

SEPTEMBER 2021 SCWIE E-MAIL NEWSLETTER

USEPA/DWSRF Updates

DWSRF has released two fact sheets

One on affordability and the other on water system partnerships. The affordability fact sheet talks about all the ways DWSRF can help systems that otherwise cannot afford financing (https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-08/addressing-water-affordability-with-the-dwsrf_0.pdf). The other provides what partnership related activities are eligible under the DWSRF (<https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-08/developing-water-system-partnerships-with-the-dwsrf.pdf>). USEPA will be rolling out more water system partnership resources over the coming weeks and months. Note, all the DWSRF fact sheets can be found on USEPA's website: <https://www.epa.gov/dwsrf/reports-and-fact-sheets-about-drinking-water-state-revolving-fund-dwsrf>.

DWSRF Building Capacity in Action Webinar Recording:

The July 2021 DWSRF Building Capacity in Action Webinar: Source Water Protection slides and recording are now available on the Drinking Water Training webpage (<https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/drinking-water-training>). Keep an eye there for announcements about future webinars. And visit EPA's Drinking Water Capacity website (<https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity>) for additional resources and events related to building capacity.

DWSRF Class Exception for Dam/Reservoir Rehabilitation:

USEPA has approved a class exception from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund regulatory prohibition at 40 CFR 35.3520(e)(1) and (3). This class exception (aka deviation) allows for the use of DWSRF funds for the rehabilitation of dams and reservoirs, which supports meeting the public health protection objectives of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). Note the criteria and process for using the exception are in the attachments to the approval memo, located here:

https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-07/dwsrf-class-deviation-dam-reservoir-rehab-2021_0.pdf.

WIIN Grant Availability Announcement:

USEPA announced the final allotments of the FY2021 appropriations for the Assistance to Small and Disadvantaged Communities Grants, authorized under Section 1459A of the Safe Drinking Water Act. The announcement memo can be found here: <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-08/fy2021-initial-state-allotment-memo.pdf>. Note the 45 percent non-federal cost share or match is not required for the FY2021 funding.

Rural Development's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Update

The Technical Assistance and Training (TAT) Grant Program helps qualified, private nonprofits provide technical assistance and training to identify and evaluate solutions to water and waste problems; helps applicants prepare applications for water and waste disposal loans/grants; and helps associations improve the operation and maintenance of water and waste facilities in eligible rural areas. The FY 2022 Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) will provide the application requirements for the FY22 Program and will be available on or around October 1, 2021 and will close December 31, 2021.

The Solid Waste Management Grant Program reduces or eliminates pollution of water resources by providing funding for organizations that provide technical assistance or training to improve the planning and management of solid waste sites. The FY 2022 FOA will provide the application requirements for the FY22 Program, this will be available on or around October 1, 2021 and will close December 31, 2021.

Engineers Without Borders (EWB) and Community Engineering Corps (CEC).

During the August BREX meeting, Stephen Barr, Program Manager at American Water Works Association (AWWA) presented the work that he oversees for

AWWA. CEC is an alliance of EWB-USA, the American Society of Civil Engineers and AWWA. EWB and CEC provides pro-bono engineering services to small communities that cannot afford to pay for this work. They are a great help to communities to identify funding opportunities and also assist with scoping a project and initial design.

They focus on the management of water and wastewater volunteer projects and outreach. Mr. Barr oversees more than 30 engineering and technical service volunteer projects for low income communities across the US. He manages the program on behalf of AWWA and provides outreach to AWWA Sections and Volunteers to provide invaluable technical assistance to communities in need.

Leveraging the membership of Community Engineering Corps' alliance partners – American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Water Works Association, and Engineers Without Borders USA brings more than 200,000 technical professionals and students together to serve communities across the United States. These individuals volunteer their time and expertise to assist communities that do not have the resources to access engineering services. He can be e-mailed at SBarr@awwa.org or texted at 720.827.6920. For more information, go to www.communityengineeringcorps.org

U.S. WaSH Sector Database

Dig Deep, a human rights non-profit organization is working to ensure that every American has clean, running water forever. Dig Deep recently launched the U.S. WaSH Sector Database. SCWIE and CIFA are among the many agencies and organizations that are featured in the database as well as:

USEPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, and the Office of
Wastewater Management;
USDA Rural Development;
Great Lakes Community Action Partnership;
Midwest Assistance Program, Inc.;
National Association of Clean Water Agencies;
National Rural Water Association;
RCAP Solutions, Inc.;
Rural Community Assistance Partnership, Inc.;
Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc;
The Water Research Foundation and
Water Environment Federation (WEF).

One can access the database and accompanying research report at
<https://www.digdeep.org/wash-sector>.

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newsletter, or website. If you do this, please let the folks at Dig Deep
(database@digdeep.org) know if you do, so it can be shared with their team.

If you have any database questions or edit requests, please complete the forms
available on the [database website](#), or contact the folks at database@digdeep.org.

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 BREX Meetings.

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.

Thank you

Steve Grossman, SCWIE Coordinator