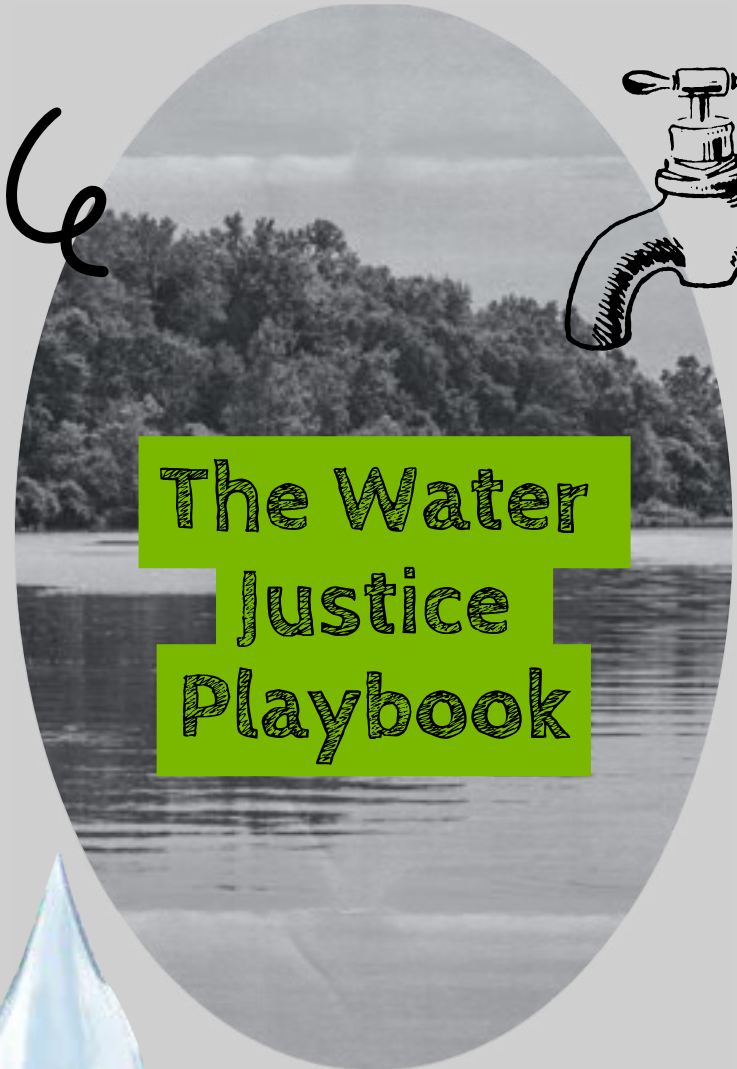


The People's JUSTICE40+
Community Benefit Playbook



**The Water
Justice
Playbook**



THE WATER JUSTICE PLAYBOOK



The Playbook: The Water Justice Playbook is a community guide to deepening community knowledge of water injustices, identifying potential community strategies to address these injustices, and leveraging the the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to meet community needs. It is one section of a comprehensive Playbook that provides an overview of the Justice40 Initiative, answers a range of questions about the different federal spending bills, and provides a step-by-step guide to building a Community Benefit Plan. The complete Justice40+ Community Benefit Playbook can be found [here](#).

The Goal: This Playbook, and each of the sector playbooks, are designed to help communities:

1. deepen community knowledge of federal investment opportunities;
2. build a multi-stakeholder community coalition to access federal investment opportunities; and
3. develop a Community Benefit Plan that centers community priorities and identifies community-driven strategies for investing in community needs.



THE PROBLEM

From Hurricane Katrina to the Flint water crisis and the Keystone XL Pipeline, water justice issues have become well known. We have heard and seen the horror stories time and time again. If you are not familiar with them, you may not be experiencing water injustice directly. Or, if certain water injustices like lead or PFAS contamination are impacting your community, it might not be readily apparent. Find more information about water injustices below:

Affordability: 1 in 10 households spend more than 4.5% of their annual household income on essential water and sewer services, with low income households paying up to 6.8%¹. Avoiding utility shut offs is a daily challenge in low-income households, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many families must choose between rent, food, and utilities. This is not just. Water is life. Water is a human right. Water should not be monetized for profit.

Lead Contamination: Flint, Michigan is the most well-known example of lead pipes leading to water contamination; however, since then, other cities have also found elevated levels of lead in the water of homes, schools, and daycare centers². A survey conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency found that there are 9.2 million lead service lines currently in use across the United States³. Lead service lines are used to connect our homes to the main line of our local water supply. And when lead service lines corrode, resulting in lead dissolving or flaking into our water, this can cause negative health impacts. Experts have found that there is no safe level of lead in the human body and even low levels of lead exposure can cause attention and behavioral problems in children and can lead to cardiovascular disease in adults⁴.

PFAS: Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, more commonly known as PFAS, consist of over 9000 persistent (meaning they break down very slowly and build up over time) hazardous chemicals used for industrial purposes and consumer goods. While some PFAS chemicals have been phased out, such as perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonate (PFOS), PFAS is still pervasive in people and in our environment due to surface water and groundwater contamination. And even though there are processes designed to filter out PFAS from our drinking water, none of them fully eliminate the PFAS from our water supply. Further, these filtration processes and infrastructure can be costly, which leads to a disproportionate impact on low income communities and communities of color due to industrial siting and the burden of cost falling on public utilities, ratepayers, and local governments. Researchers have linked these industrial chemicals to cancers, pregnancy and fertility problems, and other diseases, even at low levels of exposure⁵.

Stormwater Runoff: When sufficient stormwater management systems are not in place, the rain and snowmelt that falls on non absorbent surfaces (like paved roads, parking lots, and rooftops) can carry metals, sediment, and chemical pollutants into our water sources, such as groundwater and streams⁶. This decimates our water quality and leads to chronic (long lasting) and acute (severe and sudden) illnesses from exposure to contaminated drinking water, fish, and recreational waters⁷.



THE PROBLEM (CONT.)

Flooding: Over 53 million people in the United States live in high flood risk areas, and analysis has shown that low income households, communities of color, renters and mobile home residents, people with disabilities, people without access to a vehicle, and those who experience language barriers are disproportionately impacted by flooding⁸. In addition to causing physical damage to our homes and the infrastructure within our communities, floodwaters can carry stormwater runoff from hazardous waste sites and factory farms, raw sewage, and leaked toxic chemicals, which can then contaminate our drinking water and cause harmful diseases⁹.

Sea-level Rise: Nearly 30% of our population lives in a coastal area that is at risk due to sea level rise. With the increase of ocean temperatures and the melting of glaciers and ice sheets, global sea levels are rising. This makes coastal communities vulnerable due to the role sea level rise plays in flooding, shoreline erosion, and environmental hazards from storms. Hurricane Katrina is a prime example of the vulnerability of low-income communities that live below sea level or on the coastline. And with the rise of global sea levels, storm surges like that of Hurricane Katrina are pushing farther inland than they have in the past¹⁰.

Droughts: As global temperatures rise from climate change, the risk of droughts and their long term public impacts rise as well. These impacts can include poor water quality due to reduced river flows and increased concentration of pollutants in the water; poor air quality due to dusty and dry conditions as well as the smoke from wildfires; and, an increase in infectious diseases due to bacteria contaminating groundwater and surface water when rainfall decreases. Droughts can also lead to a scarcity in groundwater when reduced precipitation and increased evaporation of surface water fails to replenish groundwater supplies over time¹¹.

Fracking: Hydraulic fracturing, more commonly known as “fracking,” is a technique used to extract oil and natural gas using pressurized water, chemicals, and sand (also known as fracking fluid) to blast through rock formations which then allows the oil and gas to flow to the earth’s surface. This process can use up to 9.7 million gallons of water from local groundwater and surface water supply to frack a single well. This can strain water resources in communities, especially in those that are already vulnerable to climate change. In addition to straining water resources, fracking can contaminate the local water supply through spilled or leaked fracking fluid, inadequately built fracking wells, and poor wastewater management. The known chemicals used in fracking fluid are considered to be hazardous to human health. Further, there are a number of unknown chemicals used in fracking fluid as well. While most states have rules requiring the disclosure of chemicals used in fracking fluid, the fracking industry can avoid these disclosures by claiming the chemicals are trade secrets under the “confidential business information” exemption. And despite federal oversight under the Safe Drinking Water Act, the “Halliburton loophole” exempts fracking from regulation unless diesel fuel is used in the fracking fluid¹².



SOLUTIONS

Consider these strategies in your Water Justice Community Benefit Plan:

Human Rights Declaration: Advocate for clean water as a human right, and ensure state and local governments prioritize the needs of low income, disadvantaged, and climate-vulnerable communities. Demand state oversight, increased regulation, or the outright ban of fracking that is draining and contaminating our drinking water supplies.

Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater Infrastructure: Advocate for federal funding to improve your community's water infrastructure to ensure safe and affordable drinking water, sanitation, and stormwater management.

Build Climate Resilience and Disaster Preparation: Help communities impacted by rising water, flooding, and drought build community climate resilience and plan for extreme weather events. Engage your local leaders to discuss emergency preparedness planning and ensure plans are inclusive and accessible to all community members. Common gaps in emergency preparedness or evacuation plans include failing to account for individuals with disabilities, individuals with service or family animals, individuals without access to a vehicle, or people who may experience a language barrier.

Advocate for Community Wealth Building Opportunities: Educational, workforce, and business development opportunities should target low-income and disadvantaged residents when designing, building, operating, and maintaining sustainable and climate resilient water infrastructure systems.



