Resources for systems lacking TMF capacity, & PWS applying for funding

Agenda:

- Identify systems that are having difficulties to delivery safe water.
- Define Capacity Development
- Technical assistance for PWS
- DWSRF resources

Some materials from this presentation was presented by EPA's office of Water for the Water System Partnerships Training Toolbox.

Oregon Health Authority

DRINKING WATER SERVICES
Public Health Division

Indicators of lacking capacity to provide safe water to their customers

- ❑ Do Not Drink Notice especially if 30 days or more
- ❑ Boil Water notice more than 30 days
- ❑ Priority Non Complier, PNC
- ❑ Priority significant deficiency
- ❑ Not enough source water
- ❑ Not able to communicate with regulators

Water Advisories

Boil Water or Do No Drink Water

More than 30 day Loss of Pressure

More than 30 day Ecoli confirmation

Treatment failure for contaminants

https://yourwater.oregon.gov/advisories.php

Priority Non-Complier, PNC

PNC= Water systems with system scores of 11 and higher are considered a higher priority for enforcement

Each violation type is assigned a point value indicating its relative threat to public health, or severity

https://yourwater.oregon.gov/sscore_info.php#pnc

Sanitary Survey Priority Deficiencies

- Priority deficiencies are rule violations that could be a direct pathway of contamination.
- These are design and maintenance issues
- https://yourwater.oregon.gov/sigdefs.php

Not enough source water

- Hauling water to supplement supply
- Issuing water use curtailment

- Could be seasonal or year around

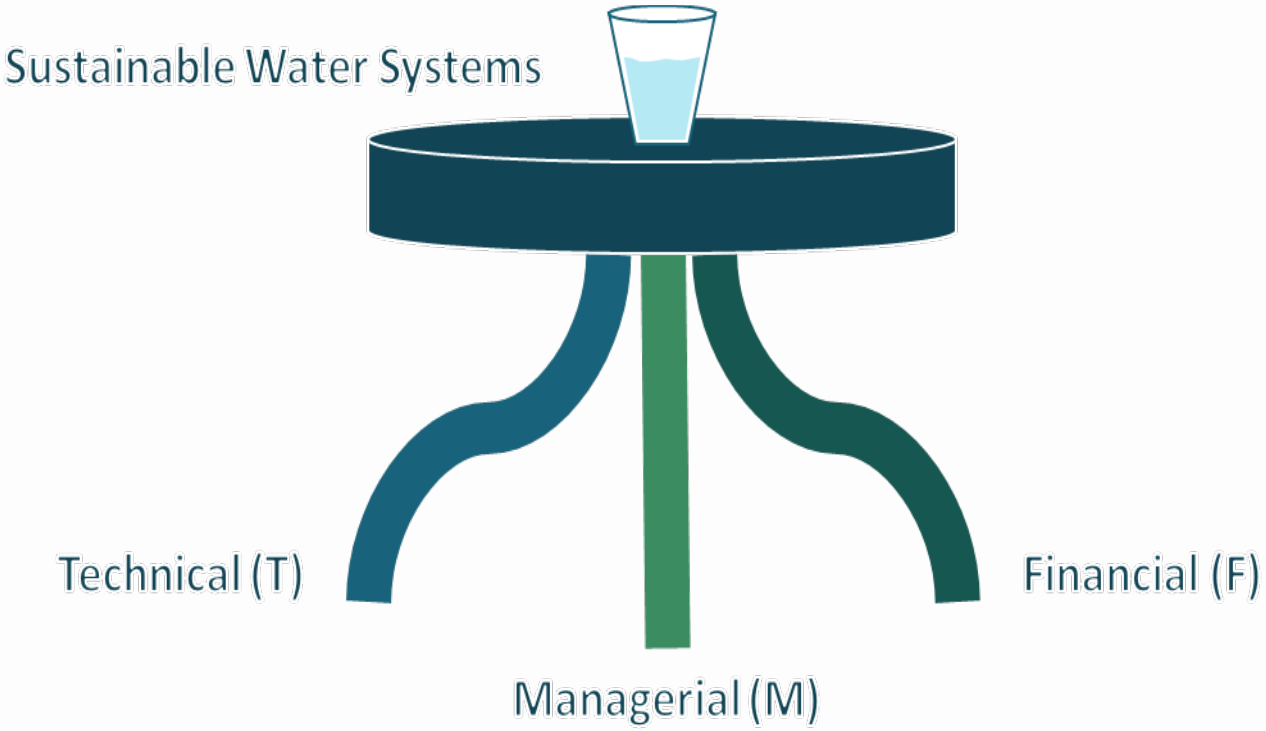
This is an identifier that a system may be struggling to provide safe drinking water to all its customers.

