

Managing Stormwater in Small Communities

March 5, 10 am PT/ 1 pm ET



Managing Stormwater in Small Communities

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 5, 10 am PT/ 1 pm ET



Leave Meeting

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.



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.



WaterNow works to advance transformation in the water sector, to accelerate the widespread adoption of sustainable, affordable and resilient water 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.





Please Complete the Post-Webinar Survey!

TODAY'S SPEAKERS



Beth Uhler

Pennsylvania Director
Center for Watershed Protection



Jeff Colella

Stormwater Division Manager
Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority
Luzerne County, PA



Emerson O'Donnell

Senior Program Manager
WaterNow

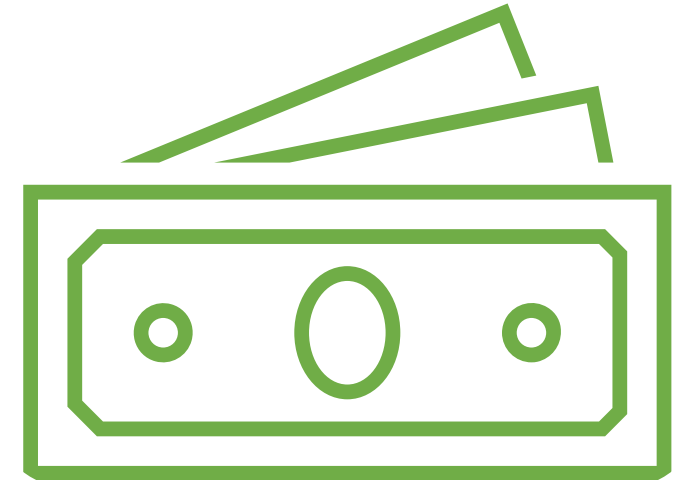
WEBINAR OBJECTIVES



Explore the value of collaborative stormwater management approaches



Share resources and examples for establishing collaboration



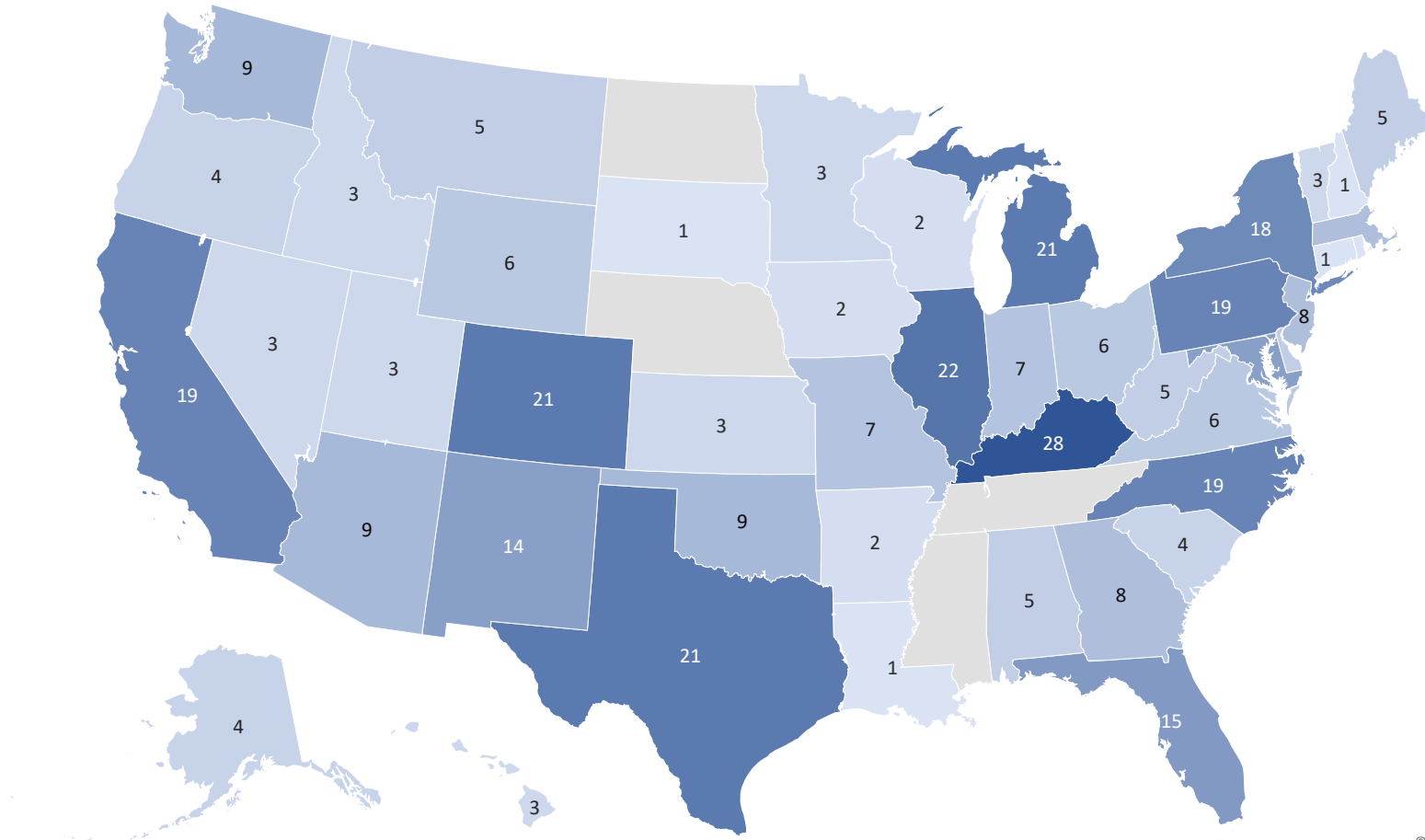
Highlight funding and technical assistance opportunities for stormwater management

AGENDA

- Getting to Know You: Polls
- Collaboration for Stormwater Management
- Lessons from WVSA
- CWSRF Funding Overview
- Moderated Discussion and Q&A
- Technical Assistance Opportunities



