

SW EFC Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater Assistance Program

Background:

EPA awarded a grant of \$4 million to the Southwest Environmental Finance Center (SW EFC) at the University of New Mexico to launch the [Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater Assistance Program](#). The SW EFC, partnering with Moonshot Missions, Anthropocene Alliance, US Water Alliance, WaterNow Alliance, and the South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center (SCCASC) will use the grant to help communities in EPA Region 6 build capacity and apply for infrastructure funding.

Program Goals:

We assist drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater systems in NM, OK, TX, LA, and AR by:

- Providing **technical assistance** to help systems identify and assess their infrastructure and financial needs.
- **Engaging with communities** to ensure that proposed solutions match local capabilities, are sustainable, and meet the needs of residents.
- Helping systems **apply for infrastructure funding** through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the State Revolving Fund, and other funding opportunities.

Our program focuses on traditionally underserved and disadvantaged communities.

What services can systems receive through the program?



Evaluating system needs: initial assessments, consideration of climate vulnerability, studies, plan development and coordination, asset management, and help seeking funding for preliminary studies and plans.



Technical assistance and capacity building: decision maker and board education, building water system partnerships, conducting trainings and webinars, and creating additional tools and resources based on the needs of systems.



Community engagement: engaging with the community and stakeholders to ensure that solutions meet the needs of community members.



Finance and funding: rates and revenue analysis, fiscal analysis, financial planning, identifying funding options, and application support.



Project development: alternative analysis, selecting engineers, lead service line inventories (LSLs), applying for preliminary engineering reports (PERs) and environmental reviews.



Construction management: bid support, change order reviews, project inspection (limited services), and federal requirement assistance, such as Davis Bacon and domestic preference.

States may refer communities in need to our program by:

Contacting one of our staff:

Or, directing systems to our webpage:

joni palmer
Communications &
Outreach Lead
palmerjonim@unm.edu

Hayley Hajic
Project Director
hhajic@unm.edu

Systems can submit an intake form [here](#), or learn more by visiting: <https://swefc.unm.edu/home/efc-bil/>

Do you have SRF or other infrastructure funding resources or tools specific to your state? We would like to collaborate with you! Email joni palmer for more information.

Is my system eligible for the program?

Your system is eligible if you are:

- A drinking water system, wastewater system, or stormwater system, including tribal systems
- Located in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arkansas, Louisiana (EPA Region 6)
- Facing water infrastructure challenges that *could* result in a funding application

What is the timeline for this program? Is there a deadline?

Systems can join the program at any time—**there is no deadline**. Reach out using one of the methods listed above and we will meet with you to discuss how we can assist your system. Funding applications submitted with our assistance will still be subject to their own deadlines, which vary by state.

What is Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding and the State Revolving Fund (SRF)?

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) was passed in 2021 and includes \$50 billion to the EPA to strengthen the nation's drinking water and wastewater systems—the single largest investment in water that the federal government has ever made. The majority of infrastructure dollars will reach systems through the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs). Systems can apply to their state's SRF and receive grants, loans, or a combination of the two to address infrastructure problems.

Program Partners:

