



2021 CIFA SRF Workshop

Small and Rural Communities: Tuesday, September 14, 3:00 – 4:30 pm (ET)

Partners in Supporting Rural America

Learn about loan and grant programs that fund water and wastewater infrastructure in the Rural Utilities Services at the U.S. Department of Agriculture and find out how their national online application, RD Apply, might strengthen the state-federal partnership to support small, rural communities.

Meet the Speakers



Lori Johnson, Oklahoma Water Resources Board

Lori Johnson is the Assistant Chief of the Financial Assistance Division of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. She oversees the Board's water and wastewater infrastructure grant and loan programs while also serving as the Clean Water SRF Program Manager for Oklahoma. She has worked for the Oklahoma Water Resources Board for more than 15 years. Lori currently serves as a representative for EPA Region 6 on the Board of Directors of the Council of Infrastructure Financing Authorities (CIFA).



James Fritz, Rural Utilities Services, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Serving as the Branch Chief of the Portfolio Management Branch (PMB), James is responsible for, among other things, appropriation and funding coordination, the administration of technical assistance programs, and programmatic technology and systems support. Prior to his current role, James worked as a National Office Community Programs Specialist, and in a variety of positions at the area and state office level delivering housing, business, and community infrastructure programs to Southern New England.



David Flesher, Rural Utilities Services, U.S. Department of Agriculture

David Flesher is a Community Programs Specialist in the Water and Environmental Programs, USDA, Rural Utilities Service. David has worked in various capacities for USDA, Rural Development and its predecessor agencies for 33 years, including 24 years assisting rural communities working in Water and Environmental Programs, with over two years as a National Office Specialist in the Program Operations Branch, 11 years as Community Programs Director and 10 years as an Area Specialist in Idaho.



MaryAnna Peavey, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

MaryAnna Peavey was born and raised in Twin Falls, Idaho. She attended the University of Idaho and received a B.S. in Finance, B.S. in Economics, and a minor in International Business. After graduating from University of Idaho, MaryAnna moved to Boise, Idaho which she continues to reside. There she worked nine years in the financial industry with a majority of that time in banking. After leaving the financial industry, MaryAnna spent five years in the non-profit sector which included work in financial management, fundraising, grant writing, grant management, volunteer coordination, and board management. In June of 2010, MaryAnna began working at Idaho Department of Environmental Quality in the Grant & Loan Bureau as a Loan Officer and soon as a Loan Program Coordinator. The Grant & Loan Bureau oversees both the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund that support upgrades and improvements to drinking water and wastewater systems throughout Idaho. In 2015, she completed a two-year program through the State of Idaho to become a Certified Public Manager. More recently, in July 2020, MaryAnna was promoted to Grants & Loans Bureau Chief and was also appointed to the Environmental Financial Advisory Board to the Environmental Protection Agency for a two-year board position shortly after.