

# Water Infrastructure & Resiliency Finance Center



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## The Water Infrastructure Finance Challenge

- Communities across the country face the challenge of aging and inadequate water infrastructure that is leaking trillion of gallons of leaking potable water and discharging billions of gallons of raw sewage into local waters.
- Over the next 20 years, there is at least \$600 billion in needs nationally. Some communities lack financial capacity and resources, face multiple demands and are experiencing affordability concerns.
- Innovation in financing and increased resiliency are key components to meeting these needs

## A Resource to Communities

- This **Center of financial expertise** will serve as a resource to communities, municipal utilities and the private sector to improve wastewater, drinking water and stormwater systems through innovative financing and resiliency to storms, floods, drought, and other impacts.
- The center is part of the **Build America Investment Initiative**– a government-wide effort to increase infrastructure investment and promote economic growth.

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## The Center will work in three main ways:

- **Effective use of current federal funding** by building on the highly successful SRF and other EPA programs and those of its federal partners through new initiatives to leverage these federal dollars and support joint federal funding of projects.
- **Partner** with states, cities, universities, non-profits and others to provide technical assistance to communities to help explore financing options.
- **Work with the private sector** to build partnerships to increase water infrastructure investment.

## Center of Financial Excellence:

- Work will be accomplished through training, convening, creating a clearinghouse of information, facilitating peer to peer learning opportunities, advising, sharing successes, research, deploying targeted activities, tools and resources and creating community models of financial and partnership success.
- While the Center is not directly funding water infrastructure projects, its goal is to work with communities to explore financing options to fund a project. This work will be implemented in close collaboration with the EPA-supported Environmental Finance Centers, the SRFs and other partners across the country.

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## Additional Focus Areas

- **Financing Resilient Water Infrastructure** - Integration of water efficiency, energy efficiency, green infrastructure and water reuse in water systems.
- **Financing Stormwater & Green Infrastructure Programs** - Support communities in development of sustainable funding for stormwater programs and green infrastructure projects.
- **Financial Capacity Building for Small & Medium Communities** - Build upon existing collaboration with U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utility Service and other federal agencies to increase the financial capacity.

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## Status of Activities:

- Hold **Regional Financing Forums** - bring together communities with water infrastructure financing needs with various financing sources and information.
- Launch **SRF peer to peer learning network** to support innovation in the SRF program.
- Pilot **financial technical assistance for communities** by working closely with the Environmental Finance Centers.
- Share water sector **public private partnership case studies** and lessons learned.
- Develop objective water sector **public private partnership research reports** and training for local governments.
- Create **stormwater financing clearinghouse** to provide tailored information to communities looking to develop a dedicated source of revenue for stormwater and green infrastructure programs.
- Produce a **small community financing training tools** and work closely with technical assistance providers to implement.

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## Updates:

- **Community-Based Public Private Partnerships Guide for Local Governments:**  
Region 3 has developed a Self-Help Guide for local governments to explore P3s and alternative market-based tools for integrated green stormwater infrastructure.
- **New Senior Advisor** - Jim Gebhardt joined EPA as an advisor to the Center in his new role as the Senior Advisor to Acting Deputy Administrator, Stan Meiburg on issues related to public and private finance for the municipal water sector.
- **Staffing** outlook - recruiting a Center Director and additional financial expertise. Environmental Finance Network to move to the Center.
- **Resources:**
  - FY15 resources to implement several activities this year.
  - President's FY 2016 Budget requests funds to hire additional financial expertise, increase funding to the Environmental Finance Centers and implement the Center's activities.

