



# **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

For Water & Wastewater Infrastructure

# About EPA WaterTA

EPA provides technical assistance (TA) to help communities meet the goals of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and the Clean Water Act (CWA). This TA can address water and wastewater issues in several ways, including development of well-planned infrastructure projects. Generally, these programs target communities that are small, rural, disadvantaged, and/or tribal communities.

The TA providers offer diverse services, including but not limited to:

<b>Infrastructure needs identification</b>	<b>Capital improvements planning</b>	<b>Funding application development</b>
<b>Regulatory compliance assistance</b>	<b>Financial, managerial, and/or technical capacity building</b>	<b>Disaster and Climate Resiliency</b>
<b>Utility cybersecurity</b>	<b>Water quality optimization</b>	<b>Utility workforce development</b>

This brochure summarizes several TA programs and resources available to communities and to water/wastewater utilities. This list is not exhaustive but is intended as a good place to start.

## Connect with EPA Region 10's Water Infrastructure Technical Assistance Team

To request technical assistance services:	<b>Jonathan Capua, P.E., PMP</b> <a href="mailto:capua.jonathan@epa.gov">capua.jonathan@epa.gov</a> 907-271-3541
For more information about technical assistance services:	<b>Ryan Gross, P.E.</b> <a href="mailto:gross.ryan@epa.gov">gross.ryan@epa.gov</a> 206-553-6293
For information about domestic preference requirements (BABA/AIS):	<b>Kayla Wilson, E.I.T.</b> <a href="mailto:wilson.kayla@epa.gov">wilson.kayla@epa.gov</a> 206-553-0058

# EPA Water Technical Assistance Programs

Additional information can be found on the [EPA WaterTA website](#).

## **Environmental Finance Centers**

The **Environmental Finance Centers** (EFCs) help communities **access resources for infrastructure improvements** that are available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

In the EPA Pacific Northwest Region, **Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC)** administers the EFC. This EFC supports communities in **a range of activities that bolster communities' ability to obtain state and federal infrastructure funding**, including:

- Drafting funding applications
- Project construction management services
- Identifying financing and long-term O&M strategies
- Technical, managerial, and financial capacity training
- Community outreach and engagement
- Asset management
- Researching revenue approaches, including establishing use rates
- Income surveys to support project eligibility and funding
- Calculating the financial impact of capital projects on rate payers

## **Rural, Small, and Tribal (RST) Wastewater Technical Assistance**

- **Helps disadvantaged Rural, Small, and Tribal communities access resources for wastewater infrastructure improvements.**
- Supports **small wastewater treatment systems** to build technical, managerial, and financial capacity to operate their systems.
- Two TA providers, [RCAP](#) and [NRWA](#), provide a broad spectrum of support to communities across the US.
- The **Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Resource Center (PPRC)** helps communities abate Fats, Oils & Grease; PFAS; and other emerging contaminants.
- The **Alaska Municipal League**, through the Alaska Water Infrastructure Financial Navigation Center (AWIFNC), helps communities improve financial, managerial and governance capacity to access infrastructure funding.

## **Training and Technical Assistance for Small Systems**

Organizations (like [RCAP](#) or [NRWA](#)) provide training and technical assistance to:

1. **Small public water systems** to comply with the SDWA and improve financial and managerial capacity
2. **Small publicly-owned wastewater systems and decentralized wastewater systems** to improve water quality
3. **Private drinking water well owners** to improve water quality

## **Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (TCTAC)**

- **Helps underserved communities build their capacity to access federal resources.**
- Provides training and other assistance to build capacity for navigating federal grant application systems, writing strong grant proposals, and effectively managing grant funding.
- Provides guidance on community engagement, meeting facilitation, and translation and interpretation services for limited English-speaking participants, thus removing barriers and improving accessibility **for communities with environmental justice concerns.**
- The TCTACs in the Pacific Northwest Region are:
  - **Northwestern Environmental and Energy Justice TCTAC** administered by the [Willamette Partnership](#)
  - **Pacific Northwest Environmental Justice TCTAC** administered by the [University of Washington](#)