



Technical Assistance for Accessing State and Federal Resources

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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



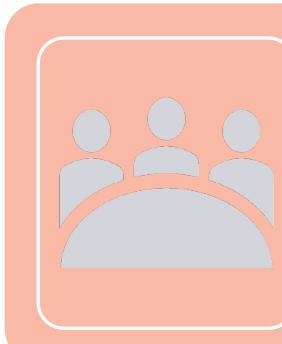
Capacity Building & Training

- 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

 United States Environmental Protection Agency

Environmental Topics ▾ Laws & Regulations ▾ Report a Violation ▾ About EPA ▾

Water Infrastructure

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>

Search EPA.gov 