WHERE TO START

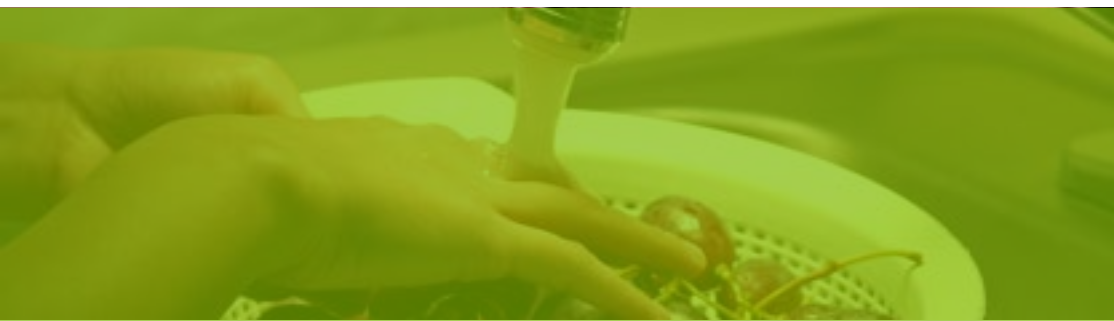
If water justice is a primary concern for your community, ensuring meaningful participation in water and climate resilience planning and implementation should be central to your Community Benefit Plan. This requires documenting community challenges and needs and gathering the supporting data. As you begin to build out your Community Benefit Plan, here are some questions to consider:

- **What are Your Community Water Needs?** Assess your community's water needs using resources provided by the Water Equity and Climate Resilience Caucus (WECR) and the River Network. WECR has developed the [Water for All](#) proposal that provides a more in depth analysis of the water affordability problem and highlights ways to eliminate water bills and ensure water is a human right. In addition to the resources offered by WECR, the River Network created the [Drinking Water Guide](#) and the [Equitable Water Infrastructure Toolkit](#) to help communities better understand their water utilities and community water infrastructure. Use these resources to build your knowledge base and enhance your advocacy efforts to push your local government officials and [Public Utilities Commission](#)—those who regulate your water utilities—to prioritize your community's water needs.

- **Is your Community at a High Risk for Flooding?** Many communities are at risk for flooding. You can use the [Federal Emergency Management Agency's Flood Map Service Center](#) to see if your community is located in a high, moderate, or low risk flood zone. However, flood risks can change due to local land use and other factors, so exercise caution when relying on these maps.

Tools to Identify, Connect, and Operationalize the Data around Water Infrastructure

[Consumer Confidence Report](#)—The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires all community water systems to prepare Consumer Confidence Reports (also known as the Annual Drinking Water Quality Report or Right To Know Report) to provide an overview of the community's water quality. These reports are required to disclose your community's water source, how your water is treated, what (if any) contaminants have been found in your water and at what levels, and any other health implications linked to your water. You can find these reports housed on the [EPA's website](#) or by contacting your local Public Utility Commission. This Consumer Confidence Report can help you deepen your understanding of your community water systems and assess your community water needs.



WHERE TO START (CONT.)

[Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](#)—The Council on Environmental Quality created the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) to help federal agencies define and identify disadvantaged communities for the purpose of complying with the Justice40 Initiative.

Using CEJST, federal agencies will consider a community disadvantaged if:

- the community is at or above the threshold for one or more of the eight categories of burden AND the community is at or above the threshold for an associated socioeconomic burden (income level); OR
- the community falls within the boundaries of a Federally recognized Tribe (including Alaska Native Villages).

The eight categories of burden include: climate change, energy, health, housing, legacy pollution, transportation, water and wastewater, and workforce development.

Communities will meet the threshold for the category of water burden if they are in a census tract (identified using the 2010 U.S. Census) that:

- is at or above the 90th percentile for **underground storage tanks and releases OR wastewater discharge**
- AND is at or above the 65 percentile for **low income**.



[Underground Storage Tanks and Releases](#): Weighted formula of the density of leaking underground storage tanks and the number of all active underground storage tanks within 1,500 feet of the census tract boundaries.

[Wastewater Discharge](#): Risk-Screening Environmental Indicators (RSEI) modeled toxic concentrations at stream segments within 500 meters, divided by distance in kilometers.

[Low Income](#): Percent of a census tract's population in households where household income is at or below 200% of the Federal poverty level, not including students enrolled in higher education.

You can use CEJST to see if your community will be targeted for Justice40 investments.



GENERAL FEDERAL FUNDING GUIDANCE



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Funding for water projects—especially safe drinking water—was included in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA); however, ARPA funds must be allocated by the end of 2024 and spent by the end of 2026. The National Conference for State Legislatures has been tracking ARPA allocations through their [ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Fund Database](#). Use this Database and check with your state water officials to see what ARPA funding may still be available for your community.

Many of the programs established within the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) will fall within the Justice40 Initiative. The Justice40 Initiative created a goal for federal agencies to ensure that at least 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments benefit disadvantaged communities. To clarify which federal investments must benefit disadvantaged communities, the Administration defined a Justice40 Program as one that makes federal investments in one or more of the following categories: climate change, clean energy and energy efficiency, clean transit, affordable and sustainable housing, workforce development, remediation and reduction of legacy pollution, and critical clean water infrastructure. Because IIJA and IRA make investments in critical clean water infrastructure, federal agencies will need to ensure disadvantaged communities are benefiting from IIJA and IRA implementation.

Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds—IIJA has made substantial investments in our water infrastructure by allocating an additional \$43 billion to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This additional funding will be allocated to states through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) over the next five years. These State Revolving Funds, or SRFs, allow States to provide low interest loans or grants to fund water projects across the State.

These SRF programs are Justice40 Programs, meaning, the EPA should be working to ensure that at least 40% of the benefits from these SRF programs go to disadvantaged communities. To accomplish this Justice40 goal, IIJA mandates that at least 49% of the funds provided to states through the CWSRF and the DWSRF go directly to disadvantaged communities in the forms of grants and forgivable loans.

GENERAL FEDERAL FUNDING GUIDANCE (CONT.)



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Unfortunately, these SRF programs give states the ability to define disadvantaged communities. While the EPA has provided guidance to states on how to tailor their definition to ensure the most vulnerable communities are benefitting from this historical investment in water infrastructure, it is imperative that you engage your state SRF Coordinator to ensure your community is included in your state's definition of "disadvantaged."

Once you've assessed your community water needs, it will be important to work with your local government to ensure your community water projects will be included in your state's Intended Use Plan (IUP). IUPs are how states educate the EPA on what water projects will be funded through SRFs. These IUPs are required to be circulated for public comment so you will be able to track whether your community project has been added to your state IUP. Partnering with your local government can help ensure your community water projects are prioritized in your state IUP.

Additional IJJA and IRA Programs That Target Low Income and Disadvantaged Communities

- **[The Indian Health Service Sanitation Facilities Construction Program](#)** provides Federally recognized Tribes with technical and financial assistance to develop and construct safe drinking water supply, sewage, and solid waste disposal facilities. Engage your Tribal leaders to see how this program can benefit your community.
- **[The Domestic Water Supply Projects Program](#)** will provide up to 100% of the cost for planning, designing, and constructing water projects that provide domestic water supplies to households without reliable access to domestic water supplies in disadvantaged communities within the Reclamation States—Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. If you live in a disadvantaged community within the Reclamation States, engage your local government officials to see how this federal program could benefit your community. This is a new program so your local government officials may be waiting for additional information about the program.

GENERAL FEDERAL FUNDING GUIDANCE (CONT.)



5.9

- **[The Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program](#)** is designed to fund community-led projects in disadvantaged communities to address air pollution, increase community climate resilience, and build community capacity to engage in government processes that create environmental and climate policy. Community-based nonprofit organizations can use this funding to support multi-benefit stormwater projects, such as rain gardens and wetland restoration. Work with your local community-based organizations to see how this program can benefit your community.
- **[The Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation–Small and Underserved Communities Emerging Contaminants Grant Program](#)** is available to help underserved communities comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act requirements and address emerging contaminants. Engage your state or Tribal water officials to determine if your community is eligible for this program.

Programs that Require Government and Community Partnership to Meet Community Needs—The following programs are available to support ecosystem and watershed management; however, they'll require collaboration with your local government officials and various community partners, such as private property owners and nonprofit organizations, to access the funding to benefit your community.

- [Cooperative Watershed Management Program](#)
- [WaterSMART Grants Program](#)

You can find more information about these programs and potential community strategies to access these programs in the Water Justice Federal Funding Table below.

WATER JUSTICE FEDERAL FUNDING TABLE

The Water Justice Federal Funding Table below identifies water justice goals and related Federal programs that can help support those goals. You'll also find more information about each program, some potential strategies for accessing each program, and different entities you should consider engaging and/or collaborating with to ensure the funding opportunity benefits your community. While the list of potential collaborators is not an exhaustive list, it provides a starting point for building a coalition around achieving your desired community benefits.



The People's JUSTICE40+ Community Benefit Playbook



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WATER JUSTICE FEDERAL FUNDING TABLE

WATER JUSTICE GOALS	FEDERAL SPENDING BILL	FORMULA GRANTS	COMPETITIVE GRANTS	OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	STRATEGY FOR ENGAGEMENT	POTENTIAL COMMUNITY BENEFIT STAKEHOLDERS (IN ADDITION TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS) TO CONSIDER
Clean Water Accessibility and Affordability	Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)	\$15B: Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Lead Service Line Replacement			<p>Through this program, states provide low interest loans to community water systems for water infrastructure projects that address emerging contaminants, expand drinking water treatment plants, and replace lead service lines. Further at least 49% of the loans must go to disadvantaged communities in the form of grants or be eligible for principal loan forgiveness. Ensuring community water priorities are met will require working with your Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Coordinator and your local water utility, so engage them to advance your community water needs.</p>	<p>State Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Contact, Water Advocacy Groups, Community-Based Organizations that focus on community water concerns, Environmental Justice Organizations and Coalitions, Local Water Utilities, and Local Government Officials.</p>
		\$11.7B: Drinking Water State Revolving Fund				
		\$4B: Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Emerging Contaminants				
		\$11.7B: Clean Water State Revolving Fund			<p>States provide low interest loans to water utilities and municipal governments for water infrastructure projects, such as wastewater and stormwater treatment facilities and addressing emerging contaminants. At least 49% of the loans must go to disadvantaged communities in the form of grants or be eligible for principle loan forgiveness. Ensuring your community water priorities are met will require working with your Clean Water State Revolving Fund Coordinator and your local water utility, so engage them to advance your community water needs.</p>	<p>State Clean Water State Revolving Fund Contact, Water Advocacy Groups, Community-Based Organizations that focus on community water concerns, Local Water Utilities, Local Government Officials, and Environmental Justice Organizations and Coalitions.</p>
\$1B: Clean Water State Revolving Fund Emerging Contaminants						

The People's JUSTICE40+ Community Benefit Playbook



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WATER JUSTICE FEDERAL FUNDING TABLE

WATER JUSTICE GOALS	FEDERAL SPENDING BILL	FORMULA GRANTS	COMPETITIVE GRANTS	OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	STRATEGY FOR ENGAGEMENT	POTENTIAL COMMUNITY BENEFIT STAKEHOLDERS (IN ADDITION TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS) TO CONSIDER
Clean Water Accessibility and Affordability	IIJA	<p>\$5B: Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Small and Underserved Communities Emerging Contaminants Grant Program</p>			<p>States, territories, and Tribes are eligible to receive this funding to provide grants to small and underserved communities to help them comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act requirements and address emerging contaminants. Engage your state water office to see if this grant funding is available for your community.</p>	<p>State Water Office, Local Water Utilities, Local Government Officials, Water Advocacy Groups, Community Based Organizations that focus on community water concerns, Environmental Justice Organizations and Coalitions.</p>
				<p>\$3.5B: Indian Health Service Sanitation Facilities Construction Program</p>	<p>This program provides Tribes with technical and financial assistance to develop and construct safe drinking water facilities. Engage your Tribal leaders to see how this program can benefit your community.</p>	<p>Tribal Leaders, Water Advocacy Groups, Environmental Justice Organizations and Coalitions, and Indigenous Rights Organizations.</p>
	Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)			<p>\$550M: Domestic Water Supply Projects</p>	<p>This program is available to disadvantaged communities in the Reclamation States (Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming) to fund the planning, designing, and/or construction of water projects that will provide domestic water supplies to communities or households without reliable access to domestic water supplies. Engage your local government officials to ensure your community benefits from this program.</p>	<p>Local Government Water Officials, Water Conservation Groups, Water Advocacy Groups, and Environmental Justice Organizations and Coalitions.</p>

The People's JUSTICE40+ Community Benefit Playbook



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WATER JUSTICE FEDERAL FUNDING TABLE

WATER JUSTICE GOALS	FEDERAL SPENDING BILL	FORMULA GRANTS	COMPETITIVE GRANTS	OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	STRATEGY FOR ENGAGEMENT	POTENTIAL COMMUNITY BENEFIT STAKEHOLDERS (IN ADDITION TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS) TO CONSIDER
Ecosystem Restoration and Watershed Management	IIJA			<p>\$100M: Cooperative Watershed Management Program</p>	<p>This funding is available to grassroots, local watershed groups (may include, but is not limited to, federal, state, local, and Tribal officials, private property owners, and nonprofit organizations) for watershed restoration planning and implementation projects. This program encourages a coalition of diverse stakeholders to form local solutions to address their water management needs. Engage these entities to ensure your community has a voice in any watershed groups that exist in your community.</p>	<p>State Water Office, Tribal Leaders, Local Government Officials, Water Conservation Groups, Community-Based Organizations that address water concerns, Water Advocacy Groups, and Environmental Justice Organizations and Coalitions.</p>
			<p>\$400M: Water SMART Grants</p>		<p>This funding is available to states, Tribes, water or irrigation districts, organizations with water delivery authority, and nonprofit conservation organizations in the Western States and Territories to collaborate on projects that enhance water efficiency and sustainability. Engage these entities if water conservation addresses a community need.</p>	<p>State Water Office, Tribal Leaders, Local Water Districts, Local Water Utilities, Local Government Officials, Irrigation Districts, Water Conservation Groups, and Water Advocacy Organizations.</p>

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WATER JUSTICE FEDERAL FUNDING TABLE

