Clean Up Contaminated Sites and Invest in Water Infrastructure to Enhance the Livability and Economic Vitality of Overburdened and Underserved Communities

Goal Leaders:

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Barry Breen, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM)
Goal Team

**Goal Leaders:**
Benita Best-Wong, Deputy Assistant Administrator, OW  
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**Deputy Goal Leaders:**
Wynne Miller, Deputy Office Director, Office of Wastewater Management, OW  
Kent Benjamin, Director, Office of Communications, Partnerships and Analysis, OLEM
Goal Overview

Goal Statement

- **Clean up contaminated sites and invest in water infrastructure to enhance the livability and economic vitality of overburdened and underserved communities.** By September 30, 2023, EPA will provide technical assistance to at least 10 communities to help achieve clean and safe water and reduced exposures to hazardous substances.

Problems to be Solved

- Communities are frequently exposed to environmental harm from land and water pollution while also contending with challenges from aging infrastructure. These harms may be worsened by climate change.
- Underserved communities shoulder a disproportionate risk of exposure to pollution and human health risks. The processes for accessing EPA funding and technical assistance can be complex, and there is some variation in these processes across EPA programs. These factors can make it challenging for communities to access and utilize coordinated information on potential avenues for cleanup and revitalization.
- Communities need assistance understanding opportunities available for funding, technical assistance, and other forms of community support which may be available to assist them in their environmental challenges.
- EPA has a range of programs that support communities suffering the effects of climate change and/or environmental pollution. The agency needs to implement a “One EPA” approach that supports communities facing a range of environmental challenges by bringing together an array of EPA resources in an integrated, coordinated way.

What Success Looks Like

- This is a cross-media Agency Priority Goal (APG). EPA will identify communities to engage with and utilize the complementary legal authorities of its relevant programs to apply a holistic approach to address those community needs identified.
- EPA will leverage multiple programs, legal authorities, and funding sources, and apply them in a way that gives the communities meaningful input into the planning decisions and investment of resources for remediation and/or water infrastructure projects.
- This APG will utilize existing resources to meet communities “where they are,” including, but not limited to, helping them learn about available resources while helping them understand and reduce risks associated with inadequate drinking water, wastewater and/or stormwater treatment or legacy pollution and contamination which may be affecting their communities.
## Goal Target

### Tracking the goal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Achievement Statement</th>
<th>Key Indicators</th>
<th>Quantify Progress</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>By…</strong></td>
<td><strong>We will…</strong></td>
<td><strong>Name of Indicator</strong></td>
<td><strong>Target Value</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/30/2023</td>
<td>By September 30, 2023, EPA will provide technical assistance to at least 10 communities to help achieve clean and safe water and reduced exposures to hazardous substances.</td>
<td>Indicator of technical assistance provided to communities TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Goal Strategies

**Strategy 1 – Establish a Mapping Screening Tool for Identifying Selected Communities**

- Establish core data sources that will be used to map and initially identify selected communities. These sources will focus on overburdened and underserved or tribal communities undergoing cleanup activities and tackling water challenges.
- Identify optional data mapping sources to help filter or narrow down the list of selected communities. Potential data layers to help screen for communities may include:
  - Proximity to National Priorities List (Superfund) sites.
  - Brownfield properties.
  - Where State Revolving Funds, Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loans, Sewer Overflow Grants or other sources of funding exist to address water infrastructure or water pollution are being or could be invested.
  - Communities with other water quality impacts, existing collaborations (e.g., Urban Waters) or other investments, such as Clean Water Act Section 319 Non-Point Source grants.
  - Communities that meet or exceed the 80th percentile on the demographic index in EJSCREEN.
  - Communities on state overburdened and underserved community lists (which may have different criteria).
  - Tribes.
  - Cross link with Justice40 and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Public Law 117-58) goals.
- Make the initial mapping tool available for agency use with a final tool available to assist the prioritization process. Cross-media partners will be able to refine selected communities or tribes to capture communities that would be candidates but may not have been captured on the nationwide screening tool.
- The How’s My Waterway\(^1\) application can be used as an additional tool to screen for communities of interest.

**Strategy 2 – Establish and Apply Criteria for Selected Communities**

- Engage with EPA cross-media cleanup and water partners to develop additional criteria to refine overburdened, underserved or tribal communities.
- Prioritize communities that have existing, accessible funding, which they may not be fully utilizing, and/or that have complementary cleanup projects where additional funds can either start or accelerate project completion.
- Utilize lessons learned from community-focused programs, including the Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) Program, the Making a Visible Difference in Communities initiative, and the EPA Urban

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\(^1\) The How’s My Waterway app was designed to provide the general public with information about the condition of their local waters based on data that states, federal, tribal, local agencies and others have provided to EPA. For more information visit: [https://www.epa.gov/waterdata/hows-my-waterway](https://www.epa.gov/waterdata/hows-my-waterway).
Goal Strategies

Waters Program, to select criteria for engaging with overburdened and underserved or Tribal communities as they work to access, improve, and benefit from their waters and the surrounding land.

- Select communities for engagement and technical assistance.

Strategy 3 – Engage with Selected Communities

- Engage with selected communities or Tribes to discuss their concerns or challenges from the communities’ perspectives.
- Offer technical assistance to educate and connect overburdened and underserved communities to various sources of federal funding, as well as using Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Public Law 117-58) resources to implement Superfund cleanups and to improve their drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure. The community technical assistance initiative is critical to advancing the Administration’s Justice40 and environmental justice commitments with this unprecedented level of water infrastructure funding.
- Provide technical assistance (via EPA headquarters or regions, Environmental Finance Centers, contract support and/or state vehicles, etc.) to help the selected communities or Tribes understand how to access and/or apply for various forms of funding for water infrastructure that will enhance the livability and economic vitality of the community. The types of technical assistance will include, but are not limited to, financial planning and assessment, asset management, engineering assessments, education and outreach, community engagement, project and application development, etc. This type of assistance will help communities navigate the funding and financing and improve the likelihood of a successful funding application for water infrastructure projects.
- For Superfund sites, technical assistance opportunities are available to help communities understand the cleanup process so they may better participate in the Superfund decision-making process and in the future use the redevelopment of Superfund sites. Technical assistance may include applying for Superfund’s Technical Assistance Grant, accessing technical expertise through a contract, conducting reuse assessments, participating in the Superfund Job Training Initiative, education and outreach, translation services, and support for organizing Community Advisory Groups.
No graph until FY 2023 Q1.
# Key Milestones

## Strategy 1 – Establish a Mapping Screening Tool for Identifying Selected Communities or Tribes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Milestone</th>
<th>Milestone Due Date</th>
<th>Milestone Status</th>
<th>Change from Last Quarter</th>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Establish a data mapping screening tool for identifying communities to engage with under this APG.</td>
<td>FY 2022 Q3</td>
<td>Complete</td>
<td>Changed from “On Track” to “Complete”</td>
<td>Alex Porteous (OW); Daniel Crystal (OLEM)</td>
<td>Mapping tool is complete.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Strategy 2 – Establish and Apply Criteria for Selected Communities or Tribes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Milestone</th>
<th>Milestone Due Date</th>
<th>Milestone Status</th>
<th>Change from Last Quarter</th>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop criteria for selecting communities.</td>
<td>FY 2022 Q3</td>
<td>Complete</td>
<td>Changed from “On Track” to “Complete”</td>
<td>Wynne Miller (OW); Daniel Crystal (OLEM)</td>
<td>The minimum criteria have been selected and have been highlighted in the filters used for the mapping tool.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select communities.</td>
<td>FY 2022 Q4</td>
<td>On Track</td>
<td>Changed from “Not Yet Started” to “On Track”</td>
<td>Wynne Miller (OW); Daniel Crystal (OLEM)</td>
<td>The tools to select the communities are now available. Aim to complete selections in FY 2022 Q4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop indicator and targets to track the progress for technical assistance provided to communities.</td>
<td>FY 2023 Q1</td>
<td>Not Yet Started</td>
<td>Changed due date.</td>
<td>Wynne Miller (OW); Daniel Crystal (OLEM)</td>
<td>Will begin in FY 2022 Q4 but expect to finalize indicators and targets in the end of the first month of Q1.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Strategy 3 – Engage with Selected Communities or Tribes
## Key Milestones

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Milestone</th>
<th>Milestone Due Date</th>
<th>Milestone Status</th>
<th>Change from Last Quarter</th>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provide technical assistance to communities.</td>
<td>FY 2023 Q1</td>
<td>Not Yet Started</td>
<td>No Change</td>
<td>Sonia Brubaker (OW); Daniel Crystal (OLEM)</td>
<td>Aim to start in FY 2022 Q4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide technical assistance to communities.</td>
<td>FY 2023 Q2</td>
<td>Not Yet Started</td>
<td>No Change</td>
<td>Sonia Brubaker (OW); Daniel Crystal (OLEM)</td>
<td>Aim to start in FY 2022 Q4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide technical assistance to communities.</td>
<td>FY 2023 Q3</td>
<td>Not Yet Started</td>
<td>No Change</td>
<td>Sonia Brubaker (OW); Daniel Crystal (OLEM)</td>
<td>Aim to start in FY 2022 Q4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide technical assistance to communities.</td>
<td>FY 2023 Q4</td>
<td>Not Yet Started</td>
<td>No Change</td>
<td>Sonia Brubaker (OW); Daniel Crystal (OLEM)</td>
<td>Aim to start in FY 2022 Q4.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Narrative – FY22 Q1

## Summary of progress

In FY 2022 Q1 EPA is on target for meeting key indicators.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Jumping Off Point</th>
<th>FY 2022 Q1</th>
<th>FY 2022 Q2</th>
<th>FY 2022 Q3</th>
<th>FY 2022 Q4</th>
<th>FY 2023 Q1</th>
<th>FY 2023 Q2</th>
<th>FY 2023 Q3</th>
<th>FY 2023 Q4</th>
<th>Pref Dir</th>
<th>Trend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Technical Assistance Provided to Communities</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Target</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Accomplishments:
- **Strategy 1**
  - OW and OLEM have formed a cross-office workgroup to compile geospatial layers to be incorporated in a map screening tool.
  - A beta map screening tool has been completed. Regional staff have been incorporated into the workgroup to review the tool and provide recommendations.
- **Strategy 2**
  - No update at this time.
- **Strategy 3**
  - No update at this time.

### Challenges:
- **Strategy 1**
  - Nationally consistent approach for identifying overburdened or underserved communities is not available. The Demographic Index from EJ Screen, combined with EPA regional program involvement is the best available data for deriving overburdened and underserved communities.
  - The State Revolving Fund (SRF) data system is undergoing a redesign that will include improved geospatial data. The improved data are not yet available and likely won’t be available for the first release of the map screening tool. Please note: Since Q1 FY 2022, EPA has decided not to use information from the SRF data system in the screening tool for selection of communities for this APG.
- **Strategy 2**
  - No update at this time.
- **Strategy 3**
  - No update at this time.
Narrative – FY22 Q2

Summary of progress

In FY 2022 Q2 EPA is making progress toward the APG key milestones.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Jumping Off Point</th>
<th>FY 2022 Q1</th>
<th>FY 2022 Q2</th>
<th>FY 2022 Q3</th>
<th>FY 2022 Q4</th>
<th>FY 2023 Q1</th>
<th>FY 2023 Q2</th>
<th>FY 2023 Q3</th>
<th>FY 2023 Q4</th>
<th>Pref Dir</th>
<th>Trend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Technical Assistance Provided to Communities</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Target</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actual</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Accomplishments:
- Strategy 1
  - OW and OLEM staff have developed and begun to share the map screening tool with OW and OLEM management, as well as the Regions, to showcase and begin testing its abilities. Adjustments will be made as appropriate as feedback is received on the use of the tool. The mapping tool includes the beta version of CEQ’s Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST).
- Strategy 2
  - OW and OLEM staff have begun to discuss criteria for selecting the communities, with the identification and incorporation of data for the mapping tool.
- Strategy 3
  - No update at this time.

Challenges:
- Strategy 1
  - OW is redesigning the State Revolving Fund (SRF) data system to include improved geospatial data. The improved data are not yet available and likely won’t be available for the first release of the map screening tool.
  - OW and OLEM have incorporated data from the beta version of CEQ’s CEJST into the final OW/OLEM map screening tool that is under management review. OW and OLEM will need to update the map screening tool once the CEJST data are finalized.
- Strategy 2
  - No update at this time.
- Strategy 3
Narrative – FY22 Q2

- No update at this time
Narrative – FY22 Q3

Summary of progress

In FY 2022 Q3 EPA is making progress toward the APG key milestones.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Jumping Off Point</th>
<th>FY 2022 Q1</th>
<th>FY 2022 Q2</th>
<th>FY 2022 Q3</th>
<th>FY 2022 Q4</th>
<th>FY 2023 Q1</th>
<th>FY 2023 Q2</th>
<th>FY 2023 Q3</th>
<th>FY 2023 Q4</th>
<th>Pref Dir</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Technical Assistance Provided to Communities</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Target</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td></td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actual</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Accomplishments:
  
  o Strategy 1
    
    o The mapping tool is complete and utilizes EPA’s GeoPlatform resources to pull over 40 OW and OLEM datasets together in pre-existing web services in a discoverable and accessible way.
  
  o Strategy 2
    
    o EPA has set the following minimum criteria for identifying communities to engage with for this APG:
      • Communities must have both hazardous waste and water challenges. The mapping tool visualizes HUC-12 watersheds that include at least one Superfund Site. The tool also identifies Brownfield properties within those watersheds.
      • The following demographic data from EJSCREEN Environmental Justice Indices at the Census Block Group Level will be used. These datasets will help identify those communities that meet or exceed the 80th percentile of these demographic indices:
        • Low income.
        • Linguistically isolated.
        • Less than high school education.
    
    o The minimum criteria for community selection have been set as the default filters in the mapping tool. Regional EPA offices will select which communities to engage with under this APG and provide the technical assistance.
  
  o Strategy 3
    
    o No update at this time.

Challenges:

  o Strategy 1
    
    o No update at this time.
  
  o Strategy 2
Due to the large number of stakeholders, a significant amount of coordination and communication is needed to familiarize all stakeholders with their current and future roles in implementing the APG.

- Strategy 3
  - No update at this time.
Data Accuracy & Reliability

Mapping Screening Tool

- **Data Sources:** The mapping tool used to identify communities will include several available online datasets including:
  - Demographic Index from EPA's EJ Screen, available at: https://geopub.epa.gov/arcgis/rest/services/ejscreen/Demographic_Indicators_2020_Public/MapServer/0.
  - SRF investments (both Drinking Water and Clean Water). These data are expected to be available in FY 2023.
  - Other land sites from Cleanups in My Community, available at: https://map22.epa.gov/arcgis/rest/services/cimc/Cleanups/MapServer/0.
  - State Water Quality Assessments and Identified Impaired Waters, available at: https://gispub.epa.gov/arcgis/rest/services/OW/ATTAINS_Assessment/MapServer.
  - Watershed Index Online (WSIO), available at: https://www.epa.gov/wsio/wsio-indicator-data-library.
  - Compass for financial data, which is the enterprise financial system maintained by the EPA.
  - National Priorities List Site Profile pages at: https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/CurSites/srchsites.cfm.
  - Superfund Site Specific Community Involvement Plans.

- **Methodology:** Using the datasets from both OW and OLEM, EPA will create an online web mapping application using ArcGIS Online. This tool will allow users to overlay the data to identify communities of interest. This will include using geospatial tools for evaluating co-location of water and land investments with communities that score 80 percent or above on the Demographic Index Score. To assist with the identification of these communities, users will be able to identify geospatial extents for areas of interest and retrieve all the corresponding data for that area of interest. These identified areas can then be saved which will serve as the baseline for future engagement activities under this goal. Users will be able to adjust the screen to reflect state/regional specific indexes.

- **Quality Assurance/Quality Controls (QA/QC):** This map will rely upon existing QA/QC controls that are already in place for the ingested datasets. To the extent that derived layers are developed to support this effort, EPA will evaluate the methodology used to derive those layers and evaluate any products developed to ensure that they are accurately representing the original source material.
Data Accuracy & Reliability

- **Data Limitations/Qualifications**: Complete locational data for State Revolving Fund investments is not currently available, but the data system for tracking that information is currently undergoing a redesign. Improved data are expected in 2023 which will help EPA identify geographically where State Revolving Funds are being invested. Additionally, a nationally consistent approach for identifying overburdened or underserved communities is not available. The Demographic Index from EJSCREEN, combined with EPA regional program involvement is the best available data for deriving overburdened and underserved communities.

### Criteria for Selecting Communities

- **Data Source**: Mapping Screening Tool and local knowledge.
- **Methodology**: EPA will develop the criteria for determining the targeted communities. This will include communities that have both land and water issues or investments. It could also include underserved or overburdened communities that are already targeted to receive technical assistance or have access to funding in FY 2023. EPA regional offices will develop criteria that is relevant for the issues they are facing, and the mapping screening tool will be flexible enough to allow regional offices to apply their own criteria to help identify their communities.
- **QA/QC**: Criteria will be shared between EPA regions and headquarters to ensure approaches are consistent and comparable, even though there will be some variability in approaches among regional offices.
- **Data Limitations/Qualifications**: None expected at this time.

### Identification of Communities

- **Data Source**: Mapping screening tool, local knowledge, and established selection criteria.
- **Calculation Methodology**: Using the finalized selection criteria, EPA will identify communities to receive the targeted technical assistance envisioned and will identify the geospatial extent and/or description of these communities which will then serve as the universe for this goal.
- **QA/QC**: EPA will ensure that geospatial extents and/or descriptions for these communities are developed in a consistent manner that will allow them to be tracked and reported over time.
- **Data Limitations/Qualifications**: Defining what is a ‘community’ could be a variable.
Contributing Programs

Organizations:

- **EPA’s Office of Water**: OW ensures drinking water is safe, and restores and maintains oceans, watersheds, and their aquatic ecosystems to protect human health, support economic and recreational activities, and provide healthy habitat for fish, plants and wildlife.

- **EPA’s Office of Land and Emergency Management**: OLEM provides policy, guidance and direction for the agency’s emergency response and waste programs. OLEM responds to abandoned and active hazardous waste sites, as well as accidental chemical releases through the Superfund Program.

Program Activities:

- **Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)**: The CWSRF, which was established by the 1987 CWA amendments, is a federal-state partnership that provides communities low-cost financing for a wide range of water quality infrastructure projects. For the CWSRF appropriation, EPA uses an allocation formula to provide grants to all 50 states plus Puerto Rico (51 SRF programs) to capitalize state CWSRF loan programs. The 51 state CWSRF programs function like environmental infrastructure banks by providing low interest loans to eligible recipients for water infrastructure projects. As money is paid back into the state’s revolving loan fund, the state makes new loans to other recipients for high priority, water quality activities. EPA also provides direct grant funding for the District of Columbia, U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas in the form of grants and loans.

