



## Available Grants and Funding Opportunities for Municipal Authorities

*Are you seeking funding for an expansion, project, or customer assistance support? Below is a variety of programs that could help.*

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### [DEP's Capability Enhancement Program](#)

The Capability Enhancement is a program that helps small drinking water systems operate more effectively and efficiently by improving the technical, managerial, and financial capability of the water system.

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### [PA Commonwealth Finance Authority](#)

The CFA holds fiduciary responsibility for the funding of programs and investments in Pennsylvania's economic growth.

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### [H2O PA Program](#)

H2O PA – Water Supply, Sanitary Sewer, and Storm Water – The Act provides for single-year or multi-year grants to municipalities or municipal authorities to assist with the construction of drinking water, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer projects. An eligible project also includes the consolidation or regionalization of two or more water supply systems, sewage disposal systems, or stormwater systems that are managed or operated as an integrated system regardless of whether the system is physically connected.

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### [PA Small Water and Sewer](#)

Grants for small water, sewer, storm sewer, and flood control infrastructure projects. Pursuant to Article XVII-A, § 1774.1-A, of the Act of April 9, 1929, P.L. 343, as amended (The Fiscal Code) the sum of \$40,000,000 was made available to the Commonwealth Financing Authority (the "Authority") for eligible projects.

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### [Community Development Block Grant \(CDBG\) Program](#)

Grants and technical assistance for eligible municipalities as identified under Pennsylvania Act 179 of 1984 as amended, for any eligible community development activities.

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### [PENNVEST Funding Programs](#)

Since its inception, PENNVEST has continued its service to the communities and citizens of Pennsylvania by funding sewer, stormwater, and drinking water projects throughout the commonwealth. These projects not only contribute to improving Pennsylvania's environment

and the health of its people, but they also provide opportunities for economic growth and jobs for Pennsylvania's workers.

Areas of assistance: Drinking Water, Wastewater and Storm Water Loans; On-Lot Sewage Disposal Funds; Brownfield Redevelopment

#### [Drinking Water State Revolving Fund \(DWSRF\)](#)

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, administered jointly with the PA Department of Environmental Protection, provides a resource for financing various public drinking water systems (including systems owned by for-profit entities and not-for-profit entities) for expenditures for projects which will facilitate compliance with national and state drinking water regulations or otherwise advance the health-protection objectives of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

#### **Lead Line Replacement Initiative**

On October 4, 2019, the Water Infrastructure Funding Transfer Act (WIFTA) was signed into law. This statute temporarily expands the Clean Water to Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) transfer authority specifically to address lead-related threats to public health in drinking water. **Funding will be released later this summer 2022.** [More information on the program.](#)

#### [Clean Water State Revolving Fund \(CWSRF\)](#)

The CWSRF program provides affordable financing for wastewater and certain other projects throughout Pennsylvania for the construction, improvement, extension, expansion, repair or rehabilitation of wastewater collection, treatment or disposal facilities, storm water management, nonpoint source pollution controls including but not limited to agricultural best management.

#### [ARRA Green Reserve - As part of the PENNVEST](#)

ARRA 2009 Funding under the "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009", a wide variety of applicants accomplished work in support of water quality and drinking water quality efforts. The objective was to encourage the submittal of applications for projects that "address green infrastructure, water or energy efficiency improvements, or other environmentally innovative activities." As defined by U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Guidance and in ARRA, the following categories of water quality work were funded under Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund authority: Water Efficiency, Energy Efficiency, Green Infrastructure, and Environmentally Innovative Projects.

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#### [USDA Rural Development](#)

Through Rural Utilities Service Water and Environmental Programs (WEP), rural communities obtain the technical assistance and financing necessary to develop drinking water and waste disposal systems. Safe drinking water and sanitary waste disposal systems are vital not only to

public health, but also to the economic vitality of rural America. Rural Development is a leader in helping rural America improve the quality of life and increase the economic opportunities for rural people.

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#### [Center for Water Quality Excellence](#)

This category contains profiles of various funding programs available in the state of Pennsylvania to support the implementation of green infrastructure and stormwater management. Programs are organized by the administrator of the funding program.

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#### [LIHWAP \(Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program\)](#)

Water and wastewater authorities may participate in the grant program (\$43 million) for which their low-income customers may be eligible to pay past due water and wastewater bills.

#### [ERAP \(Emergency Rental Assistance Program\)](#)

ERAP (\$569 million) helps tenant households with paying past due balances (arrears) for utility costs (water, sewer, and trash removal) and other expenses related to housing. Contact your [county contact](#) to participate in the program.

#### [PA HAF \(PA Homeowners Assistance Fund\)](#)

Pennsylvania Homeowners Assistance Fund (PA HAF) is a funding program for utility services (water and wastewater) for customers (*not renters but property owners*) with delinquent payments. This relief program of \$350 million is funded through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) and overseen by the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, that will provide Pennsylvania homeowners impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic with financial assistance to help stabilize homeownership and prevent displacement. As part of the available relief, **homeowners can receive up to \$3,000 in grant assistance to prevent a utility termination.**

Water or sewer customers must apply and, if eligible for assistance, the PA HAF will pay the authority directly and notify the amount of assistance to be disbursed to the customer. Contact [PAHAFHELP@PAHAF.ORG](mailto:PAHAFHELP@PAHAF.ORG) for more information.

[Click here](#) for PA HAF PowerPoint Overview

[Click here](#) for PA HAF FAQs

[Click here](#) for the PA HAF website

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### Funding that became available due to the pandemic:

#### [\\$1.9 Trillion Coronavirus Relief Package](#)

The package provides \$350 billion for state and local governments, with a total of \$13.722 billion for Pennsylvania. The state received \$7.5 billion (including \$279 million set aside for capital projects), counties received \$2.8 billion, and municipalities with populations of more than 50,000 received \$2.3 billion.

Municipalities in Pennsylvania with a population of less than 50,000, which includes almost all townships, boroughs, and small cities, must share \$936 million (while Philadelphia alone will get more than \$1.3 billion).

[Click here](#) for the amount your municipality received.

Note: This local funding was released to municipalities.

**State and local governments can use these restricted funds to cover costs incurred by Dec. 31, 2024, to:**

- Respond to the COVID-19 emergency and address its negative economic impacts, including through aid to households, small businesses, nonprofits, and industries such as tourism and hospitality.
- Provide premium pay to essential employees or grants to their employers. Premium pay could not exceed \$13 per hour or \$25,000 per worker.
- Provide government services affected by a revenue reduction during the pandemic (relative to revenues collected by the local government in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency).
- Make investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

Funds cannot be used to deposit into pension funds or to offset revenue resulting from a tax cut.

State and local recipients can transfer funds to private nonprofit groups, public benefit corporations involved in passenger or cargo transportation, and special-purpose units of state or local governments (i.e., authorities).

Authorities should be considered to receive some of this funding through their municipality. Click here for a [template](#) letter, PMAA produced to aid authorities in inquiring with their municipalities for the funding.

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### **The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

Pennsylvania is set to receive \$240 million in FY2022 for drinking water projects and \$201 million in clean water projects through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). For a better guide to where the money is headed, check out US Environmental Protection Agency's implementation memo [here](#).