WATER JUSTICE GOALS	FEDERAL SPENDING BILL	FORMULA GRANTS	COMPETITIVE GRANTS	OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	STRATEGY FOR ENGAGEMENT	POTENTIAL COMMUNITY BENEFIT STAKEHOLDERS (IN ADDITION TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS) TO CONSIDER
Ecosystem Restoration and Watershed Management	IIJA			<p>\$188M: Watershed Rehabilitation Program</p>	<p>This program provides technical and financial assistance to local sponsors (including cities, counties, towns, conservation districts, or Tribal organizations) or a legal subdivision of a State or Tribe for planning, designing, and construction activities associated with extending the life of a current dam or ensuring the dam meets current safety requirements. If your community is near an aging dam, engage your local government officials and your local U.S. Department of Agriculture Service Center to see how your community can benefit from technical and financial assistance.</p>	<p>Local Government Officials (including City, County, Town, Municipality, and Conservation District), Tribal Organization, Local U.S. Department of Agriculture Service Center, Water Conservation Groups, Local Water Advocacy Organizations, Environmental Justice Organizations, and Community-Based Organizations.</p>
			<p>\$79M: Columbia River Basin Restoration Program</p> <p>\$1B: Great Lakes Restoration Initiative</p> <p>\$53M: Gulf of Mexico</p> <p>\$40M: Lake Champlain Basin Program</p> <p>\$15M: Southeast New England Coastal Watershed Restoration Program</p> <p>\$24M: San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund</p> <p>\$89M: Puget Sound</p>		<p>This funding is available to a broad range of entities for restoration projects in the Columbia River Basin (Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Wyoming, Nevada, and Utah), the Great Lakes region (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin), the Gulf of Mexico (Alabama, Florida, Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi), the Lake Champlain Basin (Vermont and New York), the Lake Pontchartrain Basin (Louisiana and Mississippi), the San Francisco Bay (California), the Puget Sound (Washington), and the Southeast New England Coastal Watershed region (Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Connecticut). Restoration projects include improving water quality and monitoring, reducing runoff and addressing toxic substances, and stormwater treatment and control. If your community sits in one of these regions, engage your state and local water officials and other water advocates to identify projects and opportunities that can improve the water quality and surrounding ecosystem in your community.</p>	<p>State and Local Water Officials, Tribal Leaders, Water Conservation Groups, Water Advocacy Organizations, Environmental Justice Organizations, Community Based Organizations, Tribal Organizations, and Sportfishing Associations.</p>

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WATER JUSTICE FEDERAL FUNDING TABLE

WATER JUSTICE GOALS	FEDERAL SPENDING BILL	FORMULA GRANTS	COMPETITIVE GRANTS	OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	STRATEGY FOR ENGAGEMENT	POTENTIAL COMMUNITY BENEFIT STAKEHOLDERS (IN ADDITION TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS) TO CONSIDER
Ecosystem Restoration and Watershed Management	IIJA		\$106M: Long Island Sound Program		This funding is available to a broad range of entities in Connecticut and New York to implement the Long Island Study Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan. Plan activities include water quality monitoring, habitat restoration, and nitrogen management. If your community sits in the Long Island Sound region, engage your state and local water officials and water advocacy organizations to identify projects and opportunities that can benefit your community.	State and Local Water Officials, Water Conservation Groups, Water Advocacy Organizations, Environmental Justice Organizations, Community-Based Organizations, and Sport-fishing Associations.
			\$500M: Watershed and Flood Protection Operations		This program provides financial and technical assistance to a local sponsor (including cities, counties, towns, and conservation districts) or a legal subdivision of a state and Tribe for flood prevention, watershed protection, and water quality management. Engage these eligible entities to identify projects and opportunities that could benefit your community.	Local Government Officials (including City, County, Town, Municipality, and Conservation District), Tribal Organization, Local U.S. Department of Agriculture Service Center , Water Conservation Groups, Local Water Advocacy Organizations, Environmental Justice Organizations, Community Based Organizations
			\$400M: Ecosystem Restoration		This funding is available to states and Tribes for voluntary restoration projects on public and private land. Engage your state officials and Tribal leaders to identify ways this funding can benefit your community.	State Environmental Officials, Tribal Leaders, Conservation Groups, Habitat Restoration Groups, Environmental Justice Organizations, and Community Climate Resilience Organizations.

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WATER JUSTICE FEDERAL FUNDING TABLE

