



THE UNITED STATES  
CONFERENCE OF MAYORS



April 16, 2026

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Chairman  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
170 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
530 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Chairman  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1135 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2163 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brett Guthrie  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2161 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2107 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Capito, Ranking Member Whitehouse, Chairman Graves, Ranking Member Larsen, Chairman Guthrie and Ranking Member Pallone,

On behalf of the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM), the National League of Cities (NLC), and the National Association of Counties (NACo), we strongly urge you to reauthorize key water infrastructure funding and financing programs that support communities in upgrading and improving drinking water, wastewater and stormwater systems. Strengthening infrastructure systems to deliver safe, reliable, and affordable drinking water and wastewater services remains a top priority for local leaders.

Programs such as the **Clean Water State Revolving Fund, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA)** are essential to protecting public health and growing the economy. We request that these foundational water infrastructure programs be reauthorized at current levels under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA, P.L. 117-58) plus inflation.

Additionally, grant and technical assistance programs for local governments help ensure that drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services are affordable for residents and help communities meet Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act requirements more affordably. Therefore, we support reauthorization of the following programs at current levels plus inflation:

**Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program - \$50 million** (authorized under IIJA)

*This grant program assists medium and large size public water systems with protecting drinking water sources from natural hazards, extreme weather events, and cybersecurity threats.*

**Drinking Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability grants - \$25 million** (authorized under IIJA)

*Provides grants to assist underserved, small, and disadvantaged communities for the purpose of increasing drinking water facility resilience to natural hazards.*

**Voluntary School and Child Care Lead Testing and Reduction Grant Program - \$50 million** (authorized under IIJA)

*Provides noncompetitive grants to states, territories and tribes to assist local and tribal educational agencies in voluntary testing for lead contamination in drinking water and for lead remediation at schools and child care facilities.*

**Reducing Lead in Drinking Water grants - \$100 million** (authorized under IIJA)

*The competitive grant program is designed to facilitate reducing lead in drinking water in communities through infrastructure and/or treatment improvements or facility remediation in schools and child care facilities. The goal of these projects is to address conditions that contribute to increased concentrations of lead in drinking water.*

**Safe Water for Small and Disadvantaged Communities grants - \$140 million** (authorized under IIJA)

*Provides noncompetitive grants to states and territories to help public water systems in small, underserved, and disadvantaged communities meet and comply with Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) drinking water regulations by providing funding for drinking water projects and activities.*

**Enhanced Aquifer Use and Recharge - \$5 million** (authorized under IIJA)

*Under the State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) program, this program allows states, tribes, and local governments to carry out groundwater research on enhanced aquifer use and recharge in support of sole source aquifers.*

**Water Infrastructure Workforce Development Grants - \$5 million (authorized under IIJA)**

*The grant program supports expanding career opportunities in the drinking water and wastewater utility sector and elevating public awareness about jobs in the water workforce.*

**Sewer Overflow Control Grants - \$280 million (authorized under IIJA)**

*Grant funds can be used for the planning, designing, and construction of combined sewer overflows (CSOs), sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs), and stormwater management projects.*

**Training and technical assistance for rural, small and tribal wastewater systems - \$50 million (authorized under IIJA)**

*Provides grants to qualified nonprofits to provide technical assistance, training, and information to rural, small, and tribal municipalities for planning, developing, and financing water infrastructure, including decentralized systems.*

**Advanced Drinking Water Technology Grant Program - \$10 million (authorized under IIJA, but not funded)**

*A grant program for water systems either serving 100,000 or fewer individuals or small and disadvantaged water systems to identify, deploy, or identify and deploy technologies drinking water infrastructure technology that is new or emerging, but proven, to enhance the treatment, monitoring, affordability, efficiency, and safety of the drinking water provided.*

**Clean Water Infrastructure Resiliency and Sustainability Program - \$25 million (authorized under IIJA, but not funded)**

*A grant program for public water systems to assist in the planning, design, construction, implementation, operation, or maintenance of a program or project to increase the resiliency or adaptability of water systems to natural hazards, cybersecurity vulnerabilities, or extreme weather events.*

**Connection to Public Water Systems - \$40 million (authorized under IIJA, but not funded)**

*A grant program for publicly-owned treatment works or nonprofit organizations to cover the costs incurred from connecting a household to a municipal or private wastewater system.*

**Wastewater Efficiency Grant Pilot Program - \$20 million (authorized under IIJA, but not funded)**

*Pilot program to assist publicly-owned treatment works to create or improve waste-to-energy systems. Grants may be awarded for sludge collection systems, anaerobic digesters, methane capture or transfer, and other emerging technologies that transform waste to energy.*

**Small Publicly-owned Treatment Works Efficiency Grant Program - (authorized under IIJA, but not funded)**

*Grant program to assist small publicly-owned treatment works that serve fewer than 10,000 people, or a disadvantaged community, with replacing or repairing equipment to increase water efficiency or energy efficiency.*

**Technical Assistance and Grants for Emergencies Affecting Public Water Systems - \$35 million (authorized under IIJA, but not funded)**

*To provide resources to communities that face a public water system emergency. The fund will help mitigate drinking water threats to public health, including the intrusion of lead into the drinking water supply, and emergency situations including those resulting from a cybersecurity event or vulnerability, among other uses..*

**Operational Sustainability of Small Public Water Systems - \$50 million (authorized under IIJA, but not funded)**

*The program is designed to help improve the ability of small public water systems to respond to water infrastructure failures through asset management of drinking water systems, pumps, wells, valves, treatment systems and other pertinent activities. These activities include, but are not limited to, identification and prevention of potable water loss due to leaks, breaks, and other metering or infrastructure or system failures.*

**Stormwater Control Infrastructure Project Grants - \$10 million (authorized under IIJA, but not funded)**

*Grant program to fund the development of standards, create fee structures, and develop and deliver training and educational materials for stormwater management.*

**Pilot Program for Alternative Water Source Projects - \$25 million (authorized under IIJA, but not funded)**

*The grants may be used for engineering, design, construction, and final testing of alternative water source projects designed to meet critical water supply needs. Alternative water source projects include those projects that provide alternative sources of water through conserving, managing, reclaiming or reusing water, stormwater or wastewater.*

**Water Data Sharing Pilot Program - \$15 million (authorized under IIJA, but not funded)**

*A pilot program for states to encourage intrastate and interstate information sharing. The grant program funds information sharing among communities regarding water quality, water infrastructure needs, and water technology.*

**State Competitive Grants for Underserved Communities - \$50 million (authorized under IIJA, but not funded)**

*Grants may be used for projects and activities that allow public water systems in small and disadvantaged communities to comply with drinking water standards.*

On behalf of the nation's mayors, cities and counties, thank you for leadership and support for these important water infrastructure programs. We stand ready to work with you on legislation to ensure the timely reauthorization of these programs on behalf of the nation's local governments. If you have any questions, please contact us: Judy Sheahan (USCM) at 202-861-6775 or [jsheahan@usmayors.org](mailto:jsheahan@usmayors.org); Carolyn Berndt (NLC) at 202-626-3101 or [Berndt@nlc.org](mailto:Berndt@nlc.org); or Charlotte Mitchell Duyshart (NACo) at 202-661-8826 or [cmitchell@naco.org](mailto:cmitchell@naco.org).

Sincerely,



Matthew D. Chase  
CEO/Executive Director  
National Association of Counties



Tom Cochran  
CEO and Executive Director  
The U.S. Conference of Mayors



Clarence E. Anthony  
CEO and Executive Director  
National League of Cities

CC: Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works  
Members of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
Members of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce