewater infrastructure is a crucial yet expensive investment. Effective management requires financing and pricing strategies that cover the cost of providing services, while managing debt and ensuring that services remain affordable. EPA resources include:
    2. Water Utility COVID-19 Financial Impact Tool
      - a. [Water Utility COVID-19 Financial Impact Tool](#) can help drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater (“water”) utilities assess the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the utility’s cashflow.
      - b. This tool leads water utilities through questions that can determine how their revenues, expenses, and cashflow have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The spreadsheet automatically calculates the changes for a utility’s revenues and expenses by looking at current 2020 monthly financials versus the average monthly financials of the utility’s 2019 audited financial statement. Water utilities can use the tool each month to keep a running total of their cashflow.
      - c. Use of the spreadsheet is voluntary and its results are provided for your information only. EPA is not collecting

either the data entered by utilities nor the results. EPA is planning to send a separate survey to randomly selected utilities at another time.

### 3. Other Financial Tools

- a. [Infrastructure Financing and the Price of Water Services](#) provides information for utilities on various financial topics.
- b. [Water Infrastructure Financial Leadership: Successful Financial Tools for Local Decision Makers](#)
  - i. This document highlights successful financial tools to help inform local water infrastructure investment decisions by identifying what is needed for financial planning, determining how to fund and finance a project, and considering which strategic approaches can be used to protect local investments.
- c. [Pricing Resources](#) includes various guides, tools, and case studies on pricing for water services.
- d. [Financing Alternatives Comparison Tool \(FACT\)](#) helps identify the most cost-effective method to fund a wastewater or drinking water management project.
- e. [Guidebook of Financial Tools: Paying for Environmental \(PDF\)](#)(223 pp, 2.6 MB, [About PDF](#))
  - i. Systems provides information on approximately 340 financial tools that include traditional means of raising revenue, borrowing capital, enhancing credit, creating public-private partnerships, and providing technical assistance.
- f. The Environmental Finance Center Network and other technical assistance providers offer a wide variety of financial tools for water and wastewater utilities, including tools for rate setting and affordability.
- g. Affordability Tools
  - i. These tools assess the affordability of a utility's water and wastewater services for their customers. There are also tools to assess the cost of implementing a customer assistance program in areas with affordability issues.
- h. Rate Setting Tools
  - i. These tools help set water or wastewater rates by projecting the utility's expenses, revenues, and fund balance for the next few years. They can help determine if the utility needs to adjust rates to achieve financial sustainability.
- i. These financial tools can be found at:
  - i. [University of North Carolina Environmental Finance Center Tools](#)

- ii. [Wichita State Environmental Finance Center Tools](#)
    - iii. [NRWA State Affiliate Tools](#)
  - iv. Water Affordability
    - 1. Clean Water Act Financial Capability Assessment Guidance
      - a. The Financial Capability Assessment (FCA) Guidance provides tools to evaluate the financial resources a community has available to implement Clean Water Act (CWA) controls. It has been developed to assist in negotiating implementation schedules for CWA controls and in making certain water quality standards (WQS) decisions for public entities.
      - b. [Clean Water Act Financial Capability Assessment Guidance](#)
    - 2. Utility Customer Assistance Programs (CAPs)
      - a. Households on fixed or lower incomes, as well as households that face a temporary crisis such as a job loss or illness, may have difficulty paying water and sewer bills. Many drinking water and wastewater utilities have seen an opportunity to meet specific customer needs, along with the needs of meeting their own operational and capital costs to provide drinking water delivery and/or wastewater management services, through developing customer assistance programs (CAPs).
      - b. [A compendium of Drinking Water and Wastewater Customer Assistance Programs](#) has been compiled to describe the benefits, implementation, and examples of CAPs throughout the country. These examples show the short-term or long-term reductions through a Bill Discount, Flexible Terms, Lifeline Rate, Temporary Assistance, and Water Efficiency advantages.
      - c. [Webinar on Customer Assistance Programs at Drinking Water and Wastewater Utilities](#)
        - i. Learn how drinking water and wastewater utilities are implementing customer assistance programs (CAPs) created for customers having difficulty paying for water and sewer bills. CAPs help all customers receive the public health benefits of drinking water and wastewater services, while also helping utilities meet their financial needs and obligations.
      - d. [Assistance that Saves: How WaterSense Partners Incorporate Water Efficiency into Affordability Programs](#)
        - i. Find out how water efficiency programs can work with affordability programs to help customers in need.

