

Federal and Non-Profit Funding Programs – Wastewater Management & Green Infrastructure Projects

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Program	Program Description	Example of Funded Projects
<p>Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)</p>	<p>The CWSRF program is a federal-state partnership that provides low-cost financing to communities for a wide range of water quality infrastructure projects, including municipal wastewater facilities, nonpoint source pollution control, decentralized wastewater treatment systems, stormwater runoff mitigation, green infrastructure, estuary protection, and water reuse.</p> <p>See more about eligibilities here.</p> <p>This factsheet highlights successful case studies and examples of ways state CWSRF programs can prioritize green infrastructure projects for funding by implementing priority point systems, program set-asides, and marketing strategies for state programs.</p> <p>The 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) allocated an unprecedented \$11.7 billion in Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) to states across the country.</p> <p>This substantial funding aims to modernize and enhance water and wastewater systems, with a special focus on promoting resilience to disasters. Notably, almost half of this funding is dedicated to supporting underserved or disadvantaged communities through grants and principal forgiveness loans.</p>	<p>Superstorm Sandy, the deadliest and costliest storm of the 2012 hurricane season, exposed the vulnerability of densely populated communities to extreme weather events and coastal flooding. To address this, the U.S. Congress allocated \$600 million in State Revolving Fund (SRF) funds for New York and New Jersey.</p> <p>The funds were used to establish the Storm Mitigation Loan Program (SMLP) by the New York Environmental Facilities Corporation (NYEFC), supporting Clean Water SRF projects with \$339.7 million.</p> <p>The SMLP aimed to enhance resilience through flood-proofing critical treatment systems, upgrading pump stations, and promoting sustainable practices in water infrastructure.</p> <p>Presently, the NYEFC continues to collaborate with communities, offering grants and low-interest loans for resilience and mitigation projects, with additional assistance available through the Clean Water SRF if needed.</p> <p>The Wellington Avenue Combined Sewage Overflow Treatment Facility (WACSOTF) in Newport, Rhode Island secured a \$5.4 million</p>

		<p>CWSRF loan from the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank at a 2.16 percent interest rate.</p> <p>This funding was used to upgrade and fortify WACSOTF, enhancing flood protection, station resiliency against rising sea levels, and increasing the capacity of sanitary pumps and force main to eliminate CSOs.</p> <p>Additional improvements were made to the chlorination system's capacity and automation, and a feasibility assessment was conducted for incorporating dechlorination as an interim measure. Ancillary electrical, mechanical, and HVAC systems were also upgraded to boost reliability, worker safety, and energy efficiency.</p>
<p>Section 319 Nonpoint Source Grant Program</p>	<p>Clean Water Act Section 319(h) funds are exclusively allocated to designated state and tribal agencies for the implementation of their approved nonpoint source management programs.</p> <p>These programs encompass a range of components, including technical assistance, financial aid, education, training, technology transfer, demonstration projects, and regulatory initiatives. EPA awards Section 319(h) funds to states annually based on a state-specific allocation formula developed in consultation with the states.</p> <p>Funding decisions are made by the states, with proposed plans submitted to EPA. If plans align with grant eligibility requirements and procedures, EPA grants the funds to the respective states.</p> <p>The funding primarily aims to tackle nonpoint source pollution caused by runoff carrying pollutants into waterways. Notably, EPA</p>	<p>The District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) used Section 319 funding to partially fund remediation of the Watts Branch watershed in northeast D.C.</p> <p>Watts Branch suffered from severe erosion and sediment pollution due to frequent flooding. DDOE led a project to restore the stream bed and control flooding using tree and shrub plantings, regrading of the stream bed, and upstream low-impact development practices to manage impervious surface runoff.</p>

	<p>recognizes the significance of green infrastructure in stormwater management and supports funding green infrastructure projects.</p> <p>See guidelines here.</p>	
<p>Urban Waters Small Grants Program (UWSG)</p>	<p>The Urban Waters Program focuses on connecting and improving waterways in urban and economically distressed areas, collaborating with diverse partners to restore water quality and revitalize neighboring communities.</p> <p>This partnership-driven initiative offers communities economic, environmental, and social benefits while working with federal, state, and local agencies, as well as community-led efforts, to achieve common goals.</p> <p>Specifically, the Urban Waters Small Grants Program provides funding to underserved communities with environmental justice concerns and susceptible populations.</p> <p>Eligible applicants include state, local, and tribal governments, as well as universities and nonprofit organizations.</p> <p>The grants support the implementation of innovative green infrastructure practices aimed at enhancing water quality and stimulating neighborhood revitalization. See more information and examples of projects here.</p>	<p>Heal the Bay will monitor bacterial water pollution at two recreational zones in the Los Angeles River. Water quality data will be made available regularly to the public. Results of the study will be used to make recommendations to agencies and watershed stakeholders for improving water quality and protecting public health.</p> <p>The Clean Air Council will develop and implement a green infrastructure plan to address chronic flooding in the economically disadvantaged Southbridge neighborhood of South Wilmington, Delaware.</p> <p>As part of this project, community members will identify and determine the green policies and infrastructure improvements they would like to incorporate into the neighborhood plan to reduce stormwater runoff and damage.</p>
<p>The Environmental Justice Collaborative</p>	<p>The Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving (EJCPS) Cooperative Agreement Program offers financial support to eligible organizations aiming to address local environmental or public health issues within their communities.</p>	<p>Mobile Baykeeper in Alabamawill train residents in communities surrounding Threemile Creek to conduct long-term monitoring of local waterways.</p>

[Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program](#)

To secure funding, applicants must build collaborative partnerships with various stakeholders, such as local businesses, government, medical service providers, and academia, to develop solutions for the identified issues.

The program requires the use of EPA's Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Model, emphasizing a collaborative approach with communities, industry, academic institutions, and others.

Eligible entities include community-based nonprofit organizations (CBOs) or partnerships of CBOs, which must be documented with a signed Letter of Commitment outlining the partnership's parameters and the roles and responsibilities of the partnering organizations.

Successful strategies from previous projects are highlighted in case studies for reference. Find out more [here](#).

Through data collection and analysis, the community will develop strategies to reduce impacts from stormwater runoff.

The project will meet its goal by establishing a comprehensive outreach and education campaign, community cleanup efforts and a coalition of residents dedicated to sustaining clean waterways.

In an effort to address water quality and flooding, Blight to Bioswales (B2B) Water Quality Project will empower, educate and train low-income African American residents in New Orleans, LA to create an action plan to address environmental and public health issues to prevent water pollution under the Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3).

This project specifically addresses environmental and public health threats related to storm water runoff, disaster resiliency and water quality through training residents to engage in community assessments of risk and foster community participation in collaborations with partners (decision-makers, researchers) to work together to build community capacity to address local water quality and mitigate disaster impacts from flooding through soil testing of pollution on blighted lots and investigating community bioswales to effectively manage stormwater runoff.

The project includes the training of 40 homeless individuals who will install a demonstration riparian buffer to protect the watershed from runoff.

[Overflow and Stormwater](#)

The OSG grant program aims to address urban stormwater pollution and improve critical stormwater infrastructure, including

The District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) received an \$866,000 federal grant from the EPA's Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants (OSG) Program.

[Grant program \(OSG\)](#)

combined sewer overflows (CSOs) and sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs).

Under the America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA), which amended the Clean Water Act, states award grants to eligible entities for projects focusing on CSOs, SSOs, and stormwater management.

These grants prioritize funding for financially distressed communities and those with long-term control plans, allocating at least 20 percent of a state's allocation for green infrastructure, water and energy efficiency improvements, and other environmentally innovative activities.

Additionally, states are required to use at least 25 percent of the grant for projects in rural communities and/or financially distressed communities.

The program has been appropriated over \$120 million, and EPA utilizes data from the latest Clean Watersheds Needs Survey, along with supplemental data on population, urban population, and precipitation, to determine the allotment formula for each state. Read more on implementation [here](#).

The funding aims to minimize pollutant leaching from municipal industrial vehicles, such as snow plows and trash trucks, reducing pollutant runoff into local sewers and waterways.

The project will involve constructing protective canopies and regrading the surrounding area, diverting approximately 41,188 gallons of stormwater from these vehicles.

[Environmental Justice Small Grants Program \(EJSG\)](#)

Since its inception in 1994, the Environmental Justice Small Grants (EJSG) Program has provided over \$37 million in funding to more than 1500 community-based organizations, tribal governments, and Native American organizations, collaborating to tackle environmental justice issues.

Atlantic State Legal Foundation (Syracuse, NY) and its project partners intends to increase the project participants' awareness on stormwater management and air quality.

Through a demonstration agroforestry project, the residents of Syracuse and Onondaga, will be trained on how to reduce volatile

The EJSG Program funds communities to address local environmental and public health challenges.

It aims to enhance community understanding and response to multiple environmental harms and risks.

Project funding, up to \$100,000, depends on annual fund availability, with all projects associated with at least one qualified environmental statute. See this [FAQ](#) for more information.

compounds, particulate matter, water pollution and stormwater entering municipal sewer systems.

Outreach and education will focus on communicating the benefits of agroforestry and urban trees as they relate to stormwater mitigation, air quality improvement, food security, greenspace access, urban heat island mitigation, and urban resilience.

The Water is Life project (Los Angeles, CA) will create a more aware, informed and water resilient Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander community, especially among immigrants and limited English proficient residents, in the San Gabriel Valley of Los Angeles County.

By providing culturally and linguistically appropriate education on topics related to water capture, conservation and contamination, the project will increase awareness of local water issues among residents and city officials, elevate community voices and concerns related to drinking water safety, and mobilize community action to change water use habits.

The project will also engage residents in local water resource conservation strategies by encouraging stormwater capture practices, such as installation of rain barrels on residential sites, and collaborating with city leaders and residents to identify potential sites for a multi-benefit stormwater capture project.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Program	Program Description	Example of Funded Projects
Rural Development Water and Environmental Programs (WEP)	<p>The Rural Utilities Service Water and Environmental Programs (WEP) is a series of programs that offer funding and technical assistance to rural communities for developing drinking water and waste disposal systems. WEP focuses exclusively on rural communities with populations of 10,000 or less. The programs can provide technical assistance and financing for development of drinking water, waste disposal, and stormwater systems in rural areas.</p>	<p>Revolving Funds for Financing Water and Wastewater Projects (Revolving Fund Program) helps qualified nonprofits create revolving loan funds that can provide financing to extend and improve water and waste disposal systems in rural areas.</p> <p>Technical Assistance and Construction for Innovative Regional Wastewater Treatment Solutions (TAC-RWTS) Grant Pilot Program - Grants may be made to eligible entities for the study, design, or construction of regional wastewater systems for historically impoverished communities that have had difficulty installing traditional wastewater treatment systems due to soil conditions.</p>
Rural Development Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program	<p>The program provides funding for clean and reliable drinking water systems, sanitary sewage disposal, and storm water drainage in eligible rural areas. Qualified applicants include most state and local governmental entities, private nonprofits, and federally recognized tribes. The funding is available through long-term, low-interest loans, and in some cases, grants may be combined with loans to keep user costs reasonable. The program aims to extend and improve water and waste treatment facilities for very small, financially distressed rural communities, benefiting local households, businesses, and the natural environment.</p>	<p>Wolcott, Indiana, celebrated the completion of a new wastewater treatment facility funded by USDA Rural Development with \$2.9 million through the Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program. The modern facility replaces the outdated 1977 plant, tripling the wastewater capacity. It will accommodate current and future needs for citizens, businesses, and the Mid-American Commerce Park development.</p>
U.S. Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program	<p>The USDA Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry Program is a federal initiative focused on urban forests. It provides technical, financial, and educational assistance for nature-based solutions in climate and environmental justice, and green jobs. These projects</p>	<p>With the University of Puerto Rico, the program aided the Capetillo Garden and Community Forest, which is a community-led urban forest in the heart of San Juan. The forest boasts a community garden, a hoop house, and many fruit trees that provide fresh food</p>

exemplify the program's commitment to nature-based solutions, useful in stormwater management and addressing national priorities.

and a place for educational and community activities. This project will help identify management practices that will help increase resiliency to climate change and hurricanes.

U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Program	Program Description	Example of Funded Projects
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	<p>The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program supports community development activities aimed at building stronger and more resilient communities. Eligible projects under this program encompass infrastructure, economic development, public facilities installation, community centers, housing rehabilitation, public services, and more. Notably, CDBG funds can be used for stormwater and green infrastructure initiatives, as these projects contribute to job creation, increased economic activity, and enhanced property values. Green infrastructure mitigates flooding, enhances neighborhood aesthetics, and provides multiple co-benefits.</p> <p>The CDBG program prioritizes expanding economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income areas and can support drinking water and wastewater projects. Two key program areas include the State Administered CDBG Program for smaller communities (with populations under 50,000 for cities and under 200,000 for counties) and the CDBG Entitlement Program, which provides annual grants to cities with populations of at least 50,000 and urban counties with populations of at least 200,000.</p>	<p>Detroit, MI used \$8.9 million in CDBG funds in 2014 to create a major flood prevention and economic development program. Detroit is using the funding to demolish blighted properties, landscape and install trees on 200 vacant lots to improve stormwater management and neighborhood aesthetics, and install infrastructure that will direct stormwater into new bio-retention basins.</p> <p>Chicago has used CDBG funding to put a new green roof on its historic Cultural Center.</p>

[Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program](#)

The Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program allows CDBG recipients to utilize their annual grant allocation for low-cost and flexible financing of neighborhood revitalization projects, including public facility and infrastructure construction. Green infrastructure elements can be integrated into these projects. Through Section 108, CDBG recipients gain access to funding for economic development, housing, and public facility initiatives.

See above.

Federal Emergency Management Administration – FEMA

Program	Program Description	Example of Funded Projects
Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)	<p>The BRIC program provides funding to states, local communities, tribes, and territories for hazard mitigation projects, reducing risks from disasters and natural hazards.</p> <p>Its guiding principles focus on capability- and capacity-building, promoting innovation, encouraging partnerships, enabling large projects, maintaining flexibility, and providing consistency.</p> <p>The funding addresses future risks related to wildfires, droughts, hurricanes, earthquakes, extreme heat, and flooding, ultimately enhancing community resilience.</p> <p>Eligible projects include hazard mitigation initiatives that bolster infrastructure (including wastewater and green infrastructure)</p>	<p>The City of Atlanta’s Department of Watershed Management leverage BRIC funding to require the use of green infrastructure on new and redevelopment projects in its Post-Development Stormwater Management Ordinance.</p> <p>One example of a large-scale project funded is the Capacity Relief Pond at the Historic Fourth Ward Park. This project provides stormwater drainage relief to the area within a 300-acre drainage basin with artistic elements to aerate and recycle pond water instead of drainage pipes.</p> <p>This serves as the park’s centerpiece and is surrounded by walking trails, native plantings, and an amphitheater.</p>

and communities to better confront natural hazards, reducing potential risks and increasing overall resilience.

See their [guide](#) for implementing nature-based solutions for more information.

[Flood Mitigation Assistance \(FMA\) Program](#)

The FMA program offers grants to states, local communities, tribes, and territories, providing funding for projects that mitigate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings insured by the National Flood Insurance Program.

FEMA selects recipients based on project rankings, eligibility, and cost-effectiveness. Additionally, FEMA requires state, local, tribal, and territorial governments to adopt hazard mitigation plans to receive certain types of non-emergency disaster assistance, including funding for hazard mitigation projects.

This program not only aims to reduce risk from future hazard events but also encourages sustained pre-disaster natural hazard mitigation efforts, decreasing reliance on federal funding in future disasters.

Through planning and project grants, it provides opportunities for raising public awareness about proactive measures to reduce future losses before disasters strike.

As a result, the FMA program presents a potential avenue to fund green infrastructure or wastewater management initiatives that

See above.

	<p>can contribute to reducing the impact of floods and enhancing overall disaster resilience.</p>	
<p>Public Assistance (PA) Program</p>	<p>FEMA's Public Assistance Program offers supplemental grants to state, tribal, territorial, and local governments, as well as certain private non-profits, to swiftly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies, such as hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, or wildfires.</p> <p>This program covers expenses for debris removal, life-saving emergency protective measures, and the restoration of public infrastructure. Additionally, FEMA encourages communities to protect damaged facilities from future events by providing assistance for hazard mitigation measures during the recovery process.</p> <p>Eligible applicants for Public Assistance include states, tribal governments, U.S. territories, local governments, and certain private non-profit organizations. Funding supports the restoration of disaster-damaged facilities to their pre-disaster design and function, while also allowing for cost-effective hazard mitigation measures to reduce the impact of future disasters.</p> <p>For instance, FEMA might fund measures like upsizing culverts, increasing pipe capacity, or redirecting stormwater flow to mitigate future flooding impacts. The program emphasizes resilience and efficient post-disaster recovery efforts, enabling communities to better face future hazards.</p>	<p>See above.</p>

U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)

Program	Program Description	Example of Funded Projects
Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program	<p>The RAISE Discretionary Grant program, formerly known as BUILD and TIGER Discretionary Grants, offers nearly \$14.3 billion in funding for road, rail, transit, and port projects that align with national objectives and have significant local or regional impact.</p> <p>Importantly, the program's eligibility requirements allow funding for multi-modal, multi-jurisdictional projects that may be challenging to support through traditional DOT programs.</p> <p>This flexibility facilitates direct collaboration with various entities responsible for transportation infrastructure, including green infrastructure components.</p>	<p>The TIGER funded Connective Corridor in Syracuse, NY exemplifies an extensive urban network of green infrastructure, managing 26 million gallons of stormwater annually.</p> <p>It features complete street design, innovative green technologies, energy-efficient lighting, and LEED-certified buildings, making it a model for sustainability and green building. Recognized with prestigious awards, it stands as a global leader in green infrastructure implementation.</p>

[Surface Transportation Block Grant \(STBG\) Program - Transportation Alternatives \(TA\) Set-Aside](#)

The Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside, funded through the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program, offers opportunities to support green infrastructure in transportation projects.

With increased funding, totaling \$1.38 billion in FY 2022 and rising to nearly \$1.5 billion in FY 2025, TA funds can finance smaller scale but critical multimodal projects at the state and local levels.

These projects include pedestrian and bicycle facilities, stormwater and habitat connectivity, recreational trails, and off-road trail facilities, providing potential to incorporate green infrastructure components like permeable pavements into trails and sidewalks.

The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) used TA funding to fund streetscape project that will enhanced three intersections through green infrastructure to manage storm water runoff.

These enhancements include bioretention storm water cells to capture roadway runoff before it enters the storm water collection system and expanded sidewalks with pervious pavement.

Non-Profit Foundations

Program

Program Description

Example of Funded Projects

[The Pisces Foundation](#)

The Pisces Foundation provides support and funding to local efforts in cities across the United States, focusing on implementing One Water approaches, such as green infrastructure, to address water pollution, enhance public amenities, reduce flooding, and improve water supply.

The foundation backs leaders who adopt innovative practices, ensuring safe, sufficient, and secure water for resilient communities, healthier waters, and stronger economies.

It also advocates for policies that encourage investment in One Water approaches and facilitates their implementation while removing barriers to ensure clean and reliable water for all.

Additionally, the foundation promotes information sharing among stakeholders in urban watersheds, facilitating the scaling up of One Water practices from city to city nationwide.

The Pisces Foundation supports the Gulf Water Justice Project, led by the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice (DSCEJ).

This project focuses on equitable stormwater management decisions in the Gulf Coast Region to address climate-induced disasters, unsafe drinking water, toxic chemicals in stormwater, and flood control challenges faced by vulnerable communities.

The aim is to create climate-resilient water systems while involving these communities in shaping the solutions.

[The Johnson Foundation](#)

The Johnson Foundation is dedicated to convening diverse stakeholders for constructive and lasting change.

Their main focus is on organizing conferences and meetings to address specific issues, with a current emphasis on fostering

Between 2008 and 2014, The Johnson Foundation's Charting New Waters initiative engaged over 600 experts from diverse sectors to address freshwater challenges in the U.S.

resilient communities to improve the health and well-being of neighborhoods.

Additionally, they collaborate with various organizations to design conferences on topics relevant to their partners.

The foundation's approach makes them a potential supporter of green infrastructure initiatives and efforts aimed at building sustainable and resilient communities.

The culmination of this effort was the publication of "[Navigating to New Shores](#)," a comprehensive report providing a platform for partners and leaders to tackle water resource and infrastructure issues more effectively.

Through this initiative, The Johnson Foundation supported stormwater and green infrastructure initiatives, fostering sustainable water management and resilient communities.