

Technical Assistance for Accessing State and Federal Resources

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University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center

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Environmental Finance Centers (EFC)

Environmental Finance Centers

- Network of centers across the country
- UMD EFC works throughout the mid-Atlantic
- Provide the information, tools and resources to build community capacity to pay for resource protection and restoration priorities



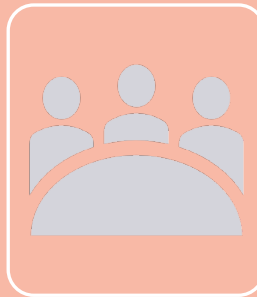
Capacity Building & Training

- Local Government Leadership Training
- On-line and Virtual Workshops
- Municipal Online Stormwater Training (MOST) Center



Policy Analysis & Financial Assessment

- Policy Review
- Financing Strategies
- Budget Analysis
- Program Evaluation



Community Outreach & Facilitation

- Designing outreach campaigns
- Facilitating stakeholder engagement
- Conducting focus groups
- Managing community surveys and interviews

Region 3 Water Infrastructure TA



Water Infrastructure

[CONTACT US](#)

Water Technical Assistance (WaterTA)



All communities deserve access to clean, reliable water. Yet, too many communities across America face challenges in providing safe drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services to their residents. The [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) presents an unprecedented opportunity to address water infrastructure needs by providing \$50 billion in new funding – the [largest federal investment in water in the history of our nation](#). New and existing [EPA Water Technical Assistance \(WaterTA\) programs](#) will be utilized to support effective implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

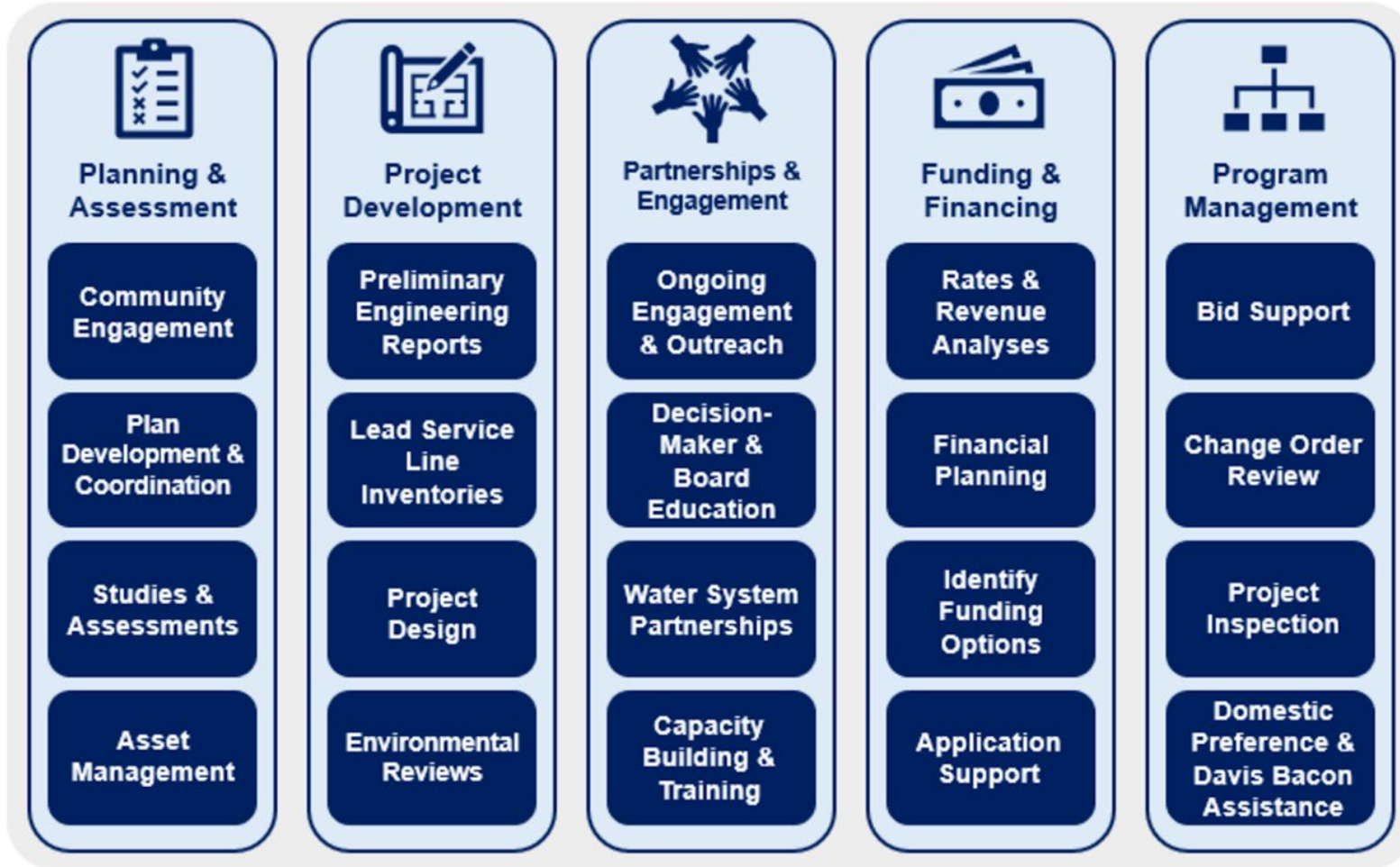
<https://www.epa.gov/water-infrastructure/water-technical-assistance-waterta>

What's New and Key Resources

- [WaterTA Community Fact Sheet](#) (May 2023) – General information for the public on WaterTA.
- [WaterTA Implementation Memo](#) (March 2023) –

EPA Region	EFC
1	University of Maine System
2	Syracuse University
3	University of Maryland
4	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
4	Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project Inc.
5	WSOS Community Action Commission Inc.
5	Delta Institute
6	University of New Mexico
7	Wichita State University
8	National Rural Water Association
9	Rural Community Assistance Corporation
9	Hawaii Community Foundation
10	Rural Community Assistance Corporation

Technical Assistance Services



- 5-year project
- Assistance can be provided at any stage in the process
- Maryland Team
 - Michelle Kokolis and Jenny Egan

EFC's Region 3 WaterTA Goals

- Provide direct TA to communities
- Support communities to take steps toward accessing water infrastructure funding (state revolving funds)
- Coordinate and collaborate to support effective delivery of TA
 - If we aren't the right fit, connect communities with whoever is
- Prioritize underserved communities
 - 40% Justice40
- 10 “deep dive” and 30-50 “light touch” annually



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MOONSHOT
MISSIONS



The Water Center
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA



Quantified
Ventures

SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH
CEEJH | COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT,
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & HEALTH



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Steps in the TA Process

- Self-Identify by completing the intake form **OR** State referral
- Complete a 30-minute intake call with the MD team
 - Office hours Mondays and Wednesdays 9-11am
- EFC will assess initial needs and determine the best TA partner
 - Determine if the community fits the TA parameters
 - If yes, who is the best TA partner
- Confirm TA partner and develop a workplan
- Connect the community with the designated TA provider

Grant Development Assistance

We can not write grants on your behalf, but we can offer the following services:

- Funding opportunity identification and evaluation
 - Evaluate eligibility
 - Discuss project ideas and relevance to the opportunity
 - Discuss partnership opportunities
- Proposal development support
 - Advise on and review project scope development
 - Advise on and review proposal narratives

Grant Development Assistance Cont.

- Application assembly consultation
 - Assist in registering for grants.gov, SAM.gov, and other online portals
 - Discuss/review qualification and past performance
 - Discuss/review milestones and timelines
 - Discuss/review budget
 - Review application forms and documents
- Post-award assistance
 - Support the development of RFPs for professional engineering and construction services
 - Interpret procurement rules and processes
 - Share best practices for managing grant dollars and record-keeping

Small Systems Assistance

- Self-Identify by reaching out to EFC
 - Covers other concerns for communities
 - PFAS education and outreach
 - Assistance with communication of PFAS levels
-
- This program helps with education and other PFAS related actions that do not have the goal or are not quite ready to applying for funding.