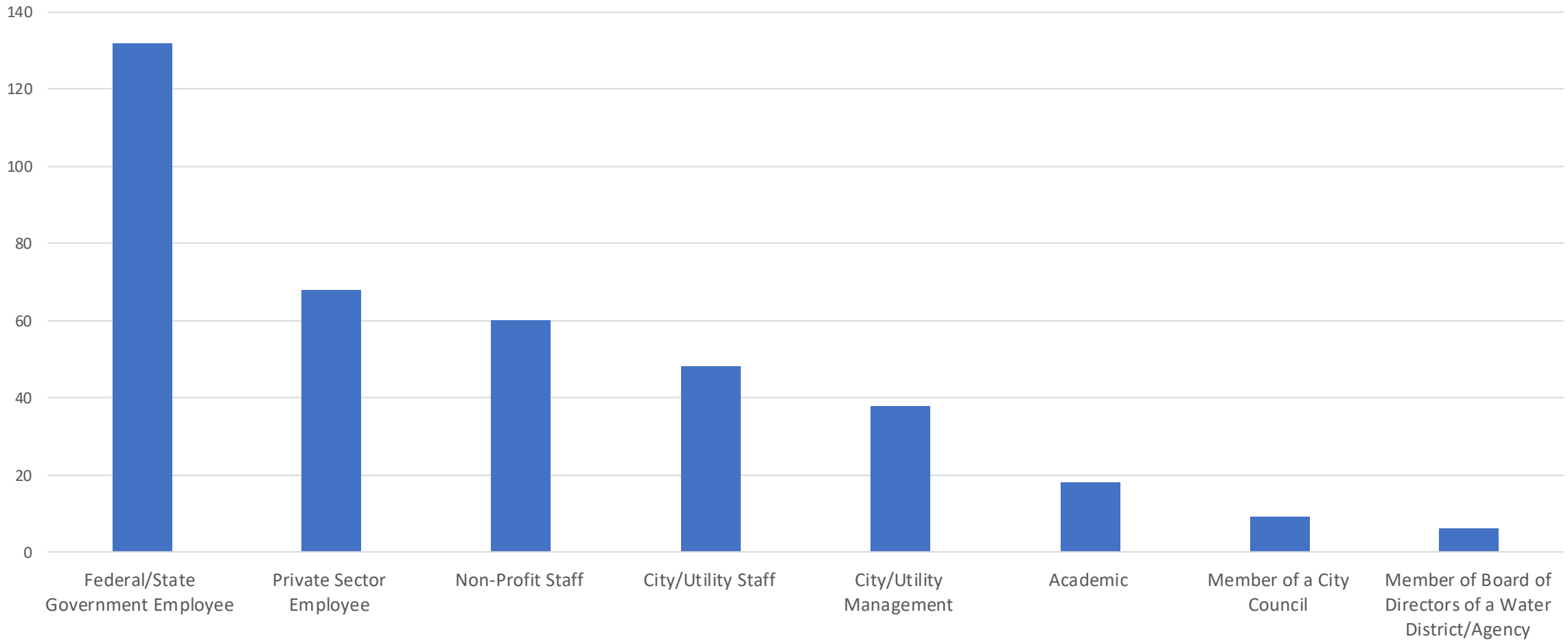
Who's In the Room?



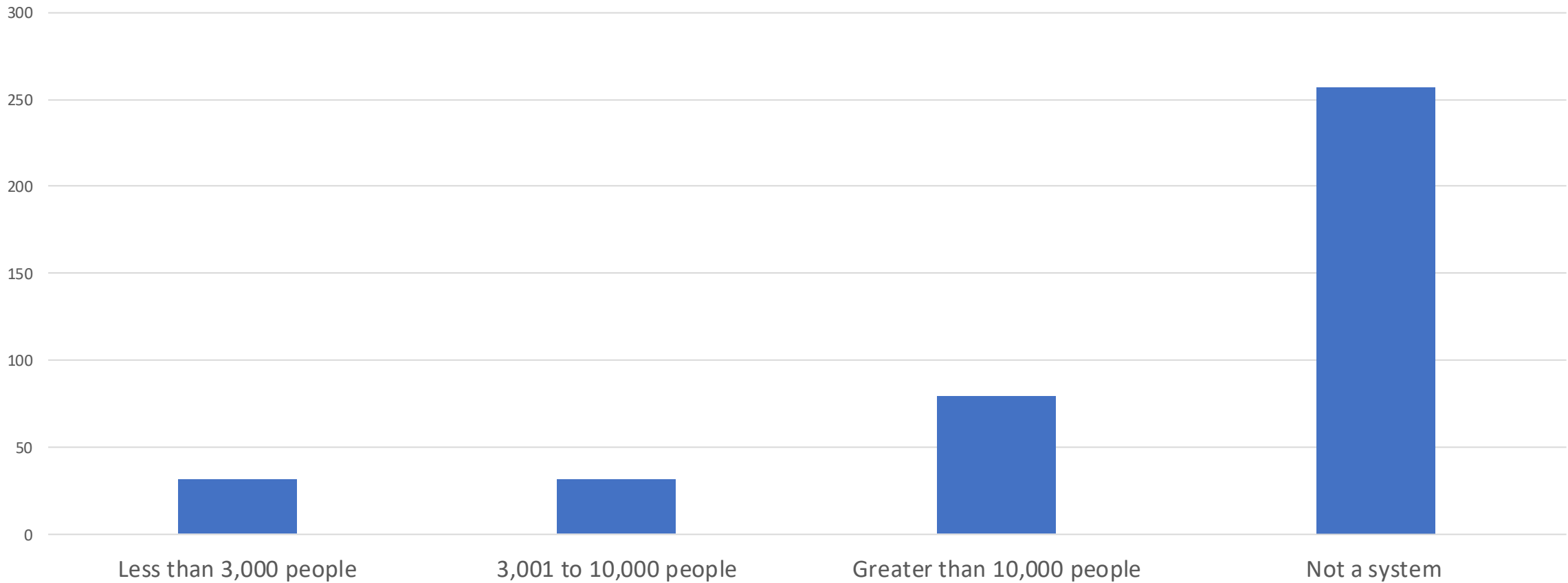
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- IL: 22
- CO: 21
- MI: 21
- TX: 21
- CA: 19
- NC: 19
- PA: 19
- NY: 18

Who's In the Room?



Who's In the Room?



Time for a poll!



▶ Start Menti

▶ Start Menti



0/1



▶ Start Menti

Does your utility or organization have a stormwater fee in place?

