

Strengthening Wastewater Management in Small, Rural, and Tribal Water Systems

March 18, 10am PT / 1pm ET



Strengthening Wastewater Management in Small, Rural, and Tribal Water

Q&A

You ask: 13:05
How do I use these awesome tools?

Joshua Jones answered: 13:06
You are already using one of the most awesome tools. We'll discuss the rest right away.

Please input your question

Send Anonymously Send

March 18, 10am PT / 1pm ET



Certificate of Completion

This session has **NOT** been submitted for pre-approval of Continuing Education Credits, but eligible attendees will receive a certificate of attendance for their personal record.

To receive a certificate:

- You must attend the entire session
- You must register and attend using your real name and unique email address - group viewing credit will not be acceptable
- You must participate in polls
- Certificates will be sent via email within 30 days

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact smallsystems@syr.edu.

About EFCN

The **Environmental Finance Center Network (EFCN)** is a university- and non-profit-based organization creating innovative solutions to the difficult how-to-pay issues of environmental protection and water infrastructure.

The EFCN works collectively and as individual centers to address these issues across the entire U.S, including the 5 territories and the Navajo Nation. The EFCN aims to assist public and private sectors through training, direct professional assistance, production of durable resources, and innovative policy ideas.





WaterNow works to advance transformation in the urban water sector to accelerate the widespread adoption of equitable, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable strategies.

We do this as a national network for local water leaders and decision makers, empowering them with the technical assistance, resources, and tools they need to implement innovative One Water drinking water, stormwater, and wastewater solutions in their communities.





WHAT DO WE MEAN BY SUSTAINABLE?

Providing safe, healthy, and affordable water services for people while preserving the integrity of water resources and the environment for future generations





WHAT DO WE MEAN BY EQUITABLE?

Water equity means universal access to secure, affordable, safe, and healthy drinking water, and wastewater and stormwater management services.

Equitable water infrastructure investment should support the long-term sustainability of our waterways, water systems, and utilities



OUR YARD HELPS
PROTECT
LAKE MICHIGAN



By managing water
where it falls.



www.mmsd.com

FRESHCOAST





Please Complete the Post-Webinar Survey!

AGENDA

- Meet Today's Speakers
- Technical Assistance for Small, Rural and Tribal Communities
- Insights on the Technical Assistance Process
- Leveraging State Revolving Funds
- Q&A



TODAY'S SPEAKERS



Jason Starkey

City Councilman
Village of Hessmer, LA



Joy Pearson

Utility Advisor
Moonshot Missions



Nathan Coey

Senior Utility Advisor
Moonshot Missions

TODAY'S SPEAKERS



Rose Fenton

Managing Operator
Village of Jemez Springs, NM
Wastewater Facility



Louis Fineberg

Town Manager
City of Creede, CO

TODAY'S SPEAKERS



Andrew Teegarden
Water Policy Associate
WaterNow Alliance



Amy Weinfurter
Director of Strategic Projects
WaterNow Alliance



Emerson O'Donnell
Program Manager
WaterNow Alliance

Poll: Who's in the room?



Get Technical Assistance

Andrew Teegarden
Water Policy Associate
WaterNow Alliance



How can Technical Assistance can help you?



Technical Assistance (TA): Targeted support that external experts or consultants provide to ensure a project application, process, or outcome is achieved. Technical assistance may include financial, legal, engineering, communications, grant writing, environmental assessments, and other services, including community engagement. Applicants and recipients can receive TA prior to preparing an SRF application, during the application process, and while the project is underway.

Technical Assistance Options Overview

WaterNow can provide technical assistance for RST systems in a variety of ways:

- Direct assistance for participating RST systems
- External Partnership with the Southwest Environmental Finance Center
- Project Accelerator Initiative
- Tap into Resilience Pilot Project
- Colorado State Revolving Fund Technical Assistance Program

Specialized Technical Assistance for Rural, Small, Tribal Systems

- Pro bono support for wastewater and stormwater systems serving $\leq 10,000$
- National scope – utilities in all states and regions are eligible



About Us ▾ Training & Events Resources ▾ Our Initiatives Contact

Get Help



Get Help

Tackle Your Technical, Managerial, and Financial Challenges: Services from the EFCN

We offer free, customized support services to water and wastewater systems, decentralized systems, local governments, and others seeking technical, managerial, and financial (TMF) solutions to environmental infrastructure challenges. Our team of experts work hand-in-hand with operators, elected officials, utility directors, and other utility staff to identify barriers and address challenges head-on.

Request Help Now

<https://efcnetwork.org/get-help/>

Available Types of Technical Assistance

- ✓ Building technical, financial, and managerial capacity
- ✓ Identifying funding and financing options
- ✓ Support with putting together Funding Applications
- ✓ Legal and policy Research
- ✓ Training and outreach
- ✓ Developing external partnerships for project implementation
- ✓ Creating education materials for utility board and staff

Region 6 Environmental Finance Center (EFC)

WaterNow has partnered with the Southwest Environmental Finance Center to help RST systems in EPA Region 6 plan, develop, and acquire funding for projects under the CWSRF program

What Services does the EFC Offer?

