Water Week 2019

America's Water Infrastructure

Today's Needs for Our Nation's Future

Our organizations call upon Congress to continue to support water infrastructure, research and development.

Communities of all sizes and in all regions of the nation benefit from the investments made possible by the federal government's support for water infrastructure and technological advancement.

$66 billion in SRF grants has generated

1988 **$171 billion** 2019

in clean & drinking water infrastructure projects.

98% of Rural Americans who receive their drinking water from small systems.

each job in water or wastewater construction or rehab adds **3.68**

more jobs to the national economy

- Increase the FY2020 Clean Water SRF appropriation and reauthorize the program in 2019
- Fund the Drinking Water SRF at the fully authorized level of $1.3 billion in FY2020
- Fund the Water Infrastructure Finance & Innovation Act (WIFIA) program at or above its fully authorized level of $50 million in FY2020
- Provide $20 million for the National Priorities Water Research Grant Program
- Increase the authorization for the Bureau of Reclamation's water reuse and recycling competitive grants program (Title XVI–WIIN), and appropriate $100 million in FY2020
- Fund the USDA Rural Utility Service's Water/ Wastewater Loans and Grants at $2 billion and $500 million, respectively
- Protect full funding for water quality conservation and source water protection programs in the USDA National Resources Conservation Service
- Fully fund new grant programs created in America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018

The strength of American communities is founded upon well-built and maintained water infrastructure.

Local economies cannot flourish and people and companies will not prosper without access to reliable drinking and clean water services.

Wastewater, stormwater and drinking water infrastructure is critical to protecting our nation's rivers, lakes, and oceans and preventing public health crises. Continued congressional support is needed to ensure that communities have the funding and technical resources to make wise investments and support these essential services.

In partnership with local communities, Congress must continue to support the financing and funding tools that have propelled the construction, maintenance, and evolution of our nation's water infrastructure systems to date.

- Since 1988, Congress has provided $45 billion in federal capitalization grants to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF). These capitalization grants have generated more than $133 billion in clean water infrastructure projects in communities across the nation, protecting public health and the environment.
- Following the 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act, Congress demonstrated its commitment to safe drinking water and economic growth by providing $21 billion to the Drinking Water SRF program. These capitalization grants have generated more than $38 billion in total funding for nearly 15,000 drinking water improvement projects to protect public health nationwide.
- EPA estimates that a $50 million Water Infrastructure Finance & Innovation Act (WIFIA) appropriation can be leveraged into $5 billion in low-interest federal loans to support the growth of local communities. That's a 100:1 return-on-investment of taxpayer dollars.
- Since 2012, Congress has appropriated $21 million for the EPA National Priorities Water Research Grant Program, which has been matched by $7 million from water sector organizations. This program has provided funds to support much-needed applied research at over 40 research institutions, yielding improved management of critical water resources in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.
- Bureau of Reclamation's Title XVI program leverages five non-federal dollars for every federal dollar spent on water recycling and reuse projects. Currently, 44 eligible Title XVI competitive grant projects requesting more than $500 million in federal cost-share await funding. Title XVI helps communities across the West innovate to ensure a safe, reliable, locally controlled water supply.
- More than 98% of rural Americans receive their drinking water from small systems and the cost of operating and maintaining these systems is significantly higher per-capita than that for urban areas. Every single dollar from the USDA Rural Development Water & Wastewater Loan and Grants program has gone directly to rural customers and has significantly improved public health and safety through rural water infrastructure investments and promoted economic development and agricultural advancement in rural communities.
- The 2018 Farm Bill mandates that 10 percent of conservation funding from USDA go to projects that protect sources of drinking water. This will help prevent pollution of our source waters and watersheds, a much more efficient way to provide safe water to people and to protect the environment.
- America's Water Infrastructure Act, signed by the President into law in October 2018, authorized several new grant programs that will, if funded, directly assist communities working to address challenges that are considered national water infrastructure priorities – such as lead pipe replacement, water workforce development, CSO and stormwater infrastructure needs, and increasing system resiliency, as well as accelerating innovative water technologies that address pressing water needs.

APWA · American Water Works Association · Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies · CIFA · NACWA · RCAP · US Water Alliance · Water Environment Federation · WateReuse · The Water Research Foundation · WWEMA