- https://yourwater.oregon.gov/inventory.php?pwsno=99999

Not Able To Maintain Communication

- If a water system is not able to maintain communication to its customers that is a sign of struggle.
- If a water system is not able to maintain communications with its regulator that can be an organizational issue indicating a struggling system.
- Again, these are identifiers a public water system is struggling to provide safe drinking water to all of its customers.

Water System Capacity



TMF Capacity: Technical

Technical Capacity: The Physical and operational ability of a water system to meet regulatory requirements.

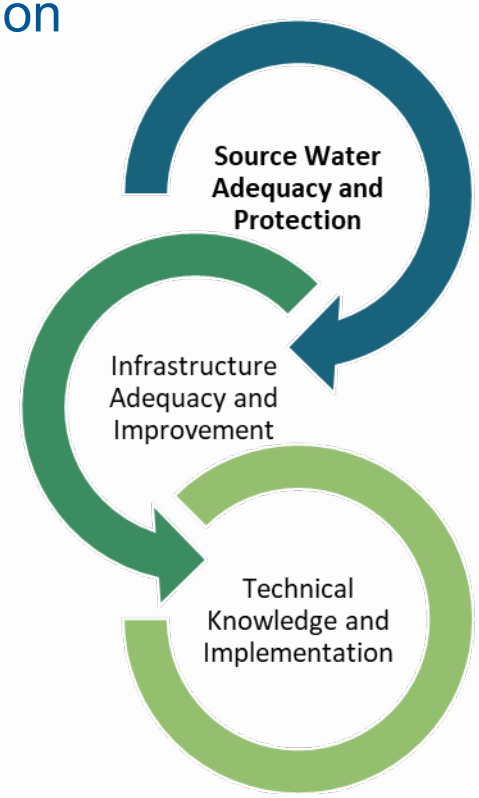
Examples

- ❑ Maintaining high quality source water
- ❑ Replacing outdated infrastructure
- ❑ Operating and maintaining treatment and distribution system

Elements of Technical Capacity

Source Water Adequacy and Protection

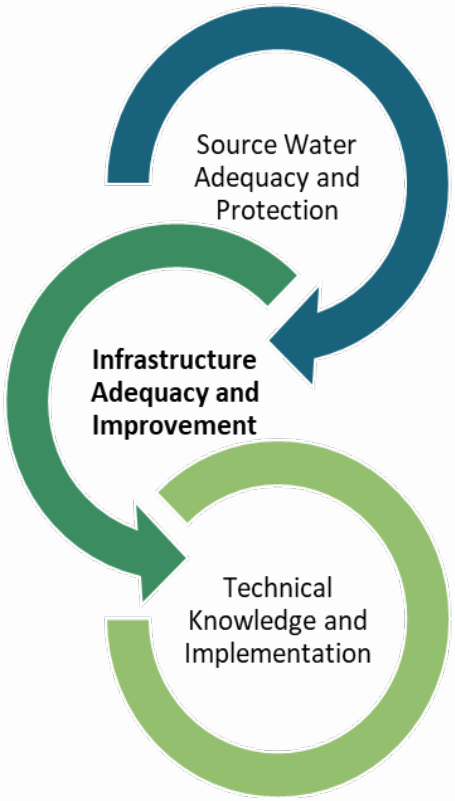
- ❑ Reliable
- ❑ High quality
- ❑ Safe yield to meet demands
- ❑ Best Source available



Elements of Technical Capacity

Infrastructure Adequacy and Improvement

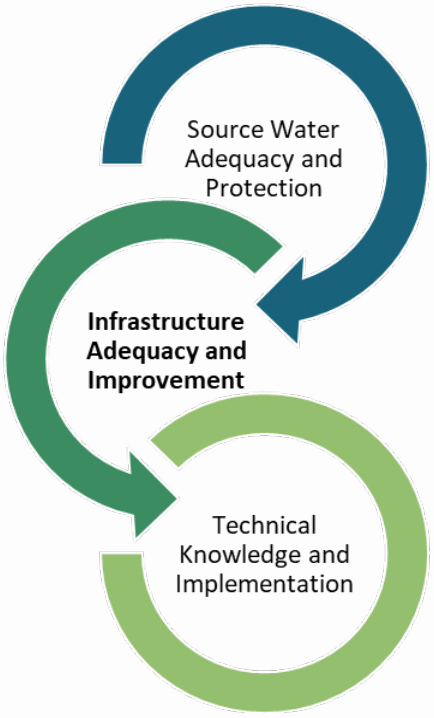
- ❑ Adequate infrastructure
- ❑ Adequate planning
- ❑ Asset Management
- ❑ Water loss programs
- ❑ Resilient to all-hazards
- ❑ High quality maps



Elements of Technical Capacity

Technical Knowledge and Implementation

- ❑ Operators have:
  - ✓ Certification
  - ✓ Sufficient technical knowledge
  - ✓ Understanding of water systems



- ❑ Water system has effective Operation & Maintenance (O&M) program

Example of Technical Capacity

A water system that employs a certified operator who understands the:

1) Benefits of public health protection,
2) Applicable water standards,
3) Technical and operational characteristics of the water system,
4) Successful implementation of the water system's O&M plan, and
5) Familiar with emergency response plan

TMF Capacity: Managerial

Managerial Capacity: The ability of a water system to conduct its affairs in a manner enabling the water system to achieve and maintain compliance with regulatory requirements, including institutional and administrative capabilities.

Examples:

- ❑ Identifying water system ownership
- ❑ Staffing the appropriate personnel
- ❑ Communicating regularly with customers

Elements of Managerial Capacity

Ownership Accountability

Identification of operators and managers

Key attributes:

- ❑ Transparency
- ❑ Accountability
- ❑ Clear policies

Elements of Managerial Capacity

Staffing and Organization

- ❑ Experienced staff
  - ✓ Regulatory knowledge
  - ✓ Licenses and certifications
- ❑ Key attributes:
  - ✓ Training
  - ✓ Responsibility
  - ✓ Monitoring

Elements of Managerial Capacity

Effective External Linkages

- ❑ Stakeholder interactions
- ❑ External resource awareness
- ❑ Key attributes:
  - ✓ Customer engagement
  - ✓ Planning
  - ✓ Asset management
  - ✓ Compliance
  - ✓ Water loss programs

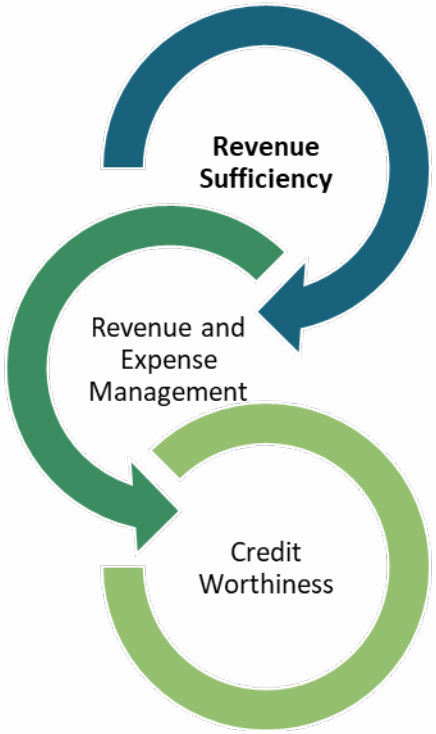
Examples of Managerial Capacity

- ❑ Public Notice issued as required
- ❑ Annual CCR provided when due
- ❑ O&M manual available and current
- ❑ Emergency Response Plan
- ❑ Major modifications approved in plan review
- ❑ Communicating with regulator

Elements of Financial Capacity

Revenue Sufficiency

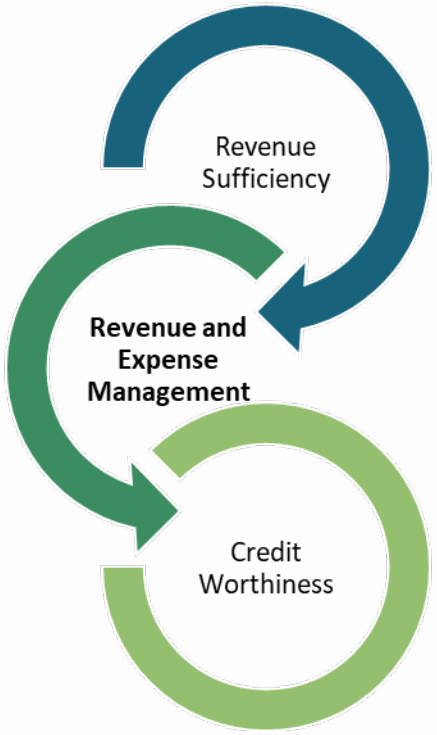
- ❑ Measurable costs and revenues
- ❑ Assets are properly valued
- ❑ Revenues cover total water system costs



Elements of Financial Capacity

Revenue and Expense Management

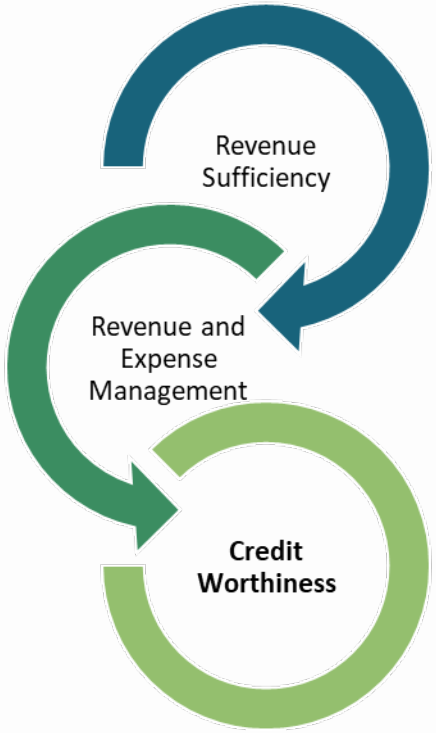
- ❑ Books and records are maintained
- ❑ Budgeting, accounting, and financial planning
- ❑ Revenue management



Elements of Financial Capacity

Credit Worthiness

- ❑ Financial health
- ❑ Credit record
- ❑ Access to capital
- ❑ Assurance of repayment



Funding & Technical Resources for Public Water Systems in Oregon

- Non Transient Non Community, nonprofit PWS
  - community Public Water System, (PWS)
    - PWS 300 and less connections

- Oregon Very Small, (OVS), Transient Non-Community, (TNC), and Non-Transient Non-Community, (NTNC) Systems for profit

Technical & Managerial Assistance Resources

Circuit Rider Serving population 10,000 and less	♦ Technical Assistance ♦ Managerial & asset management assistance	a. 10 hours b. 20 hours
OHA Drinking Water Services Training Opportunities	♦ Free Training Opportunities ♦ Small Water System Operators Course	a. None b. PWS 300 and less connections

TA resources continued

Service Line Inventory 	Assistance is available from two organizations to assist your water system in completing and submitting the service line inventory. Information will be sent to water systems relaying contact information and how they can assist you with the inventory requirement. You can check the Excel file below to see your water system vendor information.
	• Zone 1 (mostly SW Oregon – South of Salem)
	  ○ Oregon Association of Water Utilities (OAWU): 503-837-1212
	• Zone 2 (mostly NW to NE Oregon)
	  ○ HBH Consulting Engineers: 503-554-9553
		None

Funding Opportunities

Funding/Technical Assistance Source	Type of Funding	Maximum Request	Application Due Date
Sustainable Infrastructure Planning Projects, (SIPP) ▼▼	Provides funding for water system planning and related activities that promote sustainable water infrastructure. Priority given to systems serving fewer than 300 connections.	Max award of $20,000: 100% forgivable loan	March 15 and September 15

Funding Opportunity

Funding/Technical Assistance Source	Type of Funding	Maximum Request	Application Due Date
Water Infrastructure Projects	The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) provides low-cost loans to community and nonprofit non-community water systems for planning, design and construction of drinking water facility improvements. New, repair or replacement of water sources, treatment, finished water reservoirs, pumping and transmission/distribution mains, including associated appurtenances, land/easement acquisition and control buildings.	None	1/15/2025

Funding Opportunity

Funding/Technical Assistance Source	Type of Funding	Maximum Request	Application Due Date
Lead Service Line Replacement & Emerging Contaminant Funding ▼▼ 	Funding for infrastructure improvements, identifying and replacing lead service lines and connectors. Funding to address emerging contaminants (e.g.,PFAS or other unregulated contaminants).	None	3/15/2025

Funding Opportunity

Funding/Technical Assistance Source	Type of Funding	Maximum Request	Application Due Date
Oregon Health Authority Source Water Protection Grant	Supports any project or planning process that leads to risk reduction within the delineated drinking water source area or would contribute to a reduction in contaminant concentration within a source area.	Max award $100,000 loan $50,000 grant	March 2025

Conclusion

You can help systems that struggle with Capacity to delivery safe drinking water to all of their customers. Which is less work for all in the long run ☺

Always feel free to consult with your technical assistance contact at the Drinking Water Program.

If not already signed up for the Drinking Water Services ePipeline Newsletter please do.

ePipeline current and past issues are posted on the Operations page