- Evaluating System Needs
- Community Engagement
- Project Development
- Technical Assistance and Capacity Building
- Finance and Funding
- Construction Management

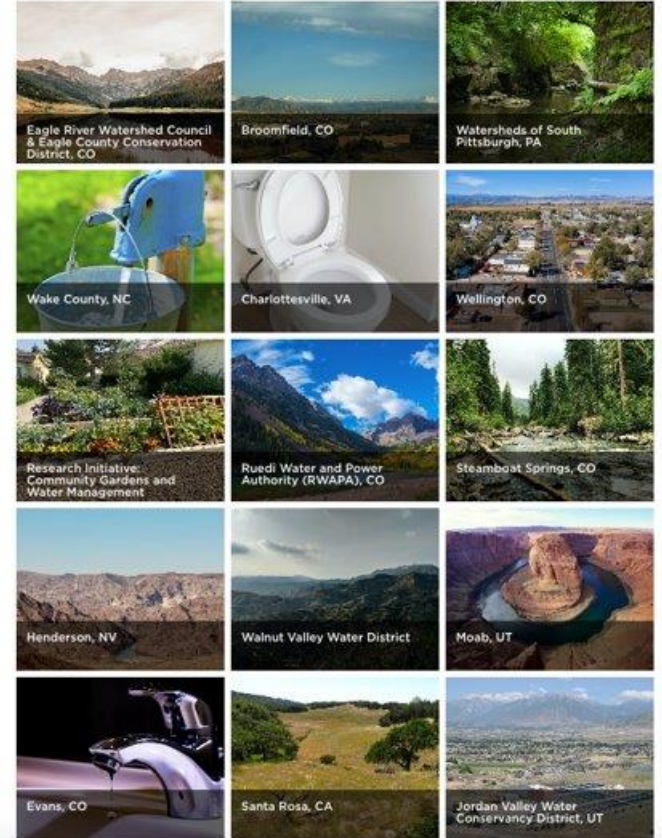


Submit an [Intake Form](#) today to find out how they can help you!

Project Accelerator Support

- 250 hours of [pro bono technical assistance](#)
- Over a [6-12 month](#) period
- City/Agency identified project, driven by [local priorities](#)
- [Jump start](#) innovative water management initiatives

FEATURED PROJECTS



Technical Assistance for Accelerating Investments in Sustainable Projects



Become a TiR Pilot Community

Ready to bring your localized water infrastructure strategies to scale? Become a TiR Pilot Community!

WaterNow and our TiR Experts are available to provide up to **300 hours of hands-on technical support** to cities and utilities interested in activating and scaling-up innovative water strategies in their communities to address water security challenges. TiR communities have access to legal, policy, finance, and accounting expertise over a **6-12 month period, free of charge**, to help them strategize the full scale financing of their particular localized infrastructure project.

Benefits include:

- Access to a team of financing, bond, tax, and accounting experts to identify and execute on financing options.
- Tailored research and analysis on using debt financing mechanisms to pay for localized infrastructure.
- Facilitation of stakeholder meetings to build consensus on localized infrastructure financing options.
- Support on developing bond packets, capital improvement plans, city council resolutions, ordinances, or other materials to advance full scale localized infrastructure financing.
- Guidance on best practices for communicating with customers about localized infrastructure.
- Become a national leader on sustainable water management.

To find out more about becoming a TiR Pilot Community fill out this short form, and WaterNow staff will be in touch.

Additional Non-WaterNow Tribal Technical Assistance

- Tribal water providers can receive technical assistance free of charge from the [Inter Tribal Council of Arizona](#)
- Other Tribal assistance providers include: [Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, Native American Water Association](#) and [United South & Eastern Tribes](#)
 - Assistance through these opportunities is not geographically limited and all tribes needing help are encouraged to apply

Poll: Your Experience with SRFs and TA





MOONSHOT
MISSIONS

Village of Hessmer WWTP

3/18/2025

Technical Assistance

PREPARED BY MOONSHOT MISSIONS



MOONSHOT
MISSIONS

We are a 501c3 non-profit dedicated to clean and healthy water and waterways in underserved communities.