WATER JUSTICE GOALS	FEDERAL SPENDING BILL	FORMULA GRANTS	COMPETITIVE GRANTS	OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	STRATEGY FOR ENGAGEMENT	POTENTIAL COMMUNITY BENEFIT STAKEHOLDERS (IN ADDITION TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS) TO CONSIDER
Ecosystem Restoration and Watershed Management	IIJA		\$300M: Emergency Watershed Protection Program		This program provides financial and technical assistance to a local sponsor (including cities, counties, towns, and conservation districts) or a legal subdivision of a state and Tribe for watershed areas that have been damaged (such as soil erosion and impairments) by a natural disaster. Engage these eligible entities if your community needs emergency watershed assistance.	Local Government Officials (including City, County, Town, Municipality, and Conservation District), Tribal Organization, Local U.S. Department of Agriculture Service Center , Water Conservation Groups, Local Water Advocacy Organizations, Environmental Justice Organizations, and Community-Based Organizations.
			\$207M: Coastal Zone Management		This funding is available to states and territories for habitat restoration and ecosystem conservation. Engage your state and territory officials to identify ways this funding could address your community needs.	State Department of Natural Resources, Territory Natural Resources Officials, Conservation Groups, Habitat Restoration Organizations, Coastal Community Groups, and Environmental Justice Organizations.
	IRA		\$225M: Tribal Climate Resilience		This program is available to Tribal communities for habitat restoration and adaptation activities. Engage your Tribal leaders to identify how this program can benefit your community.	Tribal Leaders, Indigenous Rights Organizations, Environmental Justice Organizations, and National Tribal Organizations.
			\$2.88B: Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants		This funding opportunity is available to community-based nonprofit organizations, and local government entities, institutions of higher education, and Federally recognized Tribes in collaboration with community based-nonprofit organizations, to fund community-led projects that reduce air pollution, including multi-benefit stormwater projects such as rain gardens and wetland restoration. Engage these entities to see if there are projects or programs available to meet the needs of your community.	Local Community-Based Organizations, Local Government Officials, Local Institutions of Higher Education, and Tribal Officials.

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WATER JUSTICE FEDERAL FUNDING TABLE

WATER JUSTICE GOALS	FEDERAL SPENDING BILL	FORMULA GRANTS	COMPETITIVE GRANTS	OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	STRATEGY FOR ENGAGEMENT	POTENTIAL COMMUNITY BENEFIT STAKEHOLDERS (IN ADDITION TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS) TO CONSIDER
Flood Mitigation	IIJA		<p>\$3.5B: Flood Mitigation Assistance Grants</p>		<p>This funding is available to state, local, Tribal, and territory government officials to reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings and structures. If flooding is a community concern, engage these officials to advocate for program implementation in your community.</p>	<p>State Water Officials, Local Government Water Officials, Tribal Leaders, Territory Government Water Officials, and Environmental Justice Organizations and Coalitions.</p>
			<p>\$500M: Watershed and Flood Protection Operations</p>		<p>This program provides financial and technical assistance to a local sponsor (including cities, counties, towns, and conservation districts) or a legal subdivision of a state and Tribe for flood prevention, watershed protection, and water quality management. Engage these entities to identify projects and opportunities that could benefit your community.</p>	<p>Local Government Officials (including City, County, Town, Municipality, and Conservation District), Tribal Organization, Local U.S. Department of Agriculture Service Center, Water Conservation Groups, Local Water Advocacy Organizations, Environmental Justice Organizations, and Community-Based Organizations.</p>
			<p>\$492M: National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund</p>		<p>This program provides funding to nonprofits, state and territorial government officials, Tribal governments, local governments, and educational institutions for projects that restore and expand the natural infrastructure (such as coastal marshes and wetlands) that minimize the impacts of coastal flooding in nearby communities. Projects that directly engage community members in project design and implementation will be prioritized for funding. Engage these eligible entities to ensure your community is benefiting from these flood protection projects.</p>	<p>Local Government Officials, Municipal Government Officials, State Emergency Management Officials, Territory Emergency Management Officials, Tribal Leaders, Climate Resilience Organizations, Environmental Justice Organizations, Coastal Community Advocacy Groups, Institutions of Higher Education, and National Tribal Organizations.</p>

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WATER JUSTICE FEDERAL FUNDING TABLE

WATER JUSTICE GOALS	FEDERAL SPENDING BILL	FORMULA GRANTS	COMPETITIVE GRANTS	OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	STRATEGY FOR ENGAGEMENT	POTENTIAL COMMUNITY BENEFIT STAKEHOLDERS (IN ADDITION TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS) TO CONSIDER
Drought Mitigation	IIJA		<p>\$400M: Water SMART Grants</p>		<p>This funding is available to States, Tribes, water or irrigation districts, organizations with water or power delivery authority, and nonprofit conservation organizations in the Western States and Territories to collaborate on projects that enhance water efficiency and sustainability. Engage these entities if water conservation addresses a community need.</p>	<p>State Water Office, Tribal Leaders, Local Water Districts, Local Water Utilities, Local Government Officials, Irrigation Districts, Water Conservation Groups, Water Advocacy Organizations</p>
				<p>\$100M: Cooperative Watershed Management Program</p>	<p>This funding is available to grassroots, local watershed groups (may include, but is not limited to, federal, state, local, and Tribal officials, private property owners, and nonprofit organizations) for watershed restoration planning and implementation projects. This program encourages a coalition of diverse stakeholders to form local solutions to address their water management needs. Engage these entities to ensure your community has a voice in any watershed groups that exist in your community.</p>	<p>State Water Office, Tribal Leaders, Local Government Officials, Water Conservation Groups, Community Based Organizations that address water concerns, Water Advocacy Groups, and Environmental Justice Organizations and Coalitions.</p>
	IRA		<p>\$4B: Drought Mitigation</p>		<p>This funding and financial assistance is available to the Reclamation States and Tribes for conservation projects and ecosystem and habitat restoration. Engage your state officials and Tribal leaders to identify ways these funding opportunities can benefit your community.</p>	<p>State Water Officials, Tribal Leaders, Water Conservation Groups, Habitat Restoration Organizations, Water Advocacy Organizations, Environmental Justice Organizations, Community Based Organizations</p>
			<p>\$12.5M: Emergency Drought Relief For Tribes</p>		<p>This program is available to Tribes to fund projects that mitigate near term drought impacts, such as drinking water shortages and loss of resources, that are affected by Bureau of Reclamation water projects.</p>	<p>Tribal Leaders, Indigenous Rights Organizations, Environmental Justice Organizations, and National Tribal Organizations.</p>