0% Yes

0% No, but we're working to implement one

0% No

0% Unsure



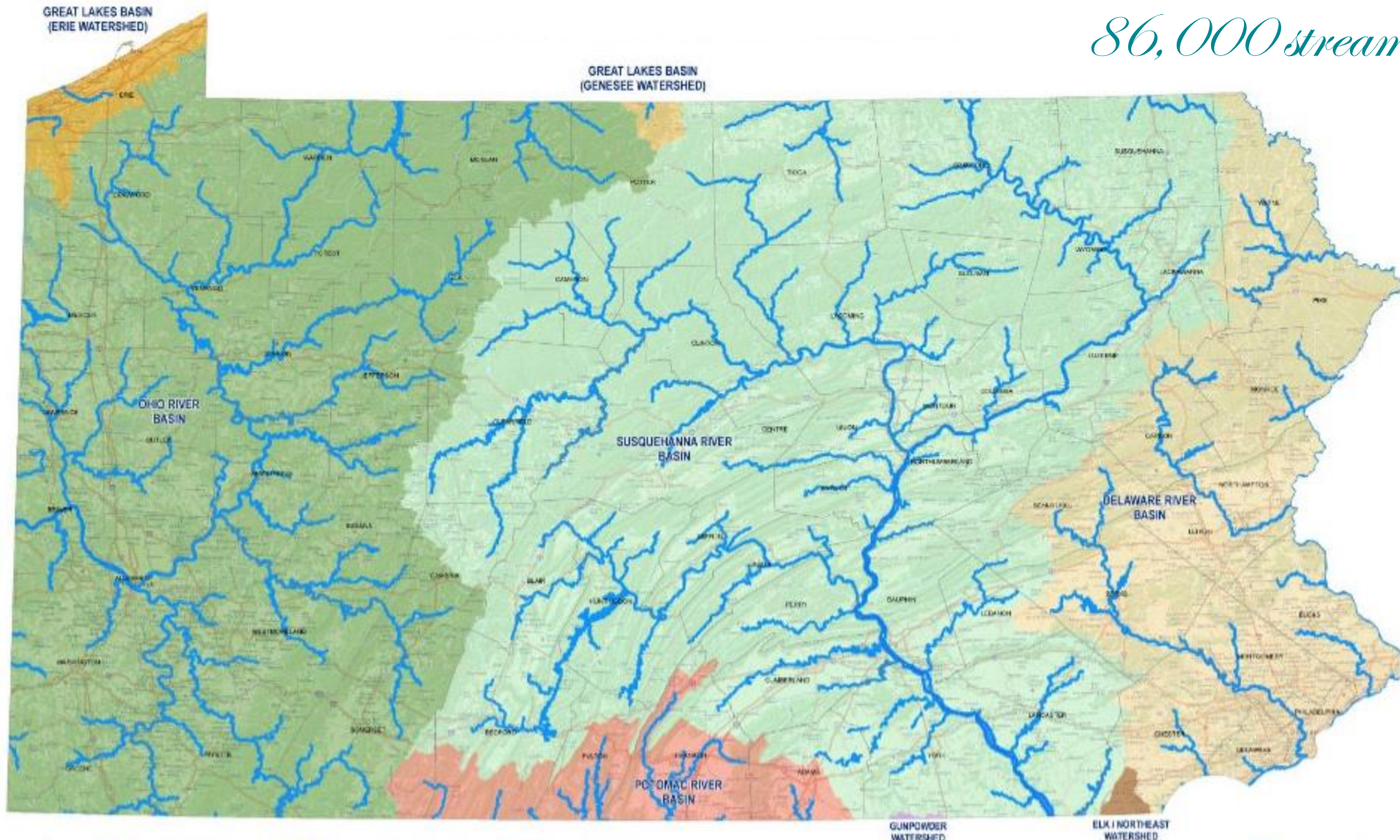
CENTER FOR
**WATERSHED
PROTECTION**

**Intergovernmental
Stormwater Collaboration
in Pennsylvania**

Beth Uhler, Pennsylvania Director
Center for Watershed Protection

Pennsylvania's Watersheds

86,000 stream miles



Great Lakes

- Lake Erie
- Genesee (Lake Ontario)

