



COUNCIL OF INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING AUTHORITIES

## 2022 CIFA Online Learning Series

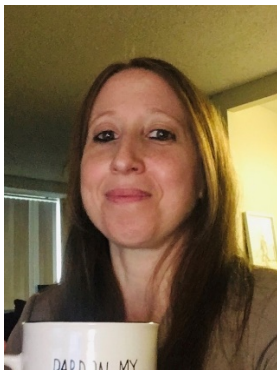
**Disaster Response for Utilities: Tuesday, Jul 19, 1:00 – 3:00 (ET)**

### **Resources to Help Utilities Recover in the Aftermath of a Disaster**

Dealing with the aftermath of a disaster can be more difficult than the actual disaster itself. Learn how you can work with EPA's State Revolving Funds (SRF) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to expedite financial assistance for water and wastewater utilities in the aftermath of a Presidential-declared disaster using a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between EPA and FEMA. Hear first-hand experiences from Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs) who used the MOU to help communities in their state recover from catastrophic natural disasters. Get the opportunity to ask FEMA's first responders and EPA's water professionals for their insights on how to utilize this unique federal partnership so you can get the assistance you need when a disaster strikes. Hear first-hand experience from communities, states and federal agency representatives about their experiences.

### **Meet the Speakers**

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#### **Frances Josephs, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

Frances Josephs has been a financial analyst since 2016 for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Branch at the U.S. EPA headquarters in Washington, DC. She is currently supporting the State Revolving Fund team, states, and regions, while managing grants as a project officer for the agency, as well. Prior to this, Frances worked for over 10 years as a project accountant in the engineering consulting services field, which includes work in financial services and investment management. Before completing a Master of Science in Environmental Policy and Management at Johns Hopkins University, Frances completed a certificate program in Geographic Information Systems from Florida Atlantic University. Originally from Westchester County, New York, she now resides in Arlington, Virginia since May of 2010.



#### **Jennifer McLain, Ph.D. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

Jennifer McLain is the Director of the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water and has 25 years of experience at the Environmental Protection Agency both in the Office of Water and in the Office of Pesticide Programs. Jennifer joined EPA after earning a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Notre Dame and a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Princeton University.



**Brianna DeVries, Federal Emergency Management Agency**

Brianna (Bryn) DeVries is a Program Analyst for FEMA’s Public Assistance Regulations & Policy Branch. Prior to joining FEMA Public Assistance in 2020, Bryn was a social work practitioner specializing in community systems and resource access. At FEMA, Ms. DeVries’ work has been centered around equity, climate change and resilience, and Public Assistance hazard mitigation.

**Kathy O’Connell, Federal Emergency Management Agency**

Kathy O’Connell is a Program Analyst in FEMA’s Public Assistance Division where she focuses on policy and regulations for permanent work projects. Prior to joining FEMA, Kathy was a Lead Partnership Specialist for the U.S. Census Bureau, providing training and support to government and community stakeholders for the 2020 Census. She has extensive experience in the nonprofit sector, and has worked for national, state and local organizations in public health, education and community and economic development.



**Gary Williams, Florida Rural Water Association**

Gary Williams is a graduate of Iowa State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business and Finance. Mr. Williams was the Program Manager for Iowa Rural Water Association from 1982 until 1989. In 1989, he relocated to Florida to take a position as Program Administrator for the Florida Rural Water Association. Mr. Williams has been the Executive Director of the Florida Rural Water Association since 1991

**Jay Matthews, Georgia Rural Water Association**

Jay Matthews was born and raised in Barnesville, GA. He has spent 21 years in the water sector as the Deputy Director for the Georgia Rural Water Association. In his role, Jay has led numerous emergency response efforts for the State of Georgia to assist small and rural water and wastewater systems with resources and technical assistance in the aftermath of disasters. Jay also serves as the GRWA Emergency Support Function 3 (ESF-3) coordinator for the State of Georgia at the Georgia Emergency Operations Center (GEMA) State Operation Center during disaster activations. Jay is the GRWA Capacity Development Specialist for Water Systems and works to assist utilities with their Technical, Managerial and Financial Capacity.



**Ervin L. Portis, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency**

Ervin L. Portis is currently the Assistant Director of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). As the Assistant Director, Mr. Portis is responsible for managing agency operations on behalf of Major General Daryl Bohac, the Adjutant General. Prior to assuming his duties at NEMA, Mr. Portis worked in local government for fifty (50) years as a police officer, chief of police and, from 2007 to mid-2021 as City Administrator for the City of Plattsmouth. Mr. Portis holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Omaha, and a Masters of Arts in Political Science from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



**Steve McNulty, Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy**

Steve McNulty is the SRF Section Supervisor for the Planning & Aid Division at the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy. He oversees all financial assistance programs for the funding of water and wastewater infrastructure. He has worked primarily in the DWSRF program for the past 15 years and guided the response to the State's March 2019 Flood Disaster for major infrastructure needs. Steve graduated from the New Jersey Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering.