



2023 CIFA SRF Workshop

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma • November 12-15, 2023

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

6:00 – 7:30 pm **CIFA Social Hour**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

1:00 – 5:00 pm **SRF 101: Nation's Premier Program for Funding Water Infrastructure**
Learn everything you need to know about the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, from eligible projects to types of financial assistance to policies and processes for delivering state and federal funding to communities.

1:00 – 5:00 pm **Collaborative Learning: Building a Next Generation SRF**
If you were going to establish an SRF today, what would it look like? Join this interactive exercise to build a model SRF with a focus on modernizing the process, procedures and day-to-day operations of these successful subsidized loan programs. This learning session is great for experienced staff who want to take their program to the next level as well as for new staff who can offer fresh perspectives to a mature program.

6:00 – 7:00 pm **CIFA Welcome Reception**

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13

8:00 – 9:00 am **Networking Breakfast**

9:00 – 10:30 am

Opening Plenary

CIFA Welcome

- Jeff Walker, Executive Administrator, Texas Water Development Board

Spotlight on the Sooner State

Learn about the history of water in Oklahoma City and how the third largest city in the nation by land mass is investing in infrastructure and innovation to establish a high quality, reliable and resilient supply of water. Hear how this capital city, known as “The Modern Frontier,” is implementing a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach, including conservation, asset management, water recycling and technology, to modernize their approach to water.

- Chris Browning, Utilities Director, City of Oklahoma City

National Perspectives

Hear from our national leaders about what’s been accomplished, what’s new and what’s next from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

- Dr. Jennifer McLain, Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Dr. Andrew Sawyers, Director, Office of Wastewater Management, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

10:45 am - Noon

Learning Sessions (session topics and times subject to change)

Made, Mined and Manufactured in America

Learn the latest on implementation of domestic preference procurement requirements for iron, steel, construction materials and manufactured products in the Build America, Buy America Act.

Presenters: Kiri Anderer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Tim Connor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Leslie Corcelli, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Countdown to Initial Inventories for Lead Lines

Learn how SRFs are supporting development of lead service line inventories. Find out how Georgia is building a database to store data collected for lead service line inventories. Learn how Minnesota is building a publicly accessible online mapping tool for data collected on lead service line inventories. Hear how Ohio developed their own template for collecting data on lead service lines to enable the efficient collection and reporting of data statewide.

Presenters: Tanushree Courlas, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
David Gipson, Georgia Environmental Finance Authority
Chad Kolstad, Minnesota Department of Public Health

Keeping the Cash Flowing (Not Just for Leveraged Programs!)

Learn how to forecast cash flow to maximize lending and make the most of every dollar revolving in your program, especially non-leveraged programs that can't issue bonds to meet funding commitments and financial obligations. Knowing when revenue and loan repayments are expected allows SRFs to make strategic decisions about the future of your program, including whether to grow your pipeline of projects or expand your portfolio of programs.

Moderator: Lisa Bechini, Northbridge Environmental

Presenters: Laura Robbins, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

Noon – 1:30 pm

Networking Lunch

1:30 – 2:45 pm

Learning Sessions (session topics and times subject to change)

Lessons Learned from Lead Service Line Replacement

Learn how SRFs are evolving their programs to accelerate replacement of lead service lines. Hear how Pennsylvania has streamlined their process for managing replacement of the privately-owned section of lead service lines. Hear how Illinois used fees and set-asides to build a pipeline of projects for lead service line replacements. Find out how Ohio is combining funding from the base program and set-asides to incentivize subsidized loans and maximize additional subsidy for lead service line replacement.

Presenters: Jonathan Bernstein and Kathleen Courtright, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Rob Boos, PENNVEST

Nidhan Singh, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

What's Emerging in Wastewater and Stormwater?

Learn about eligible clean water projects that are addressing emerging contaminants. Hear about a watershed study in Oklahoma that is looking for solutions to concentrated PFAS in biosolids. Learn about a septic-to-sewer conversion project in Nevada that addresses pharmaceuticals and personal care products.

Moderator: Kelly Tucker, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Presenters: Smiti Nepal, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Bryce Callies, Garver

Elizabeth Kingsland, Nevada Department of Conservation and Environmental Resources

Rethinking Affordability

Learn how SRFs are revising their affordability criteria to help the most disadvantaged communities and households in their states. Hear how Connecticut is utilizing household income within census tracts to determine eligibility for additional subsidy. Hear how Arkansas uses a simple formula during the application process to determine eligibility for additional subsidy. Learn how Indiana used their scoring system to further target additional subsidy to communities in need and then contracted with Indiana University to determine whether their new approach was reaching communities in need.

Presenters: Debby Dickson, Arkansas Department of Natural Resources
Brett Roberts, Indiana Finance Authority
Cam Walden, Connecticut Department of Health

2:45 – 3:45 pm

Networking Break

3:00 – 5:00 pm

Field Trip (Maximum Capacity of 25)

Visit two local success stories that reinvigorated recreation and healthy living in Oklahoma City:

- Scissortail Park: Learn how Oklahoma City transformed an industrial brownfield into an urban oasis with walking trails and water features that connect downtown with the banks of the Oklahoma River.
- Riversport OKC: Get a behind-the-scenes tour of this outdoor adventure park which serves as an Olympic training facility and offers a range of water sports, including whitewater rafting, tubing, kayaking, surfing and paddleboard.

3:45 – 5:00 pm

Learning Sessions (session topics and times subject to change)

Cleaning Up Forever Chemicals in Drinking Water

Learn how the SRFs are building the pipeline of projects to remediate emerging contaminants. Hear about the most common and effective technologies used to treat perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Find out how Alabama is using EPA's Small and Disadvantaged Communities Emerging Contaminant Grant Program to help remediate emerging contaminants in small communities.

Moderator: Damaris Christensen, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Presenters: Bizzy Berg, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ralph Eberts, CDM Smith
Eric Reidy, Alabama Department of Environmental Management

Putting “Technical” in Technical Assistance

Learn how SRFs are providing professional services to help small, rural and disadvantaged communities achieve compliance, strengthen operations and build water infrastructure. Hear how West Virginia has partnered with Rural Water to provide hands-on support for a range of challenges experienced by small and rural communities. Learn about Texas’ Asset Management Program for Small Systems (AMPSS), which helps small water and wastewater systems with data collection, system analysis, staff training and development of operations, maintenance and compliance manuals. Hear about California’s comprehensive technical assistance program which provides professional services for planning and engineering, environmental review and technical, financial and managerial assessments.

Presenters: Kathy Emery, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection
Patrick Kading, Texas Water Development Board
Joe Karkoski, California State Water Resources Control Board

Cutting Costs for Financing for Leveraged Programs

Learn how SRFs are cutting the cost of financing for leveraged programs. Find out how New Jersey is saving money with low interest, subsidized loans from the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act for States (SWIFIA). Hear how Iowa is cutting the cost financing using private placement, which is the sale of bonds to select investors rather than in the open market, and tendering, an alternative to tax-exempt advance refunding. Learn how Ohio is using flexible rates and balloon bonds to manage the cost of financing over the long-term.

Moderator: Rob Mellinger, Citi
Presenters: Jim Gebhardt, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Todd Skruck, Ohio Water Development Authority
Aaron Smith, Iowa Finance Authority
David Zimmer, New Jersey Infrastructure Bank

6:30 – 9:30 pm

SRF Community Connection (Reception and Dinner)

Oklahoma History Center

800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
(Transportation provided.)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

8:00 – 9:00 am

Networking Breakfast

As of September 18, 2023

9:00 – 10:15 am

Collaborative Engagement

Engage in a roundtable discussion with the SRF community about a range of important issues for the SRFs. Share strategies, suggestions and solutions to tackle challenges and take advantage of opportunities. (Topics subject to change.)

Federal Requirements and Equivalency

How do you define and apply “equivalency”? What are strategies to optimize “equivalency”? What are other opportunities to alleviate the burden and cost of compliance on SRF borrowers?

Conversation Leaders:

- DeAnn Ament, North Dakota Public
- Greg Pope, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

Technical Assistance

How do you define technical assistance? What elements and characteristics define an effective technical assistance program? What types of technical assistance are needed most?

Conversation Leaders:

- Heather Himmelberger, Southwest Environmental Finance Center
- Maureen Coleman, New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation

Financial Sustainability

How are you responding to rising interest rates and smaller annual federal capitalization grants? What are strategies to maximize lending for water infrastructure projects while maintaining the long-term financial sustainability of the SRFs? How does your policy for additional subsidy impact sustainability? How are you planning to administer the program and maintain program services typically funded from set-asides?

Conversation Leaders:

- William Carr, Kansas Department of Health and Environment

10:30 – 11:45 am

SRF Townhall (Plenary)

Join the conversation. Hear the top observations, ideas and themes from each roundtable discussion. Discuss next steps for the SRFs.

Noon – 2:00 pm

CIFA Members Annual Meeting & Lunch

2:30 – 5:00 pm

State EPA SRF Workgroup Meeting

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

8:30 am – 4:00 pm State EPA SRF Workgroup Meeting

As of September 18, 2023