



Grants for Clean Water Training and Technical Assistance for Rural Small and Tribal (RST) Treatment Works and Municipalities

Funded through America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA)

October 18, 2022



Agenda



EPA's TA Activities



AWIA / RST
History &
Authority



Three Active RST
Grantees

EPA Office of Water and Technical Assistance

EPA's Office of Water is Committed to TA

- Communities across America—rural, urban, suburban, small to large—face challenges in providing safe drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services for residents and businesses.
- EPA provides TA to help communities:
 - Identify drinking water, wastewater & stormwater infrastructure needs,
 - Plan for capital improvements,
 - Build capacity, and
 - Apply for the range of eligible projects under the SRFs and tribal and territory funding programs

EPA Office of Water and Technical Assistance

- Today's conversation is one of multiple OW TA activities that work together to address the needs of utilities and communities
 - BIL / IIJA and TA:
<https://www.epa.gov/infrastructure>
- More TA information at EPA's [TA landing page](https://www.epa.gov/water-infrastructure/water-technical-assistance) at:
<https://www.epa.gov/water-infrastructure/water-technical-assistance>

History of TA for Small Utilities

- Historically EPA has funded TA funding for *drinking* water utilities (“L2”)
 - Since ~2012 approx. \$15 million / year to build Drinking Water System Capacity for
 - Small public water systems
 - Private-well owners, and
 - Small *wastewater* systems – about \$1 Million per year
- 2018: New AWIA Authority to designate funds for wastewater for **Rural, Small and Tribal (RST)** utility systems
- 2020: Inaugural funding at \$12M **(Today’s Topic)**
- 2021: \$18M appropriated, RFA posted Summer 2022 & recipient announcements pending
- 2022: \$20M appropriated & RFA likely this winter
- 2023: \$18M President’s Budget

Statutory Authority

Section 104(b)(8) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) as codified by 33 U.S. Code § 1254 - authorizes EPA:

- “(1) to provide technical assistance to **rural, small, and tribal** municipalities for the purpose of assisting, in consultation with the State in the planning, developing, and acquisition of **financing** for eligible projects and activities described in [33 U.S.C. Section 1383(c)];
- (2) to provide technical assistance and training for **rural, small, and tribal** publicly owned treatment works and **decentralized** wastewater treatment systems to enable such treatment works and systems to protect water quality and achieve and maintain **compliance** with the requirements of [the Clean Water Act];
- and (3) to **disseminate information** to **rural, small, and tribal** municipalities and municipalities that meet the affordability criteria established under [33 U.S.C. Section 1383(i)(2)] by the State in which the municipality is located with respect to planning, design, construction, and operation of publicly owned treatment works and **decentralized** wastewater treatment systems.”

Who is Eligible to Apply?

Eligible applicants under this competition are:

- Public and private nonprofit organizations*, that are qualified and experienced in providing on-site training and technical assistance to rural, small, and tribal municipalities and/or small publicly owned treatment works and/or decentralized wastewater treatment systems.

(*nonprofit as defined by CWA Section 104(w))

BIL / IIJA

EPA also seeks to maximize the impact of the BIL/IIJA:

- BIL is an unprecedented and historic opportunity to upgrade clean water infrastructure in rural, small, and tribal communities
- Note: these RST grant funds are from annual Consolidated Appropriations Acts and not BIL
- However, these RST funds are intended to be used by the grant recipients to help communities access CW SRF funds, including BIL/IIJA funds,

AWIA RST Grants

- FY20
 - \$12M
 - Applicants to address all three components (finance, compliance and disseminate information)
 - National in scope Awarded to 3 grantees
 - At \$4M/each
 - **Today's** topic
- FY21
 - \$18M
 - Not national in scope
 - Anticipate 8 to 22 awards.
 - Applications must address one, and only one, of the five Priority Areas:

AWIA RST Grant (RFA closed Aug. 2022) Priority Areas	Amount (Estimate)
1. Acquisition of Finance/Funding	\$7 million
2. Protect Water Quality and Compliance Assistance	\$4 million
3. Tribal	\$3 million
4. Decentralized	\$3 million
5. Lagoons	\$1 million
TOTAL	\$18 million

Thank you

EPA is excited you joined us and to conclude we heard about :

- The scope of EPA/OW's TA activities
- AWIA RST History and Authority
- Next: learn from the three grantees on what they are doing with their funds

We look forward to your future engagement with these important activities to protect public health and the environment

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