



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

For Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

U.S. EPA Region 10

(Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington)

About EPA WaterTA

EPA offers free technical assistance (TA) to help communities identify water challenges and solutions, build capacity, and develop application materials for water infrastructure funding. This TA can address water and wastewater issues in several ways, including development of well-planned infrastructure projects. Generally, these programs target communities that are small, rural, disadvantaged, and/or Tribal communities.

The TA providers offer diverse services, including but not limited to:

Infrastructure needs identification	Capital improvements planning	Funding application development
Regulatory compliance assistance	Financial, managerial, and/or technical capacity building	Disaster and climate resiliency
Utility cybersecurity	Water quality optimization	Utility workforce development

This brochure summarizes several TA programs and resources available to communities and to water/wastewater utilities. This list is not exhaustive but is intended as a good place to start.

EPA Water Technical Assistance Programs

Environmental Finance Centers

The Environmental Finance Centers (EFCs) help communities access Bipartisan Infrastructure Law resources for infrastructure improvements.

In the EPA Pacific Northwest Region, [Rural Community Assistance Corporation](#) (RCAC) administers the EFC. This EFC supports communities in a range of activities that bolster communities' ability to obtain state and federal infrastructure funding, including:

- Funding application development
- Project construction management services
- Identification of financing and long-term O&M strategies
- Technical, managerial, and financial capacity training
- Community outreach and engagement
- Asset management
- Researching revenue approaches, including establishing use rates
- Income surveys to support project eligibility and funding
- Calculating the financial impact of capital projects on rate payers

Rural, Small, and Tribal (RST) Wastewater Technical Assistance

The RST TA program provides rural, small, and Tribal wastewater treatment systems with assistance in planning, developing, and acquisition of financing/funding; improving water quality; and achieving and maintaining compliance.

Two national TA providers, [RCAP](#) and [NRWA](#), provide a broad spectrum of support under this program, along with two regional providers:

- The [Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Resource Center](#) (PPRC) helps communities abate Fats, Oils & Grease; PFAS; and other emerging contaminants.
- The [Alaska Municipal League](#), through the Alaska Water Infrastructure Financial Navigation Center (AWIFNC), helps communities improve financial, managerial and governance capacity to access infrastructure funding.

Training and Technical Assistance for Small Systems

Organizations (like [RCAP](#) or [NRWA](#)) provide training and technical assistance to:

1. **Small public water systems** to comply with the SDWA and improve financial and managerial capacity
2. **Small publicly-owned wastewater systems** and **decentralized wastewater systems** to improve water quality
3. **Private drinking water well owners** to improve water quality

Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (TCTACs)

TCTACs help underserved communities build their capacity to access federal resources by providing training and other assistance to build capacity for navigating federal grant application systems, writing strong grant proposals, and effectively managing grant funding.

These centers will also provide guidance on community engagement, meeting facilitation, and translation and interpretation services for limited English-speaking participants, thus removing barriers and improving accessibility for communities with environmental justice concerns.

The TCTACs in the Pacific Northwest Region are:

- [Northwestern Environmental Justice Center](#) administered by Willamette Partnership
- [Center for Environmental Health Equity](#) administered by the University of Washington

Creating Resilient Water Utilities (CRWU)

EPA's CRWU initiative provides drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater utilities with practical tools, training, and technical assistance to increase system resilience to climate change impacts.

CRWU helps promote a clear understanding of climate data and helps water sector utilities identify potential adaptation strategies, implementation options, and infrastructure financing.

State Revolving Fund Programs

In addition to the EPA TA programs, states can provide TA programs through SRF set aside funding. For more information about each state's SRF program and potential state-run TA, please visit the websites linked below.

Alaska

- [Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation State Revolving Fund](#)

Idaho

- [Idaho Department of Environmental Quality State Revolving Fund](#)

Oregon

- [Oregon Health Authority Drinking Water State Revolving Fund](#)
- [Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Clean Water State Revolving Fund](#)

Washington

- [Washington State Department of Health Drinking Water State Revolving Fund](#)
- [Washington State Department of Ecology Clean Water State Revolving Fund](#)

EPA collaborates with states to identify utilities for compliance and capacity-building focused TA programs, such as the [Alaska Native Villages and Rural Communities Water Grant Program](#) and the [Area-Wide Drinking Water Optimization Program](#).

EPA Online Technical Assistance Training and Tools

Drinking Water Capacity Development

This EPA webpage provides training and resources to help water systems build their technical, managerial, and financial capacity, maintain certified operators, and establish partnerships. Find tools and resources at: [Building the Capacity of Drinking Water Systems | US EPA](#).

Water Resilience

This EPA webpage provides a list of training and resources (both direct and classroom/webinar based) related to disaster resilience of water and wastewater utilities for natural disasters. Find tools and resources at: [Drinking Water and Wastewater Resilience | US EPA](#).

Drinking Water Rule Implementation and Compliance Assistance

This EPA webpage provides information on upcoming and past training opportunities for drinking water professionals, public officials, and citizens interested in gaining knowledge and skills related to compliance with the SDWA, Building the Capacity of Drinking Water Systems, and Drinking Water Grant Opportunities. It also offers virtual sanitary survey training for states. For more information, visit [Drinking Water Training | US EPA](#).

Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center

The Water Finance Center provides financing information to help local decision makers make informed decisions for drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure to protect human health and the environment. This EPA webpage includes clearinghouse of funding opportunities, webinars, and SRF 101 and other learning modules. To access the online resources, visit [Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center | US EPA](#).

Area-Wide Optimization Program

The Area-Wide Optimization Program (AWOP) is a voluntary program that creates a framework for increased cooperation and mutual support between utility operators and state agency staff. The program provides tools and approaches for drinking water systems to meet water quality optimization goals and provide a higher - and sustainable - level of public health protection to their consumers. The program teaches problem-solving skills designed to improve operations at utilities without costly capital improvements. For more information, visit [Optimization Program for Drinking Water Systems | US EPA](#).

American Iron and Steel (AIS) and Build America Buy America (BABA) Act Assistance

These EPA webpages provide training and resources for states, water systems, and/or and manufacturers to support implementation and oversight of the AIS and BABA requirements. For more information, visit:

- [State Revolving Fund American Iron and Steel \(AIS\) Requirement | US EPA](#)
- [Build America, Buy America \(BABA\) | US EPA](#)

Cybersecurity

This EPA webpage provides information on implementing basic cyber hygiene practices can help your utility prevent, detect, respond, and recover from cyber incident. Additionally, EPA offers free, confidential assessments and cybersecurity technical assistance to interested drinking water and wastewater utilities. To access these resources, visit [Cybersecurity for the Water Sector | US EPA](#).

Utility Workforce Development

This EPA webpage provides webinars, case studies, and grant programs to support innovative workforce development practices at water and wastewater utilities. To access these resources, visit [Water Sector Workforce | US EPA](#).



**Get in
touch!**

For more information about technical assistance or to request technical assistance for your utility, visit www.epa.gov/WaterTA or **contact R10WaterTA@epa.gov**