

JULY 2022 SMALL COMMUNITY WATER INFRASTRUCTURE EXCHANGE (SCWIE) E-MAIL NEWSLETTER

SRF Funding

Deirdre Finn, CIFA's Executive Director, reported that on June 29, 2022, the U.S. House Appropriations Committee approved the proposed FY 23 Budget for Interior, Environment and Related Agencies The bill includes the budget for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which includes funding for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds The proposed budget maintains the practice of paying for earmarks from the SRF capitalization grant, which will results in a 27% cut to Clean Water SRF funding and a 36% cut to Drinking Water SRF funding.

Update on USEPA's Clean Water and Drinking Water SRF Programs

Fact Sheets on Drought Resiliency and Wild Fire Mitigation should be released late in July or early August.

The next webinar from the Clean Water Program is scheduled for later in July for communities, borrowers and utilities on what to do after a disaster with a focus on climate resistance.

Guidance on Lead Service Line Replacements is currently with OMB.

Rural Community Assistance Partnership's (RCAP) Update

RCAP has released a new regionalization guidebook meant for both Technical Assistance Providers and Communities to help navigate what can often be a daunting, complex and intensive process to explore and implement regional solutions.

Here is the link:

https://online.flippingbook.com/view/329354245/mc_cid=72b54deb68&mc_eid=4393afddc7

Regionalization Challenges

The former Deputy Director of Maryland's Water Quality Financing Administration presented a case study during the June SCWIE Webex Meeting where unincorporated communities have a need of sewer service, but are looking to construct their own county owned and operated WWTP's when the adjoining municipalities have more than adequate capacity to receive flows. For two of the communities, the additional capital cost with their plan is \$113M, funds which the state does not have and would be costly for county residents to afford. He sought to learn of policies in other states that have policies that that would govern this type of situation. Examples from other states addressing the challenges of regionalization* would be appreciated.

Rural Development's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Update

Two funding opportunities are currently available from Rural Development. The first is decentralized water and wastewater grants for low income communities. The second is for training and technical assistance grants for non-profits from RD's Revolving Fund Program. For more information, please contact your state RD office.

You should note that as interest rates are rising, so are the interest rates from RD's Loan Program.

SCWIE Website

This e-mail newsletter is sent to all water funding officials currently listed on the SCWIE website (www.scwie.org). It is sent to all those who have requested that they wish to participate on the quarterly SCWIE Webex Meeting as well as those who have requested that they wish receive the newsletter. In addition, it is posted on the SCWIE website under Newsletters.

I am currently in the process of updating all the names on both the SCWIE State Support Group page and the Contacts By State Page. While I have heard from many of you, if you have yet to contact me for any changes to your state's page, I would appreciate it if you would. To date, there are no known State Support groups in Alabama, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Tennessee or Wyoming. If there is one, please either let me know or have the appropriate person contact me.

Other Items

If your state is doing something that you wish to share with the rest of the country, please e-mail or text me, Please feel free to call or text me at 614-668-9597 or e-mail me at scwiecoordinator@gmail.com with respect to any item mentioned in this newsletter.

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*Regionalization has many names and varying forms: partnership, shared resources, and consolidation all are examples of regionalization.