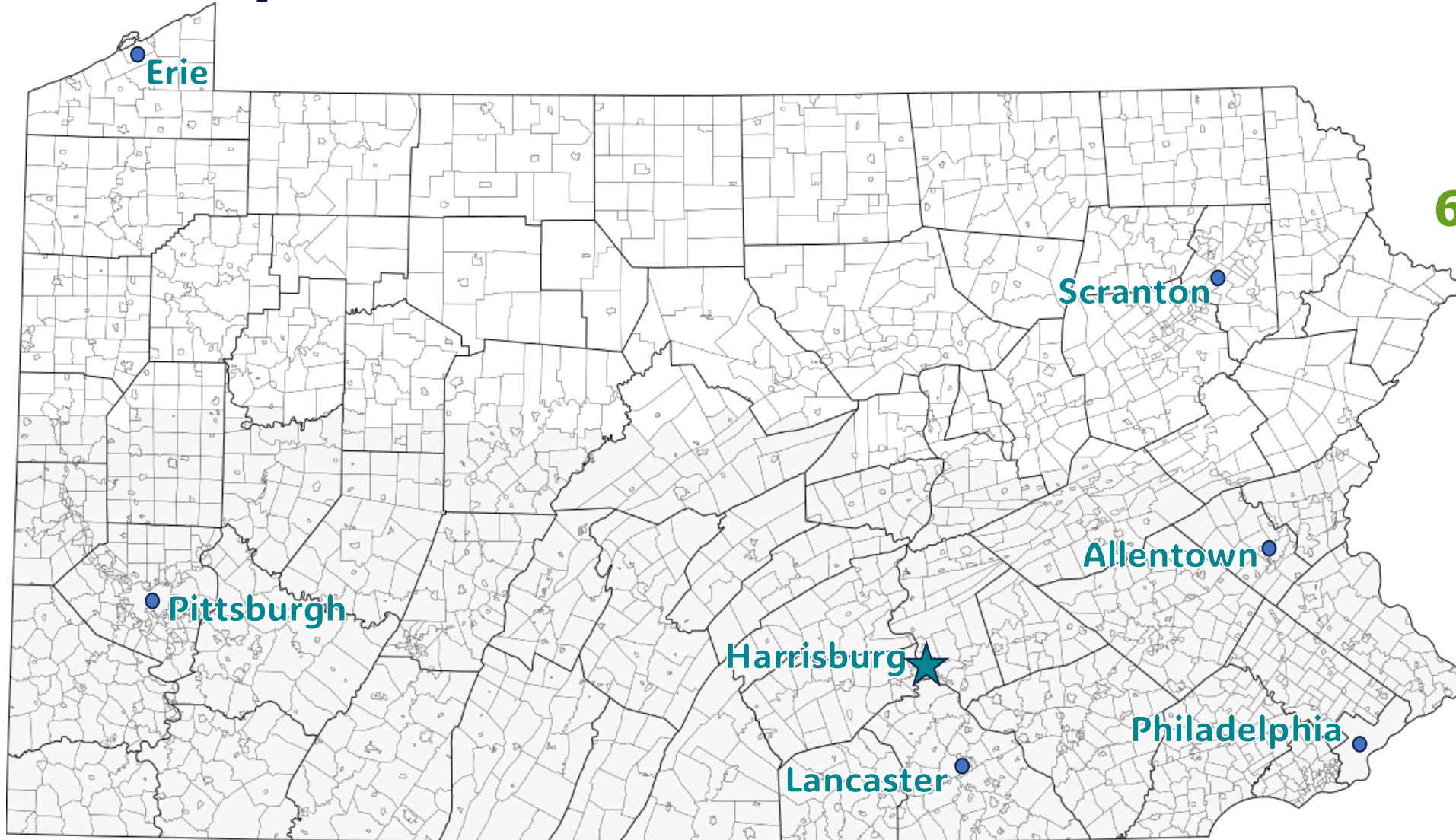
Ohio River

Chesapeake Bay

- Susquehanna
- Potomac
- Gunpowder
- Elk/Northeast

Delaware River

Pennsylvania's Local Government



67 Counties

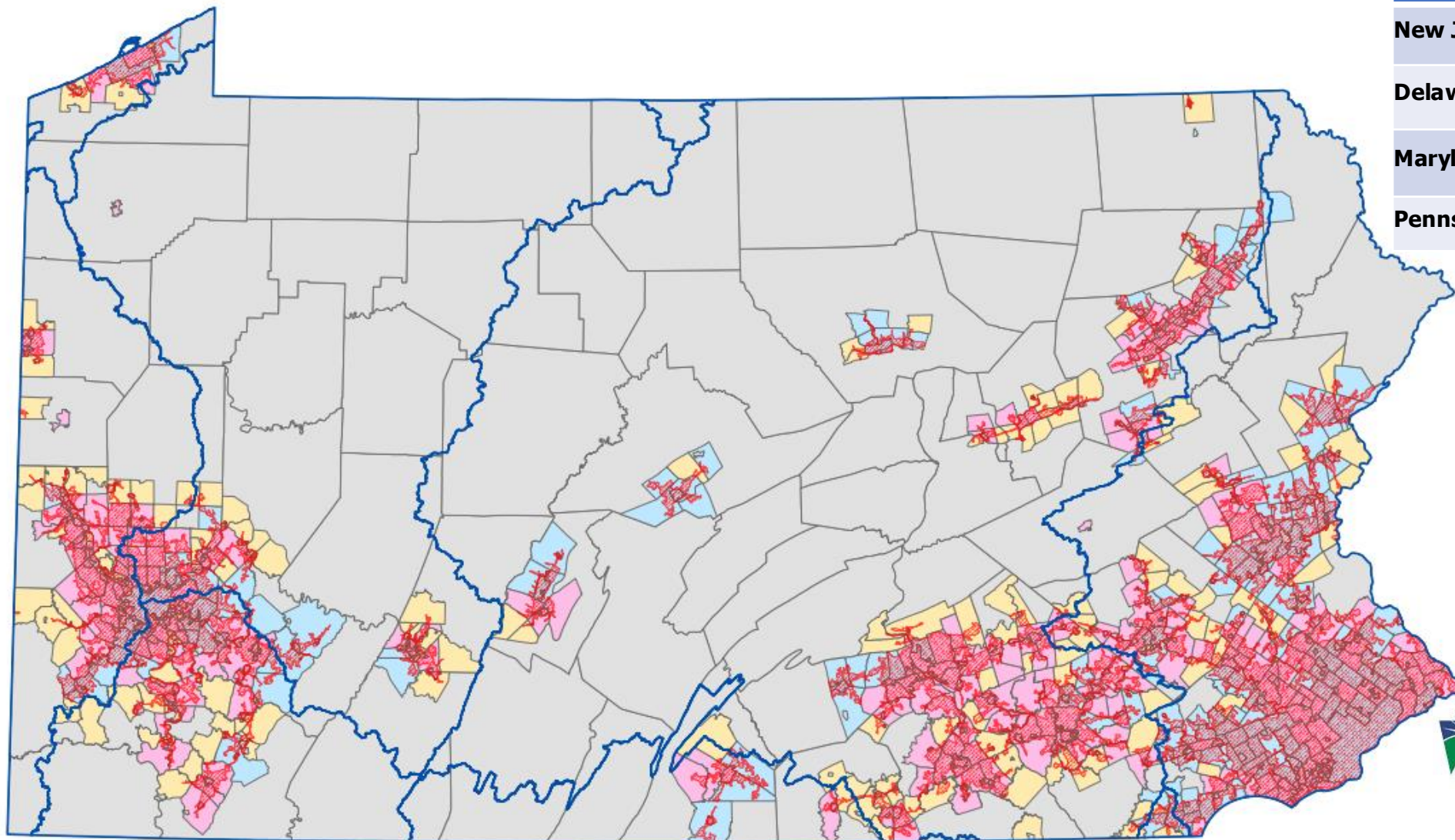
**2,560
Municipalities**

- Boroughs
- Cities
- Townships
- +1 Town

Pennsylvania's Regulated MS4s

For Comparison:

State	Phase I Permittees	Phase II Permittees
New Jersey	0	557
Delaware	2	8
Maryland	11	74
Pennsylvania	2	1,059



- MS4 Permit Waiver
- MS4 General Permit
- MS4 Individual Permit
- 2010 Urbanized Area
- Major Watersheds
- County Boundary



PA DEP 2019



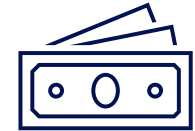
Increasing regulatory requirements

Storms intensifying in frequency and magnitude



Aging infrastructure

Small populations, small budgets, small # of staff



Municipal boundaries dissecting watershed boundaries

Intergovernmental Stormwater Collaboration

Regional Collaborations in PA



Benefits Realized from Collaboration

*Reduce flooding
Improve water quality
Foster healthier communities*



Reduced Costs

- Cost sharing and savings through economies of scale
- Grant funding advantages

Enhanced Implementation

- Expands project location opportunities
- Enables bigger, more meaningful projects
- Allows more co-benefits to be addressed



Improved Relationships

- Provides opportunity to connect, communicate, and share knowledge and resources
- Facilitates consistency on a regional scale



Increased Resiliency



Tools for Collaboration

PA DEP MS4 Collaboration Webpage

<https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/CleanWater/StormwaterMgmt/Stormwater/Pages/Collaboration.aspx>

PA DCED Intergovernmental Cooperation Handbook

<https://dced.pa.gov/download/intergovernmental-cooperation-handbook/?wpdmdl=56790>

Center for Watershed Protection PA MS4 Collaboration Toolkit

<https://arcg.is/0Dqu0L0>





Pennsylvania MS4 Collaboration Toolkit



Promoting collaboration to achieve water quality goals across municipal boundaries in Pennsylvania



Toolkit StoryMap

View the StoryMap highlighting key takeaways from the Toolkit



Existing MS4 Collaborations

Explore the existing MS4 collaborations and their municipal partners in Pennsylvania



Find Potential Partners for Collaboration

(coming soon!)
Use this online mapping tool to find potential municipal partners for a new collaboration



Full Toolkit Technical Guidance Document

Read the full PA MS4 Collaboration Toolkit Technical Guidance Document

Thank you

CENTER FOR
WATERSHED
PROTECTION

Beth Uhler

Pennsylvania Director

beu@cwp.org

484-680-0806

Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority (WVSA)



Stormwater Management &
CWSRF Experience
Jeff Colella



Why a Collaborative Approach?