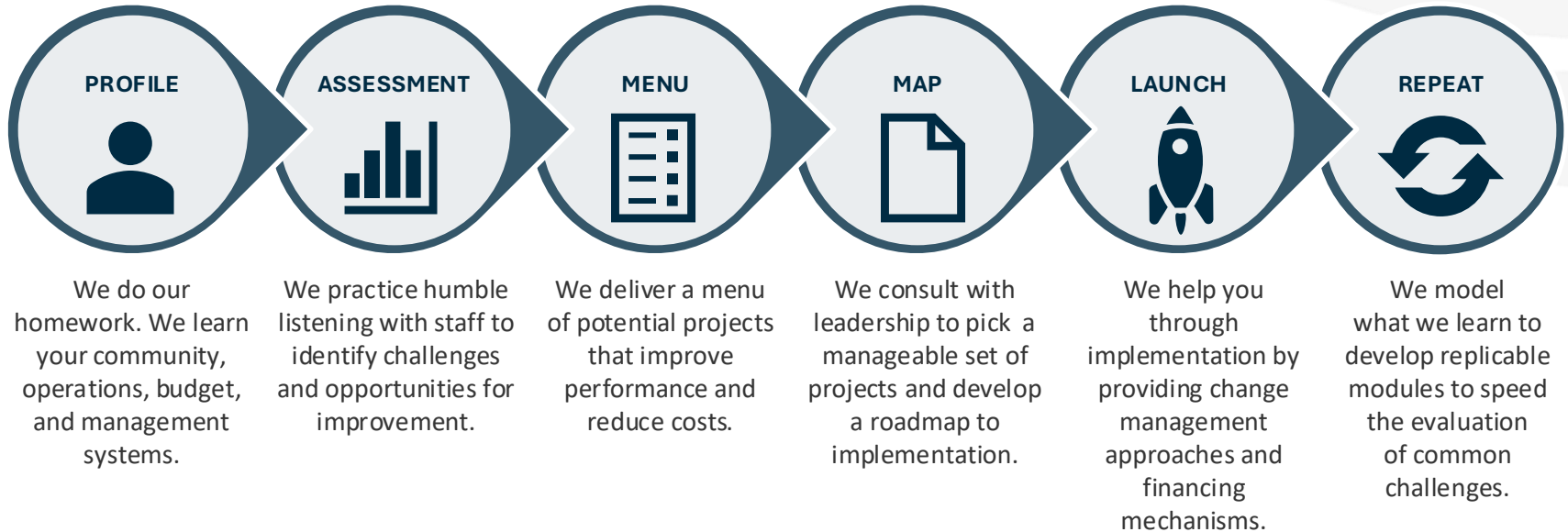
OUR MISSION

Serve as a trusted peer advisor for communities to secure safe, accessible, and affordable drinking water and clean waterways, regardless of zip code.



OUR METHOD

Founded on building a trusted relationship with utility leaders and staff, Moonshot deploys a six-step approach, which relies on careful homework and humble listening:



Project Background

Village of Hessmer

- The system is comprised of a sequence batch reactor (SBR) which includes a digester basin, SBR basin 1, SBR basin 2, and an air blower assembly. After the SBR system the effluent is conveyed to a chlorine contact basin with a weir flow measuring apparatus.
- System had consistently been out of compliance of the NPDES permit
 - Exceedances in ammonia and total solids
- Has experienced difficulties with adjusting the plant as required for seasonal changes
- Hessmer was requested through the EPA to coordinate with a technical assistance provider to address the issues



Work Completed

Task List

- SBR Basin clean out for debris removal
- Operator Training
- General Housekeeping
 - Wire management
- Capital Improvement Plan

The work could not be completed without the amazing staff of Hessmer and Cenla Environmental



Looking Forward

Village of Hessmer



Striving for Resilience

CIP plan will help guide funding and financing decisions

Small changes leading to improved system health.

Training opportunities and technology to assist operators in evaluating the health the WWTP





MOONSHOT
MISSIONS

Thank you

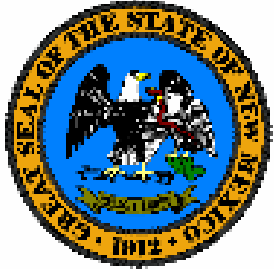
Joy Pearson | joy@moonshotmissions.org
Nathan Coey | Nathan@moonshotmissions.org



Receiving Technical Assistance: Rates and Planning

Rose Fenton

Managing Operator
Jemez Springs Wastewater Facility, NM



MICHAEL
NEALEIGH
Mayor

BOB WILSON
Mayor Pro-Tem

Municipal Office

080 Jemez Springs Plaza
PO Box 269, Jemez Springs, NM 87025
Phone (575) 829-3540 * Fax (575) 829-3339
Heather Gutierrez, Interim Clerk
h.Gutierrez@jemezsprings-nm.gov
Website: www.jemezsprings-nm.gov



MANOLITO SANCHEZ
Trustee
JUDY BOYD
Trustee
JAMES MCCUE
Trustee

Village of Jemez Springs
Wastewater Treatment Plant
EFCN/EPA Technical Assistance

Why did your community decide to seek out technical assistance?

- I took over a failing plant with zero experience in wastewater and knew I needed help from experts to get this place into compliance and learn how to operate it efficiently.
- My initial introduction to the technical assistance program [through a different program] was at first frustrating...I gave my feedback to the EPA and I stopped corresponding with the company, [and then] found the EFCN program through a webinar on finance.



What project(s) are you currently focused on?

- Cleaning/inspecting the collection line with the goal of complete rehabilitation of collection line and wastewater plant.
- Implementing automatic DO monitoring.
- Securing funding to cover the remaining amount required to complete the rehabilitation.



How has your community and technical assistance provider worked together?

Everyone I have dealt with has been supportive and helpful. The guidance and hands-on assistance has been invaluable:

- Guidance with Boron study.
- One on one math tutoring.
- Technical expertise on what to look for when doing the RFP.
- Technical expertise on sewer cameras.
- Several rate assessments.
- In person classes.



How has your community and technical assistance provider worked together?

Continued:

- Capital Improvement Plan.
- Asset Management Plan.
- Operation and Maintenance.
- Site visit scheduled for May to review administrative documents.



What has your experience been like?

How did you get started?

- The EFCN Webinar on Finance. The presenter provided his email address for questions later. I reached out, he responded and got me in touch with the Finance Department Head at University of North Carolina. Later transitioned to University of New Mexico.

Who were the key members of your team who participated in this process?

- The presenters of EFCN webinars, the Finance Department at both UNC and UNM, Southwest Environmental Finance UNM.

What comes next for your project?

- Securing funding for the rest of the rehabilitation.



What advice would you give to communities considering participating in a technical assistance opportunity?

Do it!!! It is free to you. There is a bit of work on your end but it is worth the effort.