Example of assistance

- Small mobile home community
- Letter to residents (Like Harford has done!)
- Information handout in English and Spanish



Reducing PFAS in Your Drinking Water with a Home Filter

In April 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized the first-ever national drinking water standards for several PFAS in drinking water. If you learn there are PFAS in your drinking water, then you may consider installing a home filter. A home filter could be an effective way to reduce PFAS levels, and there are a variety of types of filters available at many different price points.

What are PFAS?

PFAS are a category of chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products since the 1940s. PFAS repel oil and water and resist heat, making them useful in a variety of products, including nonstick cookware and food packaging, waterproof clothing, stain-resistant furniture, and firefighting foam. People can be exposed to PFAS in a variety of ways, and PFAS in drinking water can be a significant portion of a person's total PFAS exposure. Exposure to PFAS may lead to health problems, so reducing your exposure to PFAS lowers your risk for these health problems.

ROBERT G. CASSILLY
Harford County Executive

ROBERT S. MCCORD
Director of Administration




JOSEPH J. SIEMEK, P.E.
Director of Public Works

September 6, 2024

Dear Valued Customer,

You may be aware that drinking water from wells at some Harford County public schools was reported to contain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). These substances, also known as "forever chemicals," are a group of man-made chemicals that have been used in a range of consumer products since the 1940s and have been found in the environment including untreated water supplies, which has become a public health concern.

How to Reach Us




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< Technical Assistance

Home > Research & Creative Practice > Centers > Environmental Finance Center > Environmental Finance Center Project Areas > Technical Assistance > Region 3 WaterTA Program



Region 3 WaterTA Program

The Region 3 Water Technical Assistance (WaterTA) program is offering direct support to municipalities, tribes, and water utilities in US EPA Region 3 to help them access federal and state funding to address water infrastructure needs. This assistance will be delivered over the coming five years at no cost to recipients, through an award from the US Environmental Protection Agency. Assistance is available on a need basis, with priority given to historically underserved and disadvantaged communities.

Available services include assistance identifying water challenges; developing plans; building technical, financial, and managerial capacity; and completing funding application materials. See the graphic below for a full list of available services.

Planning and Assessment	Project Development	Partnerships and Engagement	Funding and Financing
Community Engagement	Preliminary Engineering Reports	Ongoing Engagement and Outreach	Rates and Revenue Analyses
Plan Development and Coordination	Lead Service Line Inventories	Decision-maker and Board Education	Financial Planning
Studies and Assessments	Project Design	Water Systems Partnerships	Identify Funding Options
Asset Management	Environmental Reviews	Capacity Building and Training	Application Support


The Region 3 WaterTA Team includes the following technical service providers:

- University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center (team lead and community liaison)
- University of Maryland Center for Community Engagement, Environmental Justice, and Health
- The Water Center, University of Pennsylvania
- Moonshot Missions
- Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc.
- HCAP Solutions Northeast
- West Virginia Community Action Partnership

Request assistance

To request Water Technical Assistance, [please complete this form](#). After reviewing your submission, a Region 3 WaterTA provider will respond with potential next steps. Response times may vary depending on the volume and types of requests received. Please note not every request may be offered WaterTA, and participation in this or other TA programs does not guarantee funding through the State Revolving Funds (SRFs) or other programs. If you need assistance or have questions about this form, please contact water.ta@umd.edu.

Partners



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EPA Intake Form

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



UMD - EFC Intake Form

<https://arch.umd.edu/research-creative-practice/centers/environmental-finance-center/project-areas/technical-assistance/region-3-waterta-program>



State Referral

Direct Email

<https://arch.umd.edu/research-creative-practice/centers/environmental-finance-center/project-areas/technical-assistance/region-3-waterta-program>

Questions???

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