Shared regulatory and stormwater challenges across communities



Economies of scale for planning, funding, and implementation



Ability to pool technical expertise and administrative capacity

Collaboration

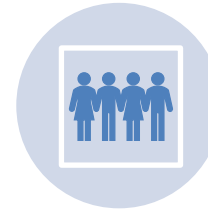
Funding

Delivery

How WVSA Operates



Governed by a board
representing member
municipalities



Costs and responsibilities
shared among communities



WVSA leads planning and
project coordination



Responsibilities are spelled
out in an intergovernmental
co-operation agreement



We work very closely with
PADEP

Collaboration

Funding

Delivery

Stormwater Management Approach



STORMWATER INTEGRATED
INTO WVSA'S BROADER
COMPLIANCE STRATEGY



FOCUS ON WATER QUALITY,
FLOOD MITIGATION, AND
AFFORDABILITY



MOST DOLLARS PER POUND
OF SEDIMENT



USE OF GREEN
INFRASTRUCTURE AND
REGIONAL SOLUTIONS



WORK WITH THE
MUNICIPALITIES TO LOOK AT
SUGGESTED PROJECTS

Collaboration

Funding

Delivery

Decision to Apply for CWSRF Funding



Identified CWSRF as a strong fit for stormwater investments



Opportunity to access grant money



Low interest loans if not able to get grant monies



Support from state partners and planning efforts



Application & Implementation Experience



Application required coordination across municipalities



Early planning helped streamline the process



Implementation requires ongoing communication and flexibility

Collaboration

Funding

Delivery

Lessons Learned & Advice



Regional collaboration
strengthens funding
competitiveness



Start planning early and
engage partners often



CWSRF can be a
powerful tool for
stormwater projects



STAG Grants- How to
obtain



State Grants



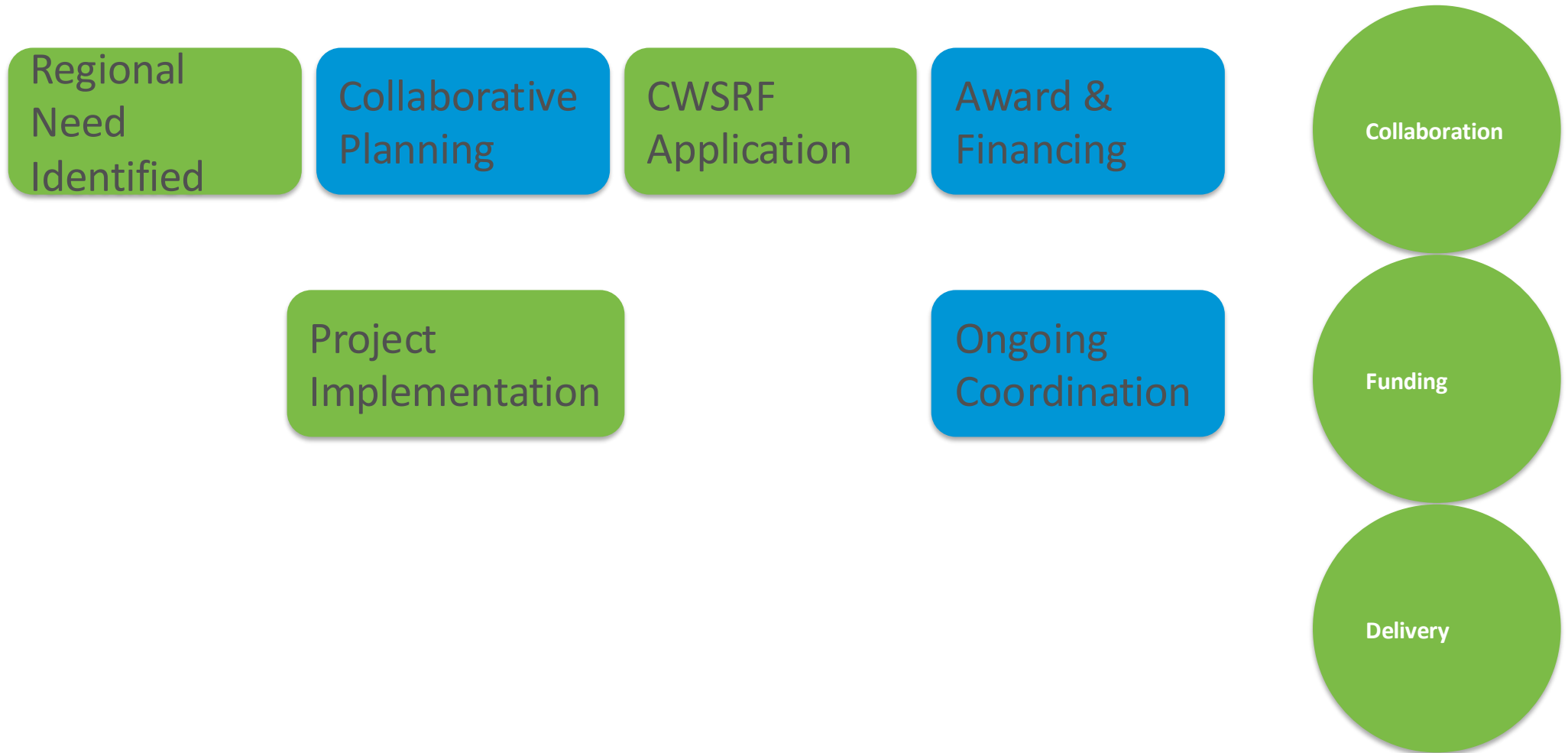
NFWF Grant

Collaboration

Funding

Delivery

CWSRF Stormwater Funding Workflow



Clean Water State Revolving Funds

Overview

Emerson O'Donnell, WaterNow

3/5/26

State Revolving Funds

- Largest source of federal funding for water infrastructure
- Flow of funding: Congress → EPA → States and Tribes → Cities / Water Utilities / Communities

51 Clean Water State Revolving Funds

+ 51 Drinking Water State Revolving Funds

102 State Revolving Funds

Darker blue on the map represents more SRF dollars used



State Revolving Funds

	What is it?	Federal/state partnership that provides low-cost financing to water and wastewater systems. The program is designed to create, in each state, a perpetual source of financing for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure.
	How does it work?	The State operates the program, while the US EPA plays an administrative role (e.g., sets grant terms and conditions and provides program oversight and guidance to States).
	What types of assistance does it provide?	Loans, refinancing, loan guarantees, technical assistance • Availability of special financing terms to disadvantaged communities to help address equity and affordability (Note: This feature has evolved over the years)