A photograph of a water treatment facility at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. In the foreground, there are large circular tanks and a long metal walkway leading into the distance. The water in the tanks is calm, reflecting the sky and the structures. The overall scene is serene and industrial.

Paying for System Improvements: Leveraging the Clean Water State Revolving Fund

Amy Weinfurter

Director of Strategic Projects
WaterNow Alliance

The Clean Water SRF

1

How it works:

 EPA funds state **CWSRFs** each year, with **20% state match**.



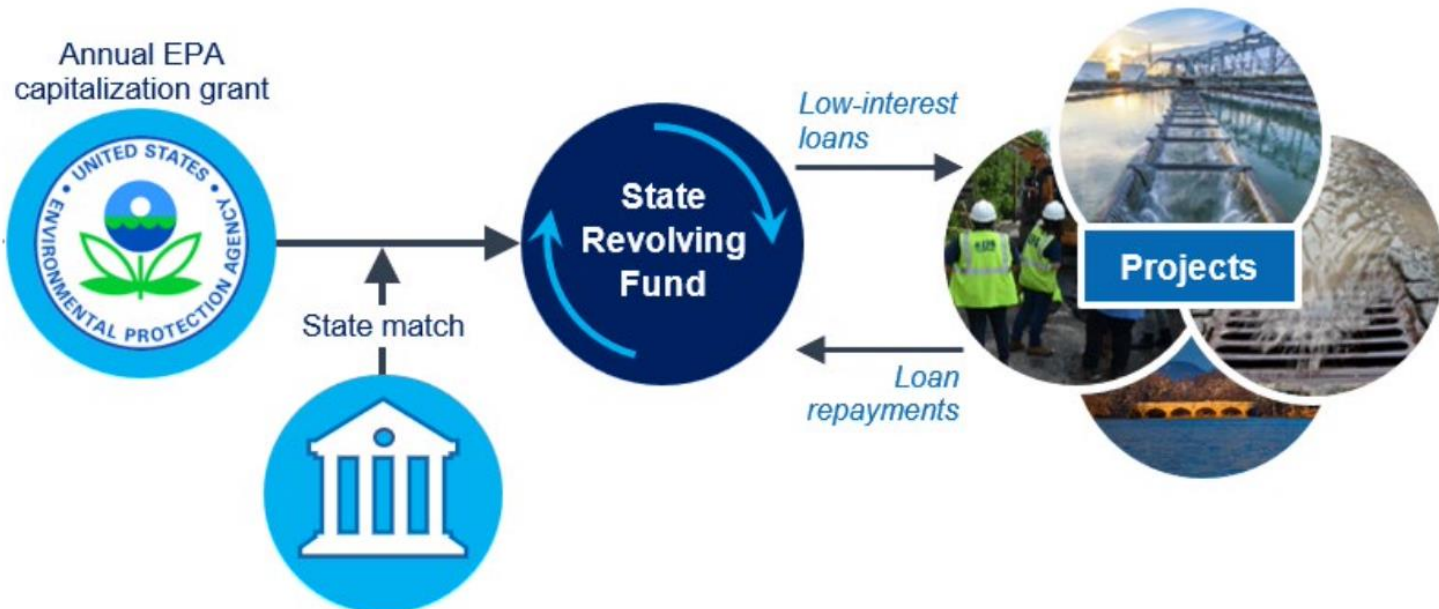
All 50 states and Puerto Rico have **CWSRFs**.

2



Apply for **financing** through **state CWSRFs**.

How Does the Clean Water SRF Work?

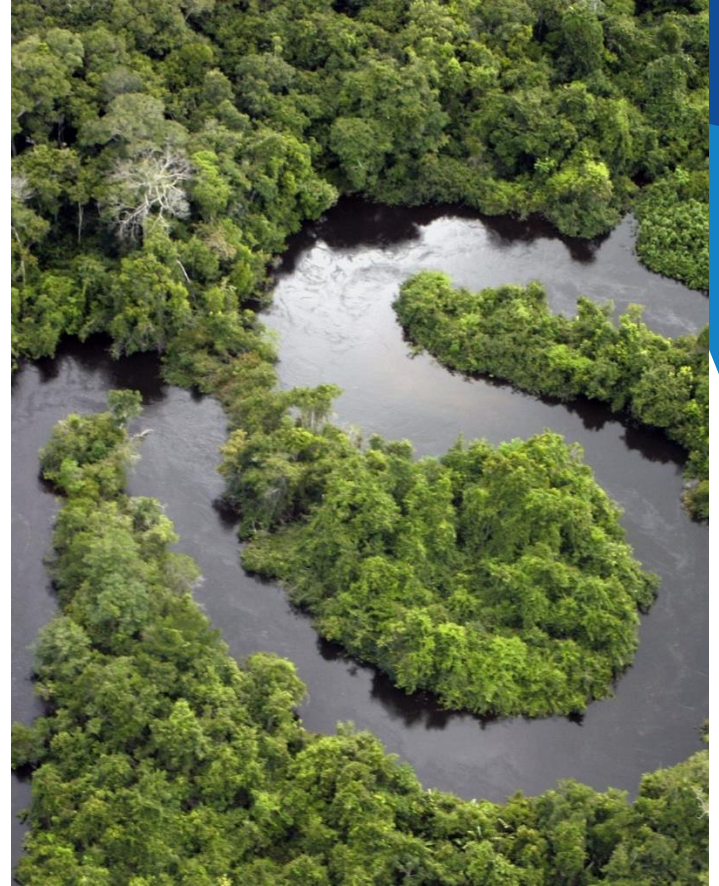


Purpose & Eligibility

Provide **low-cost financing** for projects that address **highest priority water quality needs**