- **Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)**: The DWSRF, which was established by the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) amendments, is a financial assistance program to help water systems and states achieve the health protection objectives of the SDWA. EPA awards capitalization grants to each state for their DWSRF based upon the results of the most recent Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment. Under the DWSRF, EPA provides grants to all 50 states plus Puerto Rico (51 SRF programs) to capitalize state DWSRF loan programs. The 51 state DWSRF programs function like infrastructure banks by providing low interest loans to eligible recipients for drinking water infrastructure projects. The program also provides direct grant funding for the District of Columbia, U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas in the form of grants and loans.

- **Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Program**: The WIFIA Program, which was established in 2014, is a federal credit program administered by EPA. The WIFIA Program accelerates investments in water and wastewater infrastructure of national and regional significance by offering loans to creditworthy borrowers for up to 49 percent of eligible project costs. Annually, EPA announces the amount of funding it will have available and solicits letters of interest from prospective borrowers. Prospective borrowers will submit letters of interest that demonstrates their projects’ eligibility, financial creditworthiness, engineering feasibility, and alignment with WIFIA selection criteria. Using the information provided
Additional Information

in the letter of interest, EPA will evaluate and select projects to finance. For the selected projects, prospective borrowers will be invited to apply to EPA for a WIFIA loan. In the application, selected prospective borrowers provide EPA with materials necessary to underwrite the proposed WIFIA assistance and to develop an individual loan agreement between the applicant and EPA. WIFIA loans are approved by the EPA Administrator and the Office of Management and Budget prior to closing.

- **Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants (OSG) Program**: The Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants was reauthorized by America’s Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) of 2018 and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021. Both laws amended the Clean Water Act Section 221. These amendments expanded project eligibilities to include stormwater management projects and authorized appropriations for the Program. Grants are awarded to states, which provide sub-awards to eligible entities for projects that address infrastructure needs for Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs), Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs), and stormwater management. States are required to prioritize funding projects for communities that are financially distressed, have a long-term municipal CSO or SSO control plan, or for projects that have requested a grant on their CWSRF Intended Use Plan. IIJA also amended the program to include that at least 25 percent of a state’s grant go to financially distressed communities or rural communities having a population of 10,000 or less. States select the projects to fund and make the funding decisions.

- **Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center**: The Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center serves as a resource to communities to improve their wastewater, drinking water, and stormwater systems, particularly through innovative financing and increased system resiliency.

- **Clean Water Indian Set-Aside (CWISA) Program**: The CWISA provides funding to Indian tribes and Alaska Native Villages for wastewater infrastructure and is administered in cooperation with the Indian Health Service (IHS). Since FY 2016, the CWISA appropriation from Congress has been either two percent of the CWSRF or $30 million, whichever is greater. To be considered for CWISA program funding, tribes must identify their wastewater needs to the IHS Sanitation Deficiency System (SDS). EPA uses the IHS Sanitation Deficiency System priority lists to identify and select projects for CWISA program funding.

- **Drinking Water Indian Set-Aside**: The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) authorized EPA to set-aside up to 1.5 percent of the DWSRF for grants to improve the infrastructure of drinking water systems that serve tribes (SDWA §1452i). Congress increased the tribal set aside funds to two percent, in 2010. Through this authority, EPA established the Drinking Water Infrastructure Grants Tribal Set-Aside (DWIG-TSA) Program. EPA uses a formula to allocate DWIG-TSA program funds among the EPA regional offices annually. EPA regions are responsible for working with the IHS and the tribes, to identify, prioritize, and select projects to receive funding from its share of the program funds. Community water systems and non-profit, non-community water systems that serve a tribal population are eligible to have projects funded, in whole or in part, with DWIG-TSA funds.
Additional Information

- **Alaska Native Villages and Rural Communities Water (ANV) Grant Program**: The Alaska Native Village (ANV) Infrastructure program aims to improve sanitation conditions in rural and Alaska Native villages. The ANV program funds infrastructure in addition to providing technical, financial, and managerial training assistance through the Remote Maintenance Worker (RMW) and Rural Utility Business Advisory (RUBA) programs administered by the State of Alaska. The RUBA program is the lead for helping the community develop capacity using best practices as measure of capacity. Note that the Norton Sound Health Corporation (NSHC) implements the RMW program for their communities.