EPA and State Roles

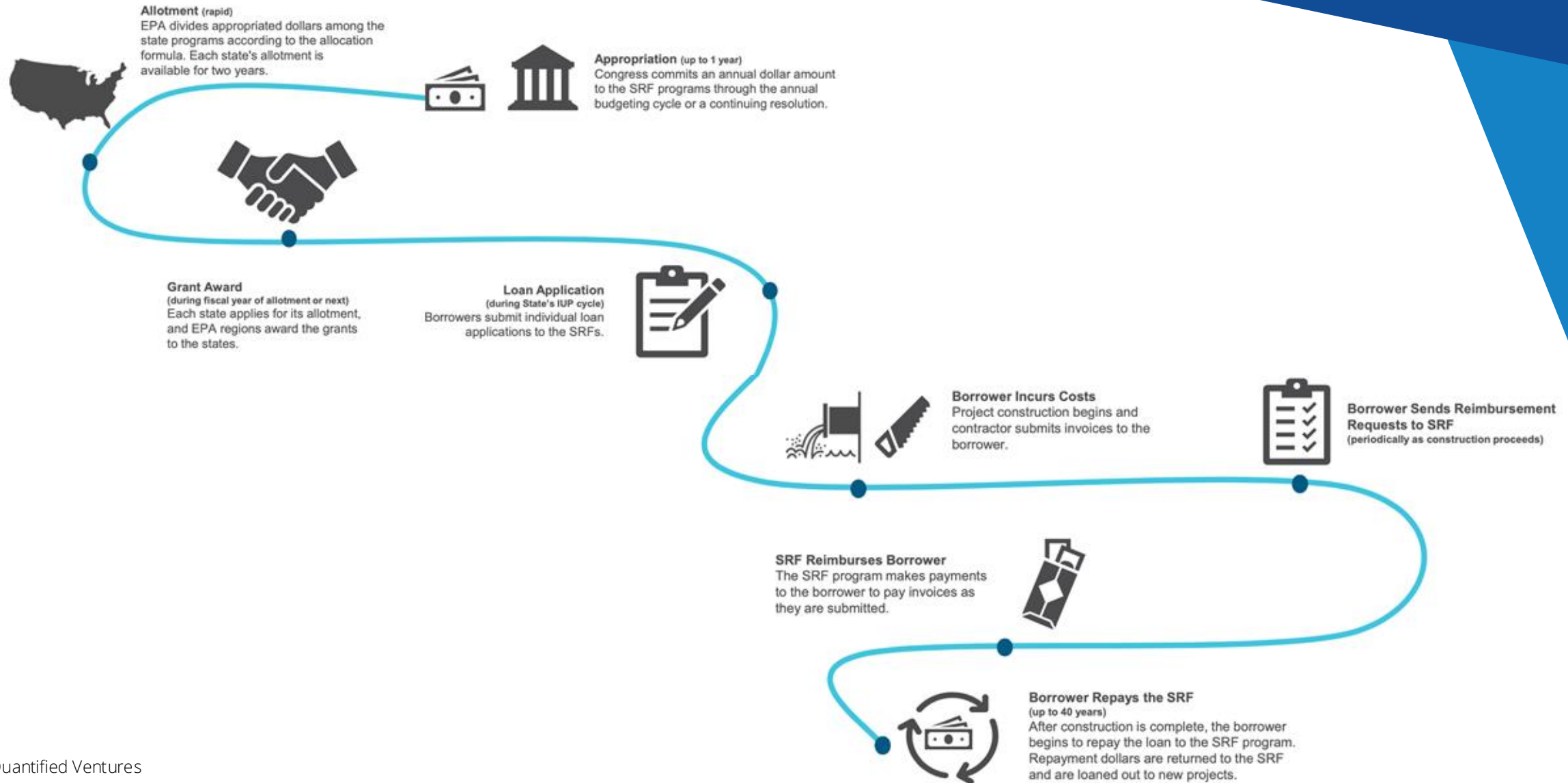
EPA

- **Awards grants to states:**
 - CWSRF allotments are based on needs and population
 - DWSRF allotments are based on a needs survey conducted every 4 years
- **Oversight:**
 - Provides oversight of state use of grant awards
- **Support:**
 - Provides workshops, fact sheets, tools
 - Eligibility and compliance questions

States

- Choose their own **priorities** and **select projects**
- **Design** and **manage** their own **application processes**
- Set **interest rates and terms**
- Define **green projects, disadvantaged** and **affordability criteria**
- Determine how any **additional subsidies are distributed to recipients**

Cycle of SRF Dollars



Source: Quantified Ventures

Benefits of the SRFs



**Subsidized interest
rates
(below or at
market rate)**



**Principal
forgiveness
(grant-like dollars)**



**Technical
Assistance**

Impact of the SRFs



DWSRF



CWSRF

SINCE 1997 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED:



\$57.3B

with **\$28.6B** in Federal investments

ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS: 19,560



36%

of assistance agreements went to **state-defined disadvantaged communities**

DISBURSEMENTS:



\$48.7B

Totals:

\$181 billion in funding
for water quality infrastructure projects

51,000 loan agreements
(through FY 2024)

Sources: [US EPA DWSRF 2023 Annual Report](#), [CleanWater Eligibility Graphic](#)

CWSRF Eligible Entities

Eligibility varies by state and project type

Who is eligible?

(Eligibility varies by state and project type.)



Communities



**Private
Entities**



**Nonprofit
Organizations**



Citizen Groups

Source: [CleanWater Eligibility Graphic](#)

CWSRF Eligibilities

To be eligible for CWSRF assistance, a project must meet the criteria of one of the 11 CWSRF eligibilities

Only public agencies can receive funding for activities in bold

- 1. Construction of publicly owned treatment works**
2. Implementation of a management program established under section 319 (non-point source)
3. Development and implementation of a conservation and management plan under section 320 (estuary plans)
4. Construction, repair, or replacement of decentralized wastewater treatment systems that treat municipal wastewater or domestic sewage.
 - a. Includes the repair, replacement or sewer extension for eligible individuals via qualified nonprofit entities
5. Measures to manage, reduce, treat, or recapture stormwater or subsurface drainage water

Source: [US EPA | About the CWSRF: Overview of Clean Water State Revolving Fund Eligibilities](#)

CWSRF Eligibilities

To be eligible for CWSRF assistance, a project must meet the criteria of one of the 11 CWSRF eligibilities

Only public agencies can receive funding for activities in bold

6. **Measures to reduce the demand for publicly owned treatment works capacity through water conservation, efficiency, or reuse**
7. Development and implementation of watershed projects meeting the criteria set forth in section 122 (watershed pilot projects)
8. **Measures to reduce the energy consumption needs for publicly owned treatment works**
9. Reusing or recycling wastewater, stormwater, or subsurface drainage water
10. Measures to increase the security of publicly owned treatment works
11. Assistance to owners and operators of small and medium sized publicly owned treatment work (technical assistance)

Source: [US EPA | About the CWSRF](#)

CWSRF Eligible Project Categories

Examples

A hallmark of the CWSRF is flexibility.

If you can demonstrate a project protects water quality, you can likely find an eligibility category that fits.

**Capital investments that
protect water quality**



Source: [US EPA | About the CWSRF](#)

Centralized Wastewater Treatment

Energy Conservation

Water Conservation

Stormwater Best Management Practices

Agricultural Best Management Practices

Habitat Protection & Restoration

Watershed Health & Wildfire Resilience

Silviculture

Source Water Protection

The CWSRF and “Green” Projects

In 2009, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) created the “**Green Project Reserve**” (GPR) and subsequent CWSRF appropriations continue the program, requiring CWSRFs to **allocate at least 10% of funds** to green projects.

