

Funding Resources for Tribal Resilience & Adaptation Projects

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WATER FINANCE
ASSISTANCE

This Session

- Discuss how to pay for utility capital projects
- Identify major infrastructure funding programs
- Describe changes and new programs due to COVID relief bills and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law



On the one hand,

Resilience and adaptation
projects are **just like any other
utility capital project...**



Ways to Pay for Infrastructure

- Use revenue generated from customers and/or from the Tribal Government
- Borrow money from lenders
- Federal loan and grant programs



Gold Financial Standard: Self Sufficiency

- Utilities bring in enough revenue from customers to cover their costs today and into the future

HOWEVER...



Gold Standard Adaptability in Indian Country

- 90% of Tribal public water systems serve less than 3,300 people
- 59% serve less than 500 people
- Some Tribal communities have extremely high unemployment rates
- Economies of scale can make it difficult to establish affordable water rates



The Importance of Federal Grants

- Currently, much of Tribal utility infrastructure replacement is paid for by federal grants
- These important programs help utilities cover the cost of infrastructure by limiting the financial impact on utility customers
- **LOTS** of money available now due to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill)



First Step: Asset Management

- Recognize the highest priority assets to replace
- Determine when to replace the assets
- Identify the appropriate funding sources



First Step: Risk-Resiliency Assessment & Emergency Response Plans

- Analysis of the threats your utility faces from nature and from people and how to address them
- You may want to replace assets before their useful life has worn out to achieve climate and resiliency concerns



Second Step: Financial Health

- Having stable revenue from rates and a detailed budget of annual costs will make it easier for utilities to obtain grant funding and loans



Existing Major Funding Programs



Sanitation Facilities Construction Program



Water and Waste Disposal Grants to Alleviate Health Risks on Tribal Lands and *Colonias*



Drinking Water Infrastructure Grants - Tribal Set-Aside Program



Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG)



ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act)

- Four categories of eligible uses:
- Replace lost revenue
- Respond to the public health and economic impacts of COVID-19
- Provide premium pay to eligible workers
- Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure



POLITICS

Biden signs \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill into law, unlocking funds for transportation, broadband, utilities

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KEY POINTS

- President Joe Biden signed the more than \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure plan into law Monday.
- The plan will put \$550 billion in new money into transportation, broadband and utilities.
- Biden made the case for Democrats' \$1.75 trillion proposal to invest in the social safety net and climate policy.

**Fast Money**

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UP NEXT | Mad Money 06:00 pm ET [Listen](#)**TRENDING NOW****1** Trump Organization convicted in New York criminal tax fraud case**2** This 28-year-old built a side hustle that brings in \$30,000 a month: 'I only have to work 6 hours a week'**3** Rising thefts at Walmart could lead to price jumps, store closures, CEO says

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

Program Name	Agency	Funding	Description
IHS Sanitation Facilities Construction Program	HHS	\$3.5 B	Funding to build infrastructure necessary to ensure a safe supply of drinking water, reliable sewage systems, and solid waste disposal facilities.



Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

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IHS Sanitation Facilities Construction Program	HHS	\$3.5 B	Funding to build infrastructure necessary to ensure a safe supply of drinking water, reliable sewage systems, and solid waste disposal facilities.
Clean Water and Drinking Water Grants	EPA	\$900 M	Funding for several programs at EPA to promote safe, healthy, and clean drinking water through State Revolving Funds.



BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

Investments in Tribal Nations and their Communities

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is a once-in-a-generation investment in infrastructure across the nation.

As a result of this legislation, EPA will be investing more than \$60 billion in the health, equity, and resilience of American communities, including resources for Tribal Nations and their communities. A top priority for EPA is uplifting underserved communities and Tribal Nations and their communities across the country that have endured deeply rooted public health and environmental challenges. Many of these communities have never received their fair share of federal infrastructure funding or benefitted from this funding, and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law represents an unprecedented opportunity to correct this disparity.