- **Clean Water Act Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Grant Program**: Under Section 319, states, territories, and tribes receive grant money that supports a wide variety of activities including technical assistance, financial assistance, education, training, technology transfer, demonstration projects and monitoring to assess the success of specific nonpoint source implementation projects. EPA uses an allocation formula to allocate Section 319 funds to the states and territories. There is also a tribal set aside that provides eligible tribes (200+ tribes) a modest base grant ($30k or $50k) as well as the opportunity to compete for additional nonpoint source project funding ($100k/project) through a national Request for Proposals process.

- **National Estuary Program (NEP)**: There are 28 designated NEPs covering estuaries of national significance across the United States. Each NEP is governed by a regional stakeholder Management Conference which develops and implements a Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) for their estuarine watershed. The NEP is funded annually by Congress through CWA Section 320 and EPA evenly distributes this funding among the 28 programs through individual non-competitive grants to implement these CCMPs. The NEPs develop and implement a broad range of projects to protect and restore waterways and habitat at landscape scale, and they play important roles in building climate resiliency and reducing nutrient pollution. Congress also appropriates funding annually for competitive grants to address urgent, emerging, and challenging issues that threaten the ecological and economic well-being of these estuaries, or that relate to the coastal resiliency of such estuaries.

- **Urban Waters Federal Partnership (UWFP)**: Urban Waters works to connect communities with their urban watersheds in metropolitan areas across the United States. The Program fosters collaborative community programs to enhance water quality and citizen access, with a particular focus on environmental justice and climate equity impacts in overburdened and underserved communities. The collaborative network of government, non-governmental organization (NGO), academic, and business partners informs and supports work in hundreds of communities. Urban waters ambassadors work to leverage funds from other federal programs to accomplish shared goals and priority projects. Urban Waters is a discretionary program without a dedicated budget line item, and EPA provides modest funding to many of its 20 partnership locations, principally for local community ambassadors and technical assistance. EPA supports the 20 partnership locations and additional communities outside of the formally designated locations with communication and training support through the Urban Waters Learning Network.
Superfund Remedial: The Superfund Remedial Program addresses many of the worst contaminated areas in the United States by investigating contamination and implementing long-term cleanup remedies. The Program also oversees response work conducted by potentially responsible parties (PRPs) at National Priorities List (NPL) and Superfund Alternative Approach (SAA) sites. By cleaning up and returning land to productive use, the Superfund Remedial Program improves the health and livelihood of all Americans and supports the Administration’s goal to reduce the effects of exposure to Superfund site contamination. The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) provides the legal basis for the Program.

Justice40:
- Justice40 is a whole-of-government effort to ensure that federal agencies work with states, local communities, and other partners and stakeholders to follow through on President Biden’s promise to deliver at least 40 percent of the overall benefits from federal investments in climate and clean energy to overburdened and underserved communities. Environmental policy decisions have failed to adequately account for environmental injustice, including the disproportionate, disparate, and cumulative impacts pollution and climate change have on low-income communities and communities of color. This APG will focus on enhancing benefits for overburdened and underserved and/or tribal communities.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Public Law 117-58):
- Following the passage of the historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also referred to as Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Public Law 117-58), EPA will be making significant investments in the health, equity, and resilience of American communities. With unprecedented funding to support our national infrastructure, EPA will improve people’s health and safety, help create good-paying jobs, and increase climate resilience throughout the country. The nation has underinvested in water infrastructure for too long. Insufficient water infrastructure threatens America’s security, and it risks people’s health, jobs, peace of mind, and future prosperity. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law delivers more than $50 billion to EPA to improve our nation’s drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure. In addition, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests $3.5 billion in cleaning up legacy pollution at Superfund sites, helping to restore the economic vitality of communities.