WHO CAN HELP

Several national organizations and coalitions are working on Water Justice and have resources to help you develop your energy agenda. Here are some trusted organizations with resources available:

- [The Center for Water Security and Cooperation](#)
- [Water Equity and Climate Resilience Caucus](#)
- [The River Network](#)
- [SRF State Advocates Forum](#)
- [EarthJustice](#)
- [American Rivers](#)

Key Energy Players:

- **[Environmental Protection Agency](#)**—Federal water funding will flow through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Use this link to get information on how to apply for EPA grants and assistance.
- **[Clean Water State Revolving Fund Contact](#)**—Financial assistance provided through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) is administered at the state level. Engage your state CWSRF coordinator to learn more about how your state program is implemented and how to apply for assistance.
- **[Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Contact](#)**—Financial assistance provided through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) is also administered at the state level. Engage your state DWSRF coordinator to learn more about how your state program is implemented and how to apply for assistance.

RELEVANT RESOURCES

- [Water For All](#)
- [Equitable Water Infrastructure Toolkit](#)
- [Drinking Water Guide: A Resource For Advocates](#)
- [Who Holds the Power: Demystifying and Democratizing Public Utility Commissions](#)
- [Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Map Service Center](#)
- [State Revolving Fund Advocacy Toolkit](#)
- [Climate Change Impacts to Water and Sanitation for Frontline Communities in the United States](#)
- [Toward a Strong and Equitable Water Workforce](#)

The People's JUSTICE40+ Community Benefit Playbook



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ENDNOTES

- 1 Diego S. Cardoso and Casey J. Wichman, "Water Affordability in the United States," Water Resources Research (October 2022). https://mleead.umich.edu/files/Event_LegislativeForum_2023/Water%20Affordability/Research%20Articles/Water%20Affordability%20in%20the%20United%20States.pdf
- 2 Keith Mulvihill, "Causes and Effects of Lead in Water," National Resources Defense Council (September 2021). <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/causes-and-effects-lead-water>
- 3 "7th Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment," Environmental Protection Agency (April 2023). https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-04/Final_DWINSAs%20Public%20Factsheet%204.4.23.pdf
- 4 Keith Mulvihill, "Causes and Effects of Lead in Water," National Resources Defense Council (September 2021). <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/causes-and-effects-lead-water>
- 5 Alissa Corder, Gretta Goldeman, Linda S. Birnbaum, Phil Brown, Mark F. Miller, Rosie Mueller, Sharyle Patton, Derrick H. Salvatore, and Leonard Trasande, "The True Cost of PFAS and the Benefits of Acting Now," Environmental Science and Technology (July 2021). <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8296683/pdf/es1c03565.pdf>
- 6 "After the Storm: A Citizen's Guide to Understanding Stormwater," Environmental Protection Agency (January 2003). <https://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPDF.cgi/200049A9.PDF?Dockey=200049A9.PDF>
- 7 Stephen J. Gaffield, Robert L. Goo, Lynn A. Richards, and Richard J. Jackson, "Public Health Effects of Inadequately Managed Stormwater Runoff," Research and Practice (September 2003). <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1448005/pdf/0931527.pdf>
- 8 Kris Smith, "The Unequal Impacts of Flooding," Headwaters Economics (October 2023). <https://headwaterseconomics.org/natural-hazards/unequal-impacts-of-flooding/#:~:text=Flooding%20disproportionately%20impact%20people%20with%20areas%2C%20and%20have%20fewer%20resources.>
- 9 Melissa Denchak, "Flooding and Climate Change: Everything You Need to Know," National Resource Defense Council (November 2023). <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/flooding-and-climate-change-everything-you-need-know>
- 10 Rebecca Lindsey, "Climate Change: Global Sea Level," National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (April 2022). <https://www.climate.gov/news-features/understanding-climate/climate-change-global-sea-level>; Melissa Denchak, "Flooding and Climate Change: Everything You Need to Know," National Resource Defense Council (November 2023). <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/flooding-and-climate-change-everything-you-need-know>
- 11 "Health Implications of Drought," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (January 2020). <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/drought/implications.htm>
- 12 Melissa Denchak, "Fracking 101," National Resource Defense Council (April 2019). <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/fracking-101#what-is>