Finance a **broad range of water-quality focused projects**, including:

- Wastewater
- Stormwater
- Non-point source pollution
- Water use efficiency
- Green infrastructure



Purpose & Eligibility

Agricultural Best Management Practices

Climate Resiliency

Contaminated Sites Cleanup

Combined Sewer Overflow

Dam Rehabilitation

Decentralized Wastewater Treatment

Drought Resiliency

Energy Conservation

Energy Efficiency

Estuary Protection and Restoration

Green Infrastructure

Groundwater Protection and Restoration

Habitat Protection and Restoration

Land Conservation

Landfill Leachate Collection and Treatment

Planning / Assessment

Septic to Sewer

Sewer System

Silviculture

Stormwater Management

Surface Water Protection and Restoration

Water Conservation and Efficiency

Water Reuse

Wetlands

WWTP Consolidation / Regionalization

WWTP Construction

WWTP Upgrades, Repairs, Replacements

Purpose & Eligibility

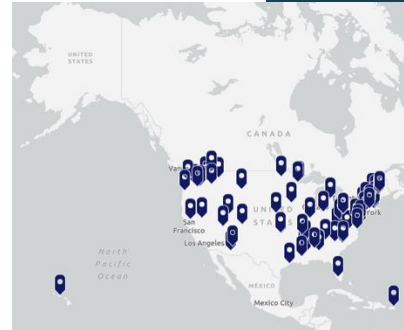
CWSRF Projects and Case Studies

CWSRF Projects

Show 10 entries

Search:

| Project Category | Assistance Recipient | Project Name | State | Assistance Amount |
|--|---|---|----------------|-------------------|
| Stormwater Management | City of Myrtle Beach | 4th Avenue Ocean Outfall (pdf) (326.45 KB) | South Carolina | \$12 million |
| Land Conservation | Brookhaven | Acquisition of forested land adjacent to DeKalb-Peachtree Airport (PDK) (pdf) (207.49 KB) | Georgia | \$5.7 million |
| Land Conservation | Northwest Ohio Regional Sewer District | Acquisition of Medina Marsh (pdf) (344.82 KB) | Ohio | \$963,702 |
| Land Conservation | The Nature Conservancy | Acquisition of Palo Corona Ranch (pdf) (239.92 KB) | California | \$9 million |
| Septic to Sewer | Town of Marana | Adonis Sewer Connection to Town of Marana (pdf) (228.93 KB) | Arizona | \$1.5 million |
| Agriculture Best Management Practices | Murmac Farms LLC | Agricultural BMPs (pdf) (282.19 KB) | Pennsylvania | \$800,000 |
| Agricultural Best Management Practices | Garber Farms, Inc. | Agriculture BMPs (pdf) (282.19 KB) | Virginia | \$230,000 |
| Energy Conservation | Lewiston-Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority | Anaerobic Digestion and Cogeneration (pdf) (323.86 KB) | Maine | \$14,719,490 |



Local Infrastructure Investment Stories

Clean Water SRFs

Since
1998



ASSISTANCE PROVIDED:
\$172 Billion
(with \$52.4B in federal investments)

DISBURSEMENTS:
\$151.3 Billion

ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS: 48,915

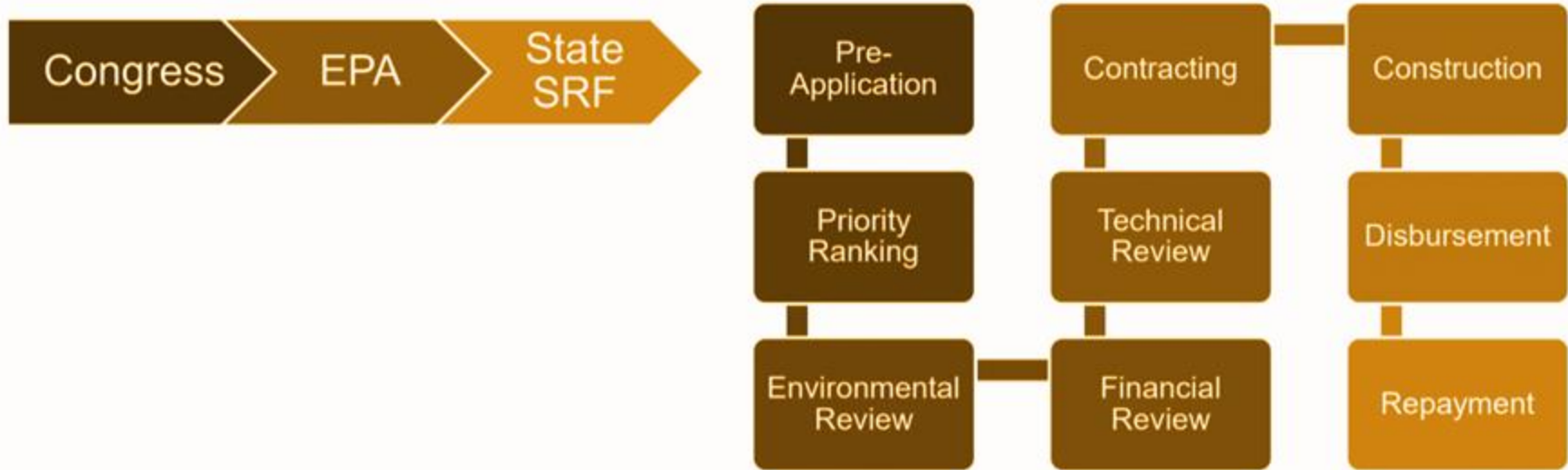
Since 1988,

12%

of assistance agreements went to state-defined disadvantaged communities



How Does the Clean Water SRF Work?