GPR eligible projects are projects that incorporate:

- Green infrastructure
- Water and energy efficiency
- Other environmentally innovative activities

Benefits of applying for CWSRF loans for green projects:

- Priority scoring
- Reduced interest rates
- Principal forgiveness

**Includes
implementation of
incentive programs to
manage stormwater!**

Source: [Green Project Reserve Guidance for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund \(CWSRF\)](#)

SRF Example Projects



Find more
[Local Infrastructure Investment](#)
examples!



Clean Water State Revolving Fund Projects

To date, the CWSRF program has provided over \$172 billion in funding to finance over 48,000 loan agreements for water quality infrastructure projects across the country.

The table below listing CWSRF Projects can be sorted on any column by clicking the column header.

Filter the list using the Project Category column, or search the list by keyword.

CWSRF Projects

Show entries

Search:

Project Category	Assistance Recipient	Project Name	State	Assistance Amount
Decentralized Wastewater Treatment	South Alabama Utilities	Construction of decentralized wastewater treatment systems (pdf) (210.8 KB)	Alabama	\$15 million
Energy Conservation	City of Albertville	Biosolids Upgrades Energy Recovery (pdf) (270.74 KB)	Alabama	\$6.28 million
Energy Conservation	City of Cullman	Treatment Plant Improvements (pdf) (308.32 KB)	Alabama	\$4.1 million

Visit [this database](#)
for CWSRF project
examples!

Examples: [EPA Local Infrastructure Investment Stories](#); [DWSRF 2023 Annual Report](#); [CWSRF 2024 Annual Report](#)



Moderated Discussion and Q&A

An aerial photograph of a river system. The river is dark, possibly black or very dark brown, and flows through a landscape of dark, textured earth or forest. There are prominent orange-brown sediment flows or sandbars within the river channels. The overall scene is dramatic and somewhat somber due to the dark tones.

Accessing Technical Assistance for Small, Rural & Tribal Systems

What support is available?

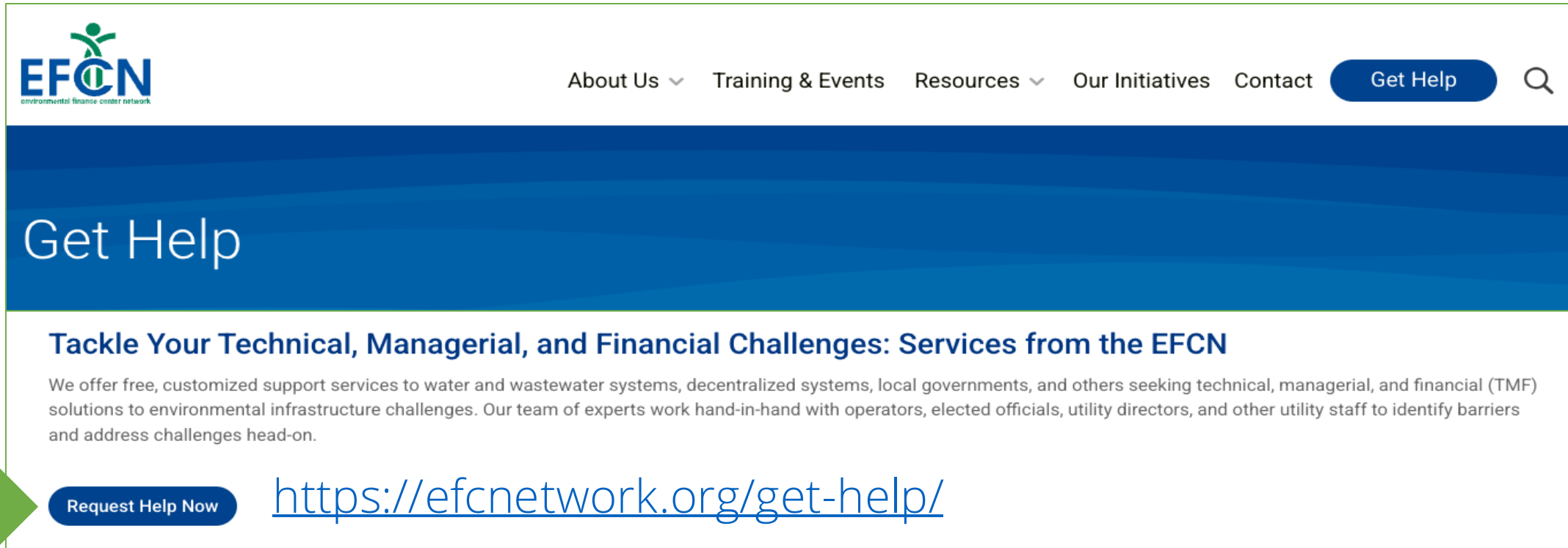
WaterNow can provide technical assistance for rural, small and tribal systems in a variety of ways:

- Support for **planning and assessing system needs**
- Building **planning technical, financial, and managerial capacity**
- Support for engaging the community to **map challenges and assets**
- Identifying **funding and financing opportunities**
- Navigating **grant and loan application processes**



Specialized Technical Assistance: Rural, Small, & Tribal Systems

Pro bono support for **wastewater and stormwater systems** across the U.S., serving communities of **10,000 people or fewer**.



The screenshot shows the EFCN (Environmental Finance Center Network) website. The header includes the EFCN logo, navigation links for 'About Us', 'Training & Events', 'Resources', 'Our Initiatives', 'Contact', and a 'Get Help' button. The main content area features a large blue banner with the text 'Get Help'. Below this, a section titled 'Tackle Your Technical, Managerial, and Financial Challenges: Services from the EFCN' describes the organization's services. A green arrow points to a 'Request Help Now' button and a URL link.

EFCN
environmental finance center network

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/>

What to expect?

- Dedicated team of **subject matter experts** to help answer your questions
- **Step-by-step assistance** to help rural, small, and tribal water systems address storm and wastewater challenges
- **Resources & guidance** to ensure compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations
- The **technical assistance process** includes:

