

TYPES OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS

to support the completion of water infrastructure projects

Non-Profits & Private Firms

A few examples include...

- Environmental Protection Network - services include a pro bono capacity building TA program to nonprofits, local, state, and tribal agencies disproportionately impacted by environmental and health issues. Helps navigate EPA grants, regulatory processes, data, and more.
- Community Engineering Corps - provides pro-bono engineering and technical solutions to communities across the US. They match underserved communities with volunteer project teams.
- Communities Unlimited - serves as the southern regional partner of the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP). They also offer financing to rural communities and tribal nations to address needed drinking water and wastewater system upgrades.

State Agency Programs

States can establish their own TA programs to support communities to meet requirements in pre-application, application, and project implementation processes. These can be funded in part by SRF set-asides.

Who do state TA program help?

These programs can support communities (eligible applicants) preparing to apply for funding and typically are often reserved for disadvantaged communities (DACs), small communities (less than 10,000), and/or water systems that are out of compliance or are facing a water emergency that needs immediate attention.

How do they help?

State agency staff offer technical and administrative assistance in project planning, design, and implementation.

Environmental Finance Centers (EFCs)

There are four national EFCs and 13 regional water infrastructure EFCs that focus on water infrastructure projects and support.

Who do EFCs help?

EFCs are supported by the EPA and other funding partners to provide targeted technical assistance to local and state governments, tribes, and nonprofit organizations to secure public funding for infrastructure improvements.

How do they help?

EFCs provide trainings, applied resources, direct assistance, and advising services including on topics like asset management and workforce development.

US Environmental Protection Agency WaterTA

EPA WaterTA provides FREE services to communities across the country.

Who does EPA WaterTA help?

EPA WaterTA assists local governments, drinking water utilities, stormwater utilities, and wastewater utilities, along with states, tribes, territories, and non-governmental organizations.

How do they help?

EPA WaterTA helps communities with applications for federal funding (like getting ready to apply for SRF \$), identifying water infrastructure and water quality needs, planning for capital improvements, and building technical, managerial, and financial capacity.

EFCs are under the EPA's WaterTA umbrella

What about those TCTACs?

Additional background info...

Read this [factsheet](#) developed by the SRF State Advocates Forum

Read the [TA section](#) of River Network's SRF Advocacy Toolkit

Watch this [recording on TA](#) from June 2022

Looking for more detail?

16 TCTACs (**Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers**) were selected by EPA in partnership with the Department of Energy (DOE) to specifically support environmental justice communities. There are three national TCTACs and 13 regional ones (some EPA regions have 2). TCTACs provide TA such as:

- Support navigating federal grant application systems,
- Assistant in writing effective grant proposals,
- Support grant funding management.
- Provide skills training on effective community engagement, meeting facilitation, and inclusive translation and interpretation services

Groups from environmental justice, tribal, and rural communities are particularly encouraged to apply, including local governments, Tribal governments, territories, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), transit agencies, states, non-profit organizations, & academic organizations

Find out more here:

<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-thriving-communities-technical-assistance-centers>

As part of the Biden administration's **Investing in America** agenda, a Technical Assistance guide was published in September 2023 to provide "comprehensive information about more than 100 federal technical assistance programs that can support efforts to win Federal funding and deploy it in communities across the nation. It also provides similar information on the growing number of state programs designed to aid communities in winning funding under BIL and IRA." Find it here: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/IIA-Technical-Assistance-Guide-September-2023-v091223.pdf>

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Some examples include

**This is just a snapshot of some private and nonprofit TA providers. There are likely others located in your state or region.*

- **Environmental Protection Network** – services include a pro bono capacity building TA program to nonprofits, local, state, and tribal agencies disproportionately impacted by environmental and health issues. Helps ***navigate EPA grants, regulatory processes, data***, and more.
- **Communities Unlimited** – serves as the southern regional partner of the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP). They also ***offer financing to rural communities and tribal nations*** to address needed drinking water and wastewater system upgrades.
- **Quantified Ventures** – focuses on technical assistance support for innovative natural infrastructure and technology projects. They can connect prospective applicants with investors and other stakeholders to supplement financing options. They also operate a ***SRF Watershed Coordinator Initiative*** to connect ***watershed and conservation groups with local water utilities to jointly work on projects funded by the SRFs.***
- **Community Engineering Corps** – provides ***pro-bono engineering*** and technical solutions to communities across the US. They match underserved communities with volunteer project teams.