Pathways to the SRFs for Rural, Small & Tribal Systems

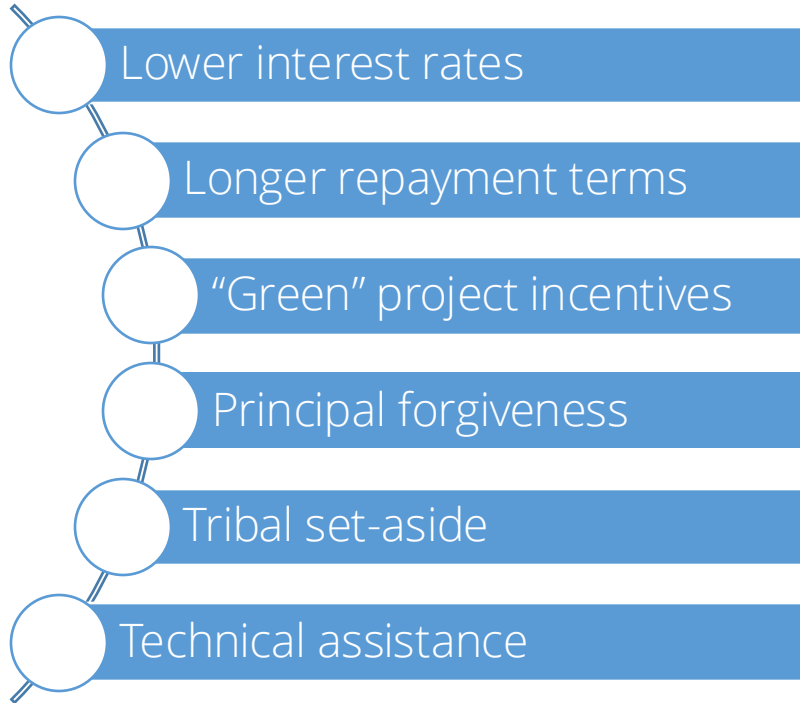
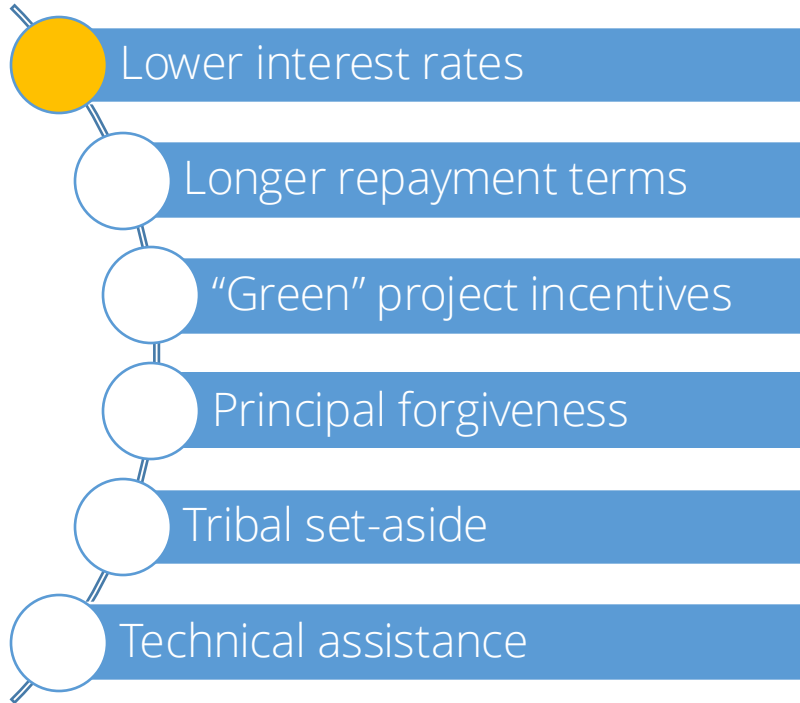