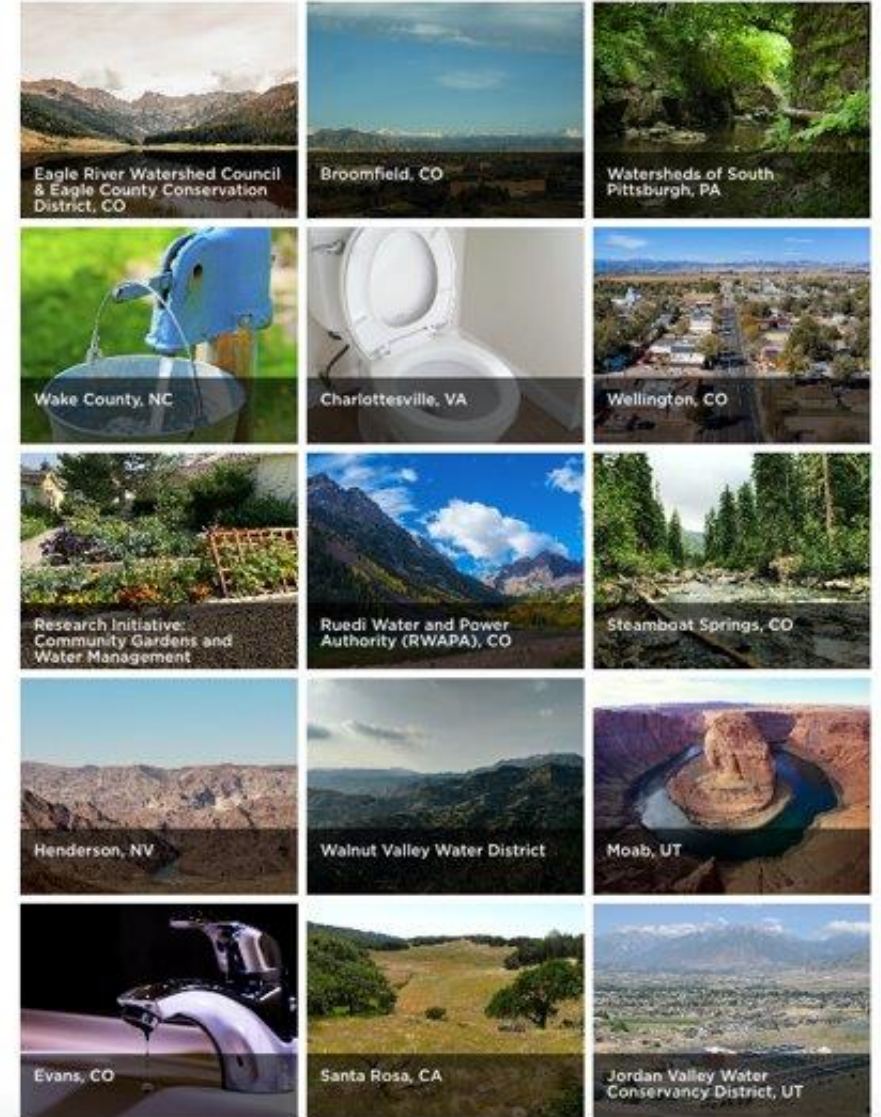


Additional technical assistance programs and resources can be found at the [WaterTA website](#)

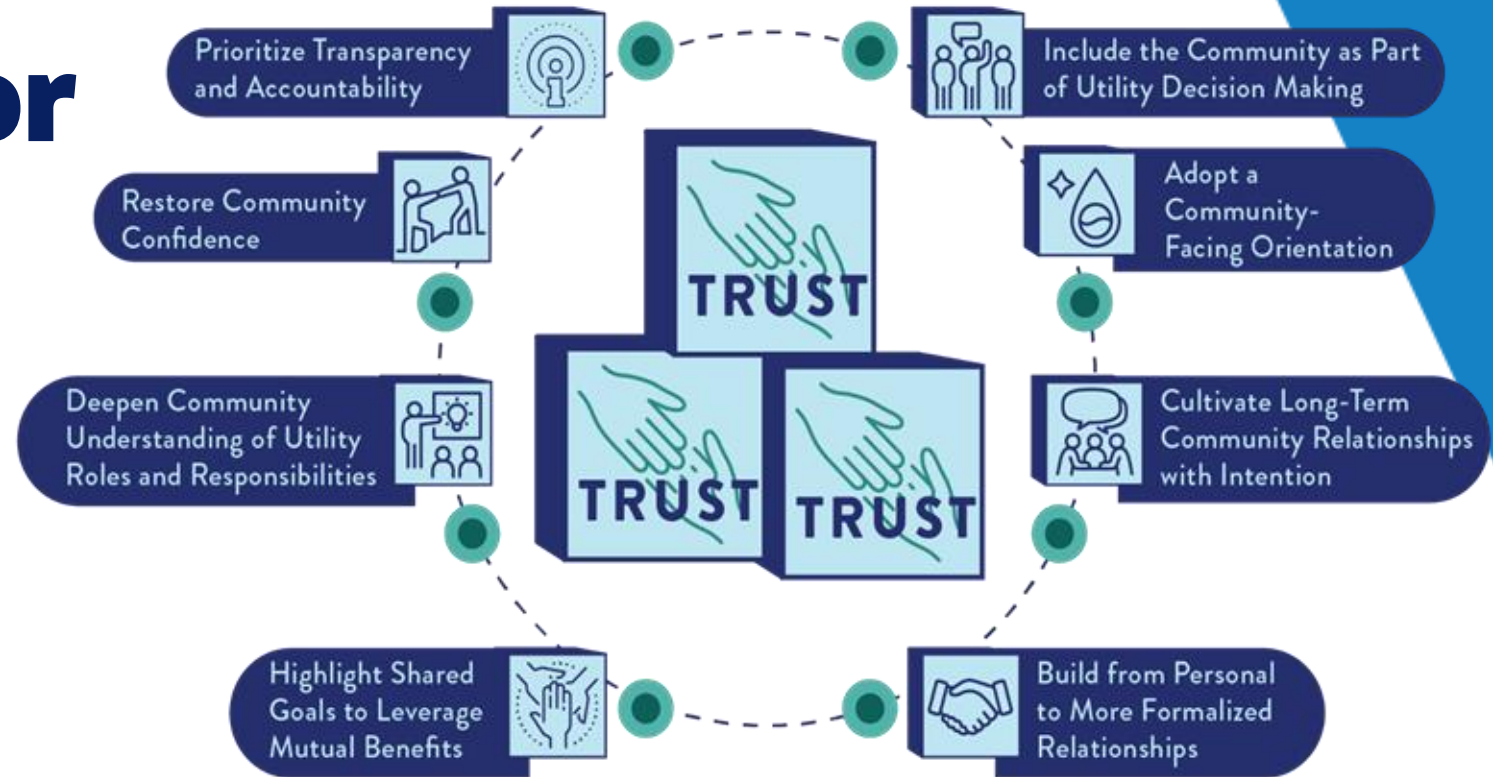
Project Accelerator Support

- 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



Building Blocks of Trust: Best Practices for Authentic Partnerships & Community Engagement



Building Blocks of Trust Training Series

Based on the Building Blocks of Trust report, this online, self-paced training series covers the 8 “Foundations of Trust.” Created to support community groups and water utilities in building strong relationships for clean and safe water, this training aims to uplift long-term partnerships with mutual benefits.

Sign Up Now





Please Complete the Post-Webinar Survey!

JOIN WATERNOW

LEARN MORE AND SIGN UP

www.waternow.org/join-the-leaders



WATERNOW ALLIANCE

THANK YOU!



For more information email:

Emerson O'Donnell, eo@waternow.org



Resources:

<https://efcnetwork.org/>