Resources include:

More than \$50 billion to improve drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure and to protect our regional waters. For more information see: EPA's fact sheet,

We must expect that the
funding will be **incredibly**
competitive



<https://efcnetwork.org/funding-sources-by-state/>

Tribal Water and Wastewater Funding Sources

Compiled by the Environmental Finance Center Network, February 2019

Organization	Program (key words)	Fed. Tribe	State Tribe	Tribal Orgs.	Purpose or Use of Funds	How to Apply	Website	Contact
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program (DWSRF) (water)	✓			The DWSRF program is available to drinking water systems to finance infrastructure improvements. The program also emphasizes providing funds to small and disadvantaged communities and to programs that encourage pollution prevention as a tool for ensuring safe drinking water. Projects that have received assistance from the national set-aside for Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages under the SDWA §1452(i) are ineligible to receive funding.	Contact the DWSRF program in your state for information on how to apply.	https://www.epa.gov/drinkingwatersrf	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water 202-564-4700 For regional specific contact see this map: https://www.epa.gov/drinkingwatersrf
	Drinking Water Infrastructure Grants Tribal Set-Aside Program (water)	✓			EPA's Drinking Water Infrastructure Grant – Tribal Set Aside (DWIG TSA) Program provides resources to assist tribes in improving water system infrastructure. Community water systems and non-profit non-community water systems serving tribal populations are eligible for project funding. Under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, projects for technical training and operator certification are now eligible to receive funding through DWIG TSA.	Contact the Regional DWIG TSA coordinator in your area for information on how to apply.	https://www.epa.gov/tribaldrinkingwater/tribal-set-aside-program-drinking-water-infrastructure-grant	Samuel Russell russell.sam@epa.gov 202-564-4012 For regional specific contact see this map: https://www.epa.gov/tribaldrinkingwater/regional-tribal-drinking-water-coordinators
	Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program (CWSRF) (wastewater, sewer)	✓			The Clean Water State Revolving Fund program funds water quality protection projects for wastewater treatment, nonpoint source pollution control, and watershed and estuary management.	Contact the CWSRF program in your state for information on how to apply.	http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/cwsrf/cwsrf_index.cfm	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Clean Water State Revolving Fund 202-564-4700 For regional specific contact: https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/forms/contact-us-about-clean-water-state-revolving-fund-cwsrf#state
	Clean Water Indian Set- Aside Program	✓			The Clean Water Indian Set-Aside Grant Program (CWISA) provides funding to Indian tribes and Alaska Native Villages for wastewater infrastructure. The CWISA program is administered in cooperation with the Indian Health Service (IHS). EPA uses	To be considered for CWISA program funding, tribes must identify their wastewater needs to the IHS Sanitation Deficiency	https://www.epa.gov/small-and-rural-wastewater-systems/clean-water-indian-set-aside-program	Matthew Richardson richardson.matthew@epa.gov 202-564-2947 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest

On the other hand,

Resilience and adaptation
projects **have special
funding sources...**



[Fed FUNDS for Water and Wastewater Utilities](#)

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Side by Side Comparison of Funds

- [Grants](#)
- [Loans](#)

Grants

Search:

Funding	Description	Eligible Grantees ¹	Eligibility Conditions	Cost Share	Action to Apply or Express Interest
FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA)	Provides grants for long-term solutions to reduce losses and protect life from future disasters. Three types of assistance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities (BRIC) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMPG) Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) 	Public, but varies for PNP or PFP- depends on type of assistance	Varies depending on type of assistance. See FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance or specific type (BRIC, HMPG, or FMA)	75% federal; 25% state and local match; see Combine Funding	Contact local government grant administrator or State Hazard Mitigation Officer ↗
FEMA Public Assistance (PA)	Provides grant assistance for emergency work (immediate threat to life) and for permanent work (to restore damaged infrastructure)	Public or PNP	Following a Presidentially Declared Disaster; only used to repair damaged parts of facility and to mitigate future damage.	75% federal; 25% state and local match; see Combine Funding	Contact local emergency management agency
HUD CDBG-DR	Provides grant assistance that funds the most impacted and distressed areas for various uses, including restoration of water and wastewater utilities	See HUD CDBG	Following Presidentially Declared Disaster, funds appropriated for long-term recovery.	Varies depending on project cost	Contact local municipal or county local HUD field office ↗
	Provides grant assistance that can be used to buy, construct, or fix	Entitlement communities (ET) ²	Must spend at least 70% of funds for low- and	Varies depending on project	Contact local municipal or county or

Thank You!



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