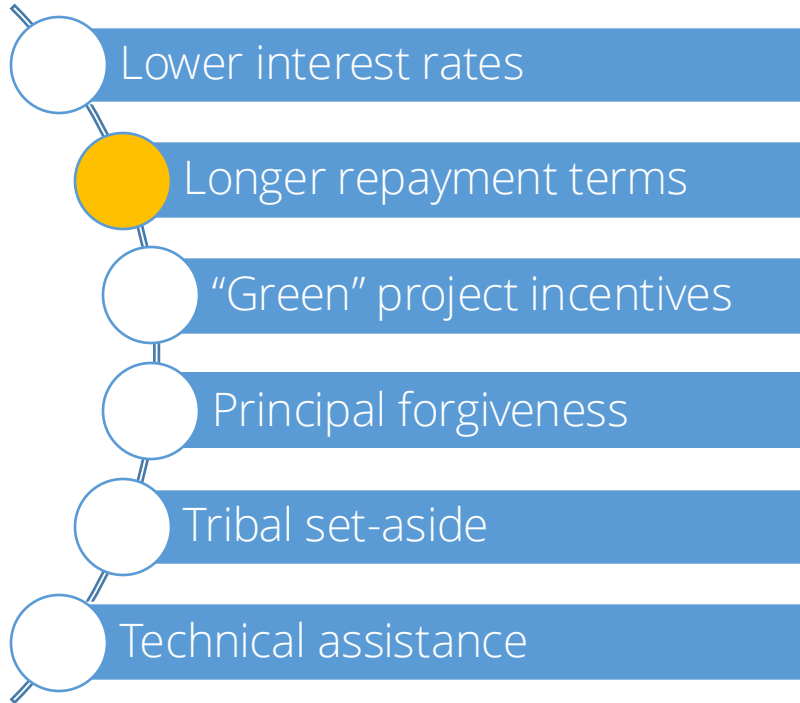
Image: [Funding Disadvantaged Communities with the Clean Water State Revolving Fund](#)

Pathways to the SRFs for Rural, Small & Tribal Systems



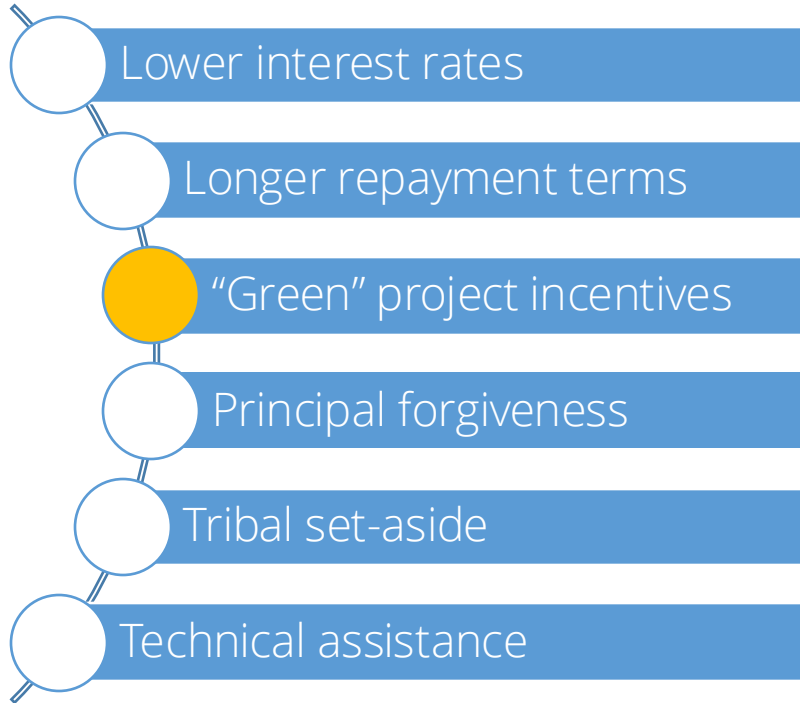
The interest rate for CWSRF loans are **less than or equal to the market interest rate**

Pathways to the SRFs for Rural, Small & Tribal Systems



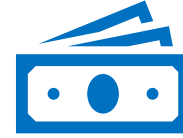
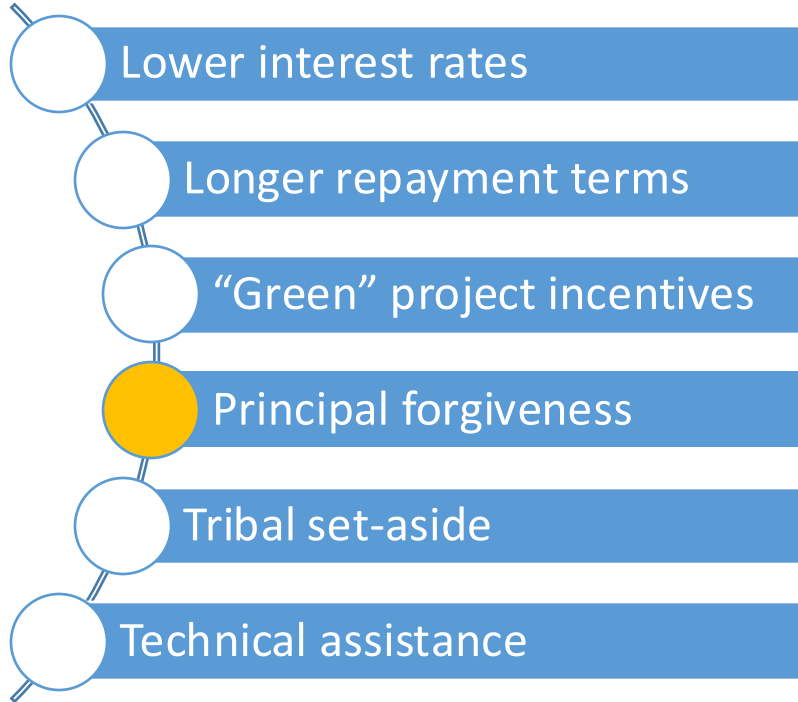
Repayment periods of **up to 30-40 years** help keep payment amounts low