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How do they help?

State agency staff offer technical and administrative assistance in project planning, design, and implementation.

TA can include

development of capital improvement projects, facilitation of operation and maintenance, engineering and environmental analysis, legal assistance, leak detection/water audits, compliance audits, financial analysis, technical managerial and financial (TMF) assessments, and board or operator training.

- California TA Funding Program

A Few State Examples

- **OHIO** - Ohio's TA staff include project engineers, environmental planners, and project coordinators. They all support applicants to identify cost effective solutions, engage the public, identify environmental impacts, and consider additional funding sources and help identify how a project costs may impact user rates.
<https://epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/environmental-financial-assistance/financial-assistance/what-we-do>
- **CALIFORNIA** - The Office of Sustainable Water Solutions administers the state's TA funding program for drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, and groundwater projects.
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/tech_asst_funding.html
- **MASSACHUSETTS** - Massachusetts' CWSRF program provides free technical assistance to small, rural, and tribal communities with 10,000 or fewer people. The state actually contracts with RCAP to provide TA services like infrastructure needs assessments, completing project evaluation forms and other preapplication administrative support. <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/cwsrf-small-system-technical-assistance-program>

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Who does EPA WaterTA help?

EPA WaterTA assists local governments, drinking water utilities, stormwater utilities, and wastewater utilities, along with states, tribes, territories, and non-governmental organizations.

EPA WaterTA doesn't provide direct support to individuals/households or federal facilities.

How do they help?

EPA WaterTA helps communities with applications for federal funding (like getting ready to apply for SRF \$), identifying water infrastructure and water quality needs, planning for capital improvements, and building technical, managerial, and financial capacity.

Website and Contact Information

Website www.epa.gov/WaterTA

Technical Assistance Request Form

<https://www.epa.gov/water-infrastructure/forms/water-technical-assistance-request-form>



Email WaterTA@epa.gov

Planning and Assessment	Project Development	Partnerships and Engagement	Funding and Financing	Program Management Support
Community Engagement	Preliminary Engineering Reports	Ongoing Engagement and Outreach	Rates and Revenue Analysis	Bid Support
Plan Development and Coordination	Lead Service Line Inventories	Decision-maker and Board Education	Financial Planning	Change Order Review
Studies and Assessments	Project Design	Water Systems Partnerships	Identify Funding Options	Project Inspection
Asset Management	Environmental Reviews	Capacity Building	Application Support	Domestic Preference and Davis Bacon Assistance

Source: EPA WaterTA website. This table lists the various services of WaterTA providers.

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National EFCs

- Environmental Policy Innovation Center (EPIC) – focused on lead service line replacement and small to mid-size systems
- Moonshot Missions – focused on needs assessments
- Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) – focused on supporting rural systems
- U.S. Water Alliance – focused on supporting underserved communities



The Environmental Finance Center Network's website includes tools and publications, searchable funding sources by state and territory, upcoming and recorded trainings and events, and more. Explore www.efcnetwork.org/

Regional EFC Websites and Contact Information

EPA Region 1

University of Maine System (New England EFC)

Contact: Staff emails

EPA Region 2

Syracuse University

Contact: consultation form

EPA Region 3

University of Maryland

Contact: assistance request form

EPA Region 4

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill **Contact:** request form

-and-

Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project Inc.

Contact: request form

EPA Region 5

Delta Institute and partners American Society of Adaptation Professionals (ASAP), Current, and the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) **Contact:** delta@delta-institute.org or use the form embedded on their website

-and-

WSOS Community Action Commission Inc **Contact:**

EPA Region 6

University of New Mexico (Southwest EFC)

Contact: email swefc@unm.edu or call 505-277-0644

EPA Region 7

Wichita State University

Contact: staff emails & numbers

EPA Region 8

National Rural Water Association

Contact:

EPA Region 9

Rural Community Assistance Corporation **Contact:** assistance form

-and-

Hawaii Community Foundation **Contact:** email hieffc@hcf-hawaii.org

EPA Region 10

Rural Community Assistance Corporation

Contact: assistance form