- e. Community Assistance for Resiliency and Excellence (WaterCARE)
  - i. WaterCARE supports communities in developing finance planning strategies for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure that meet long-term local needs. The Center is partnering with the Environmental Finance Center Network to provide pre-development technical assistance to 10 communities across the country.
    - 1. See the [map of WaterCARE Communities](#).
- v. Technical Assistance Partners
  - 1. The Center collaborates with stakeholders that work with small and rural systems to increase financial capabilities.
  - 2. [Capacity Development Program](#)
    - a. EPA's capacity development program helps small system owners and operators, state and tribal agencies, technical assistance providers, and consumers help small water systems provide safe drinking water and protect public health. Every state has a capacity development program to help small systems improve their finances, management, infrastructure, and operations.
  - 3. [Environmental Finance Center \(EFC\) Network](#)
    - a. EFCs partner with, states, tribes, local governments and the private sector to deliver targeted technical assistance to the water sector. EFCs and their partners provide innovative solutions to help manage the costs of environmental financing and program management.
  - 4. [U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development](#)
    - a. Rural Development offers loans, grants, loan guarantees and technical assistance to support essential services in rural areas including water, electric, and communications infrastructure.
  - 5. [National Rural Water Association \(NRWA\)](#)
    - a. NRWA is a national network of non-profit organizations that:
      - i. Trains, supports, and promotes the water and wastewater professionals that serve rural and small communities across the U.S. and
      - ii. Provides training and technical assistance through 49 affiliated State Rural Water Associations on operating, managing, and financing water and wastewater utilities.
  - 6. [Rural Community Assistance Partnership \(RCAP\)](#)
    - a. RCAP is a national network of non-profit organizations that:



- i. Helps rural and small communities throughout the U.S. access safe drinking water and sanitary wastewater disposal and
- ii. Provides training and technical assistance through six regional organizations on financing, managing, and operating water and wastewater systems.

l. [Superfund Technical Assistance for Communities](#)

- i. EPA relies on community comments to understand local priorities and concerns during cleanup decision-making. However, understanding volumes of technical information related to cleanup efforts can be challenging for community members. Providing independent technical assistance to communities helps people better understand technical issues related to a cleanup and key considerations for a site's future use. With this assistance, communities are then in a better position to share their concerns and priorities with EPA.
- ii. [Technical Assistance Needs Assessment \(TANA\) Tool](#)
  1. This process identifies additional support that a community may require in order to understand technical information and participate meaningfully in the Superfund decision-making process. A TANA helps EPA determine what technical assistance resources and information the Agency can provide to meet community needs.
- iii. [Technical Assistance Services for Communities \(TASC\) Program](#)
  1. This program provides services through a national EPA contract. Under the contract, a contractor provides scientists, engineers and other professionals to review and explain information to communities. TASC services are determined on a project-specific basis and provided at no cost to communities.
- iv. [Technical Assistance Grant \(TAG\) Program](#)
  1. TAGs are awarded to non-profit incorporated community groups. With TAG funding, community groups can contract with independent technical advisors to interpret and help the community understand technical information about their site. The TAG recipient group is responsible for managing their grant funds and contributing a 20 percent award match. Most groups meet this requirement through in-kind contributions such as volunteer hours toward grant-related activities.
- v. [Technical Assistance Plan \(TAP\)](#)
  1. A TAP is funded by potentially responsible parties through provisions in a negotiated settlement agreement. A TAP enables community groups to retain the services of an independent technical advisor and to provide resources for a community group to help other community members learn about site decisions.

m. [Smart Growth Technical Assistance Programs](#)

- i. EPA offers the following technical assistance to help communities learn about and implement smart growth approaches:

1. [Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities](#)
  - a. Two-day, targeted technical assistance to give communities tools to implement smart growth development approaches. Eligible applicants are tribal, county, and local governments, and nonprofit organizations that have the support of the local government on whose behalf they are applying.
2. [Cool & Connected](#)
  - a. Helps rural communities use broadband service to revitalize main streets and promote economic development. Any community representative can apply.
3. [Governors' Institute on Community Design](#)
  - a. Helps governors help their states develop in an environmentally and economically sound way. States are eligible to apply.
4. [Greening America's Communities](#)
  - a. Helps cities and towns envision and implement design strategies for more sustainable communities. The program currently serves communities in partnership with the EPA Office of Water Stormwater Management Program. Formerly called Greening America's Capitals.
5. [Healthy Places for Healthy People](#)
  - a. Helps communities create walkable, healthy, economically vibrant places by engaging with their health care facility partners such as community health centers (including Federally Qualified Health Centers), nonprofit hospitals, and other health care facilities. Eligible applicants include local government representatives, health care facilities, local health departments, nonprofit organizations, tribes, and others proposing to work in a neighborhood, town, or city anywhere in the United States.

ii. Story Map

1. Read about how EPA's technical assistance programs have helped local leaders realize their community's vision in the "[Community Stories](#)" [story map](#) (link will open in a new window or tab).
2. [Local Foods, Local Places](#)
  - a. Helps communities develop and implement action plans that promote local foods and downtown revitalization. Representatives of communities anywhere in the United States are eligible to apply. This program builds on the [Livable Communities in Appalachia](#) Program, which offered technical assistance to help small towns and rural communities in Appalachia revitalize their traditional downtowns to boost the local economy and improve quality of life.

3. [Recreation Economy for Rural Communities](#)
  - a. Helps communities develop strategies and an action plan to revitalize their Main Street through outdoor recreation. Eligible applicants include local governments, Indian tribes, and nonprofit institutions and organizations representing any community in the United States.
4. [Smart Growth Implementation Assistance](#)
  - a. Works with public-sector entities that want to incorporate smart growth techniques into their development. As of 2015, EPA's regional staff identified and selected communities to assist. [Summaries and reports from past SGIA projects](#) can be helpful to communities facing similar issues.
5. [Special Smart Growth Technical Assistance Projects](#)
  - a. Additional technical assistance projects done in partnership with other entities.