Pathways to the SRFs for Rural, Small & Tribal Systems



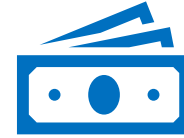
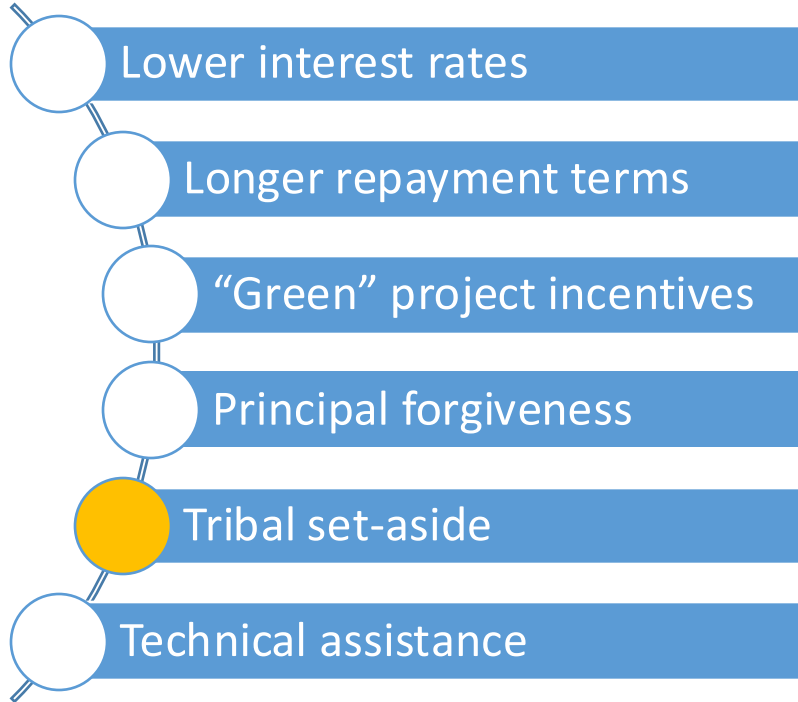
10% of state CWSRF funds support **green infrastructure, water/energy efficiency, and other environmentally innovative activities**

Pathways to the SRFs for Rural, Small & Tribal Systems



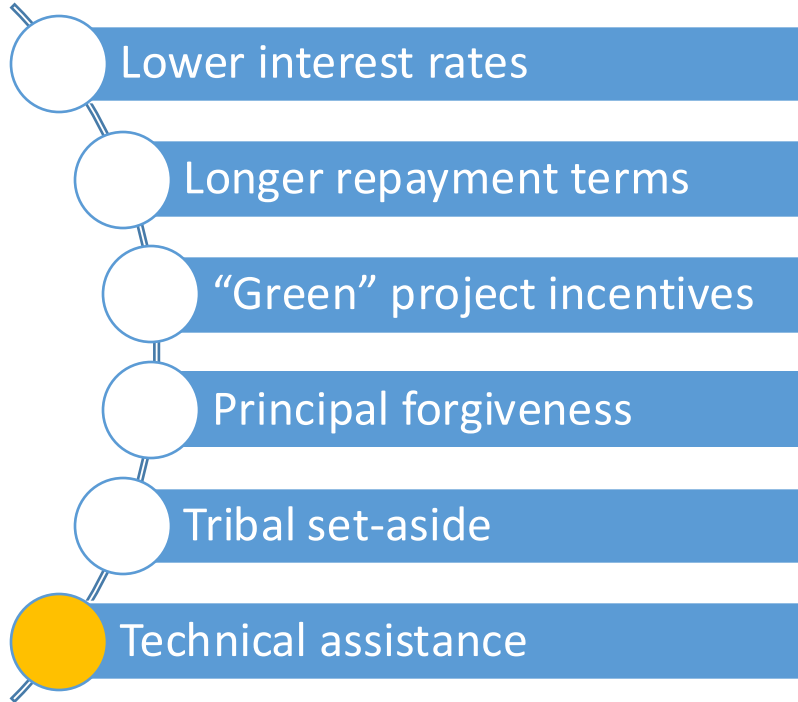
CWSRF loans can specify that some portion of the loan does **not** need to be repaid (**"grant-like dollars"**)

Pathways to the SRFs for Rural, Small & Tribal Systems



The **Clean Water Indian Set Aside Program** can cover up to 100% of eligible project costs without match or repayment required (**“grant-like dollars”**)

Pathways to the SRFs for Rural, Small & Tribal Systems



Many states offer **planning or design grants, or additional technical assistance**



SRF Funding in a Small Community: Creede, CO

Louis Fineberg

Town Manager
City of Creede, CO

The background of the slide is a dense, overlapping collage of rectangular sticky notes in various shades of blue, teal, and green. Each sticky note features a large, dark blue question mark. The notes are scattered across the frame, creating a textured and busy visual effect.

Q&A

JOIN THE ALLIANCE

LEARN MORE AND SIGN UP

www.waternow.org/join-the-leaders



PLEASE COMPLETE OUR SURVEY!



 **waternow** alliance
water leaders. resilient solutions.

CONTACT THE PRESENTERS

Joy Pearson – joy@moonshotmissions.org

Nathan Coey – Nathan@moonshotmissions.org

Emerson O'Donnell – eo@waternow.org

Amy Weinfurter – aw@waternow.org

Andrew Teegarden – ateegarden@waternow.org

THANK YOU!



For more information email:

Emerson O'Donnell, eo@waternow.org

Andrew Teegarden,
ateegarden@waternow.org



Resources:

<https://efcnetwork.org/>