
Technical Assistance for all Oregon Public Water Systems

Providers

Circuit Rider

OHA DWS

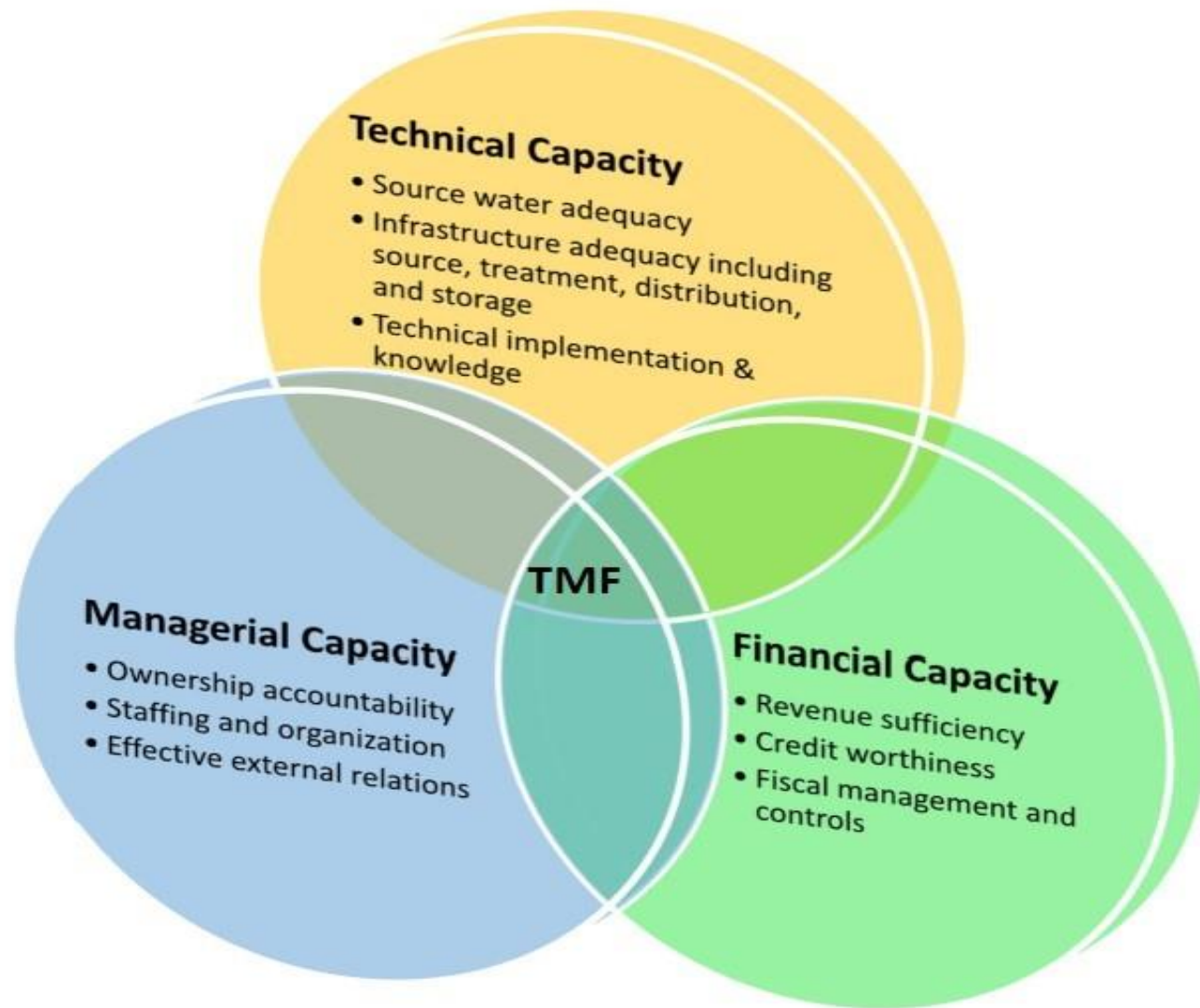
LPHA & ODA



DRINKING WATER SERVICES
Public Health Division

Technical Assistance and Outreach

For this presentation technical assistance will be used broadly to also include managerial and financial capacity building assistance for water systems.



Technical Capacity

- *Technical capacity* refers to the physical and operational ability of a water system. This includes assessing and ensuring the adequacy of source water and physical infrastructure as well as the technical knowledge and ability of system personnel to properly operate and maintain the system.

Managerial Capacity

- *Managerial capacity* refers to the institutional and administrative ability of a water system. It is the ability of system decision makers to conduct necessary activities such as staffing, planning, maintaining accountability and interacting with customers and regulatory agencies.

Financial Capacity

- *Financial capacity* refers to the ability of a water system to acquire and manage sufficient financial resources. This involves generating sufficient revenue, maintaining credit worthiness and managing water system funds through budgeting, accounting, and other methods of fiscal control.

This is Capacity Development:

- Capacity development is a fundamental component of the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Amendments. The SDWA Amendments provide a framework for states and water systems to work together to protect public health. Every state has developed a Capacity Development Program to assist public water systems in building Technical, Managerial, and Financial (TMF) capacity.

TMF Capacity

- Any water system can implement capacity development activities to increase their TMF capacity. Small systems can especially benefit from capacity development. The Oregon Health Authority is committed to helping small water systems provide safe drinking water through publications, training, technical and financial assistance.
- Local officials and consumers play an important role in helping small water systems meet regulatory requirements and protect public health. Besides protecting public health, communities that support their water systems are making long-term investments in sustainable communities and economic well-being.

Goals and Methods

Goals

- Ensure public health through safe drinking water;
- Improve compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act; and
- Improve water system capacity and expertise.

Methods

These goals will be implemented by providing technical assistance to eligible water systems by on site troubleshooting of short term operational or related technical and or managerial problems

Circuit Rider (CR) is contracted by OHA DWS

- Contractor shall provide on-site technical “trouble-shooting” services of a short-term duration. For purposes of this contract “services of a short-term duration” means 10 hours or less of Contractor-provided services per identified problem without the prior, written approval of OHA.

Newly Added in 2021 Circuit Rider Objectives

- Contractor shall assist water systems by providing project management duties for approved service actions. This service shall consist of an initial on-site evaluation and assessment of project scope and time requirements for the system, which will be presented to OHA in a written report. This review and report activity shall not exceed 10 hours without prior written approval. If the submitted proposal receives approval, the Circuit Rider shall assume the role of project manager for the life of the approved service. Such service will be authorized in twenty-hour increments, and no service exceeding twenty hours may occur without prior written OHA approval.
- Additionally, as recommended or required by OHA, the Circuit Rider may provide on-site technical assistance to water systems evaluating or implementing an asset management strategy or program. Asset management services may not exceed 15 hours without prior written approval by OHA management.

Also Newly Added in 2021 Financial Capacity support

- Providing Technical, Managerial and Financial (TMF) assistance to water systems, including asset management templates and completing financial assistance applications and letters of interest to the Oregon Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund.

Expanded in 2021 CR Objectives

- Services include, but are not limited to, providing technical assistance and making recommendations related to pipe and pump repair, leak detection, treatment process evaluation and optimization, well head disinfection, and providing Technical, Managerial and Financial (TMF) assistance to water systems, including asset management templates and completing financial assistance applications and letters of interest to the Oregon Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund.
- Contractor shall assist water systems with data collection, which may include the physical collection of source samples, associated with the evaluation of Groundwater Under Direct Influence (GWUDI) rule and Bank Filtration (i.e., alternative treatment technology). The Contractor shall provide technical assistance regarding additional treatment techniques options to be installed if a GWUDI determination results in a source being subject to the Surface Water Treatment Rule.

Circuit Rider Approach

- For both groundwater and surface water systems, the vendor will respond to requests from eligible water systems for technical and managerial assistance to solve problems that require immediate attention but are not associated with long-term assistance. These requests may come to the Contractor directly from the eligible water systems or by referral from the OHA Drinking Water Services and Partner Agencies including contracted Local Public Health Authorities (LPHA) and the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

OHA DWS Technical Services

- Maintain sufficient technical staff capacity to assist Partners' staff with unusual drinking water problems that require either more staff than is available to Partners for a short time period, such as a major emergency, or problems whose technical nature or complexity exceed the capability of Partners' staff.

ODA & LPHA

- ODA and LPHA regulators provide technical and regulatory assistance in response to requests from water system operators for information on and interpretation of regulatory requirements. Regulators must respond to water system complaints received as appropriate or as requested by DWS.

Conclusion

- Circuit Rider Assistance is available to **all Public Water Systems** serving a population of 10,000 or less. Except for Federal systems.
- PWS Technical assistance is going through the CR budget at a medium to fast pace, as in more the 1/12 per month. Please prioritize referrals by health risk.
- Regulators are excellent providers of technical assistance.