

MARCH 2021 SCWIE E-MAIL NEWSLETTER

USEPA/CW Releases New Documents

The CWSRF Program has recently released documents (see below). One is on funding resiliency projects and the other is on asset management. As for other administrative updates, staff has been advised not to necessarily go public with them until it has been announced by the new administration team at EPA.

So stay tuned!

<https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/funding-resilient-infrastructure-and-communities-clean-water-state-revolving-fund>

<https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/clean-water-state-revolving-fund-cwsrf-planning-assessment>

USEPA/DWSRF Releases New Resources

The DWSRF Program has released several resources in the last few months, including a Cash Flow Management Handbook. This is a narrative guide for State DWSRF programs providing simple, step-by-step instructions on how to build a cash flow model in Excel and use it to help determine the States maximum prudent lending capacity for the year. The handbook can be found here:

https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-12/documents/dwsrf_revised_cfm_handbook_v2_dec_2020_508.pdf .

The DWSRF Program also released several fact sheets focusing on different areas of eligibility, including water reuse, water system resiliency, and source water protection loans. The DWSRF fact sheets can be found here:

<https://www.epa.gov/dwsrf/reports-and-fact-sheets-about-drinking-water-state-revolving-fund-dwsrf>.

Please note:

The above four links can easily be reached by accessing the links shown in the text of the e-mail.

Rural Development's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Update

RUS has resources available to finance the acquisition, construction, or improvement of drinking water, sewer collection, solid waste collection, and storm water collection systems. Direct financing is available to communities serving a population of 10,000 or less. Guaranteed loan financing is available for communities serving a population up to 50,000. Eligible recipients include public bodies, non-profit organizations, and Federally Recognized Tribes. Financing opportunities can be used in conjunction with SRF programs.

Total available funding for Fiscal Year 2021 is \$2.06 billion. This includes \$1.45 billion in Direct loan funding and \$438 million in Direct grant funding. Additionally, \$38 million is available for Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants (ECWAG), \$68 million is available for technical assistance programs, and \$68 million for special initiative programs. These programs are administered through Rural Development's 47 State Offices and hundreds of field offices throughout rural America. Please utilize the following link to contact your local office: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us> .

Regionalization and Streamlining Sections on the SCWIE Website

As many of you may know, the SCWIE added a new section on **Regionalization** last summer. Regionalization has many names and varying forms: partnership, shared resources, and consolidation are all examples of regionalization.

Since the addition, there are now examples from nine states (Alaska, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota and Washington). If you have not recently visited the site or have yet to visit it, it should be visited. When one goes to the website, the **Regionalization** section is on the top line. Included in **State Resources Pages** are the state examples. While you are there, if you click on the **Other**

Resources Pages, there is valuable information from the North Carolina Finance Center, the Rural Community Assistance Partnership Report, USEPA's Partnership Web Page and USEPA's Environmental Finance Advisory Board Report on Financing Strategies to Promote System Regionalization.

This information should be of great value as you and your colleagues navigate through the opportunities that the America's Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (HR 1319) will provide as regionalization is being pursued.

Although the **Streamlining Section** has not seen the activity of the **Regionalization Section**, it is still worth a visit. Louisiana recently added a page.

Rural Community Assistance Partnership's (RCAP) Regionalization Research Report

RCAP has been working on finalizing its research report on local, state and federal policy recommendations to ease and/or incentivize regional collaboration for water and wastewater utilities. As part of RCAP's report out, they are planning to host a virtual event in May featuring a range of regionalization-friendly state policies. RCAP already has selected a few potential states, based on the research results, that they would love to have as speakers/panelists and will be inviting them to speak through their regional RCAP partners, but also wants to open it up to other folks that may be interested in presenting. If you work for state government and have been making efforts to support regionalization and would like to share with others what you have done, how you have done it and why, RCAP would love to have you. This could include maintaining a robust and inclusive WARN, prioritization of regional projects and/or the provision of principal forgiveness from the state SRF, the creation of planning rules that require regional alternative analysis and beyond! Once the date has been set, RCAP also will invite all state primacy agencies and SRF programs for both water and wastewater and RUS/RD Staff to attend the event through SCWIE/CIFA, ASDWA and EPA, as well as other

key industry partners. If you are interested in presenting/being a panelist, please reach out to Sarah Buck (sbuck@rcap.org) and Laura Landes (llandes@rcap.org) by April 9th.

If your state is doing something unique that you wish to share with the rest of the country, please e-mail me.

This e-mail newsletter is sent to all water funding officials currently listed on the SCWIE website (www.scwie.org). It also is being sent to all those who have requested they wish to participate on the quarterly SCWIE Conference Calls.

In addition, it also is posted on the scwie website under newsletters. Please review the contact for state page for your state on the web site and provide any updates.

Please feel free to call Steve Grossman at 614-668-9597 or e-mail me at scwiecoordinator@gmail.com with respect to any item mentioned in this newsletter.

As always, it would be appreciated if you would confirm receipt of this e-mail to Steve Grossman at scwiecoordinator@gmail.com

Thank you

Steve Grossman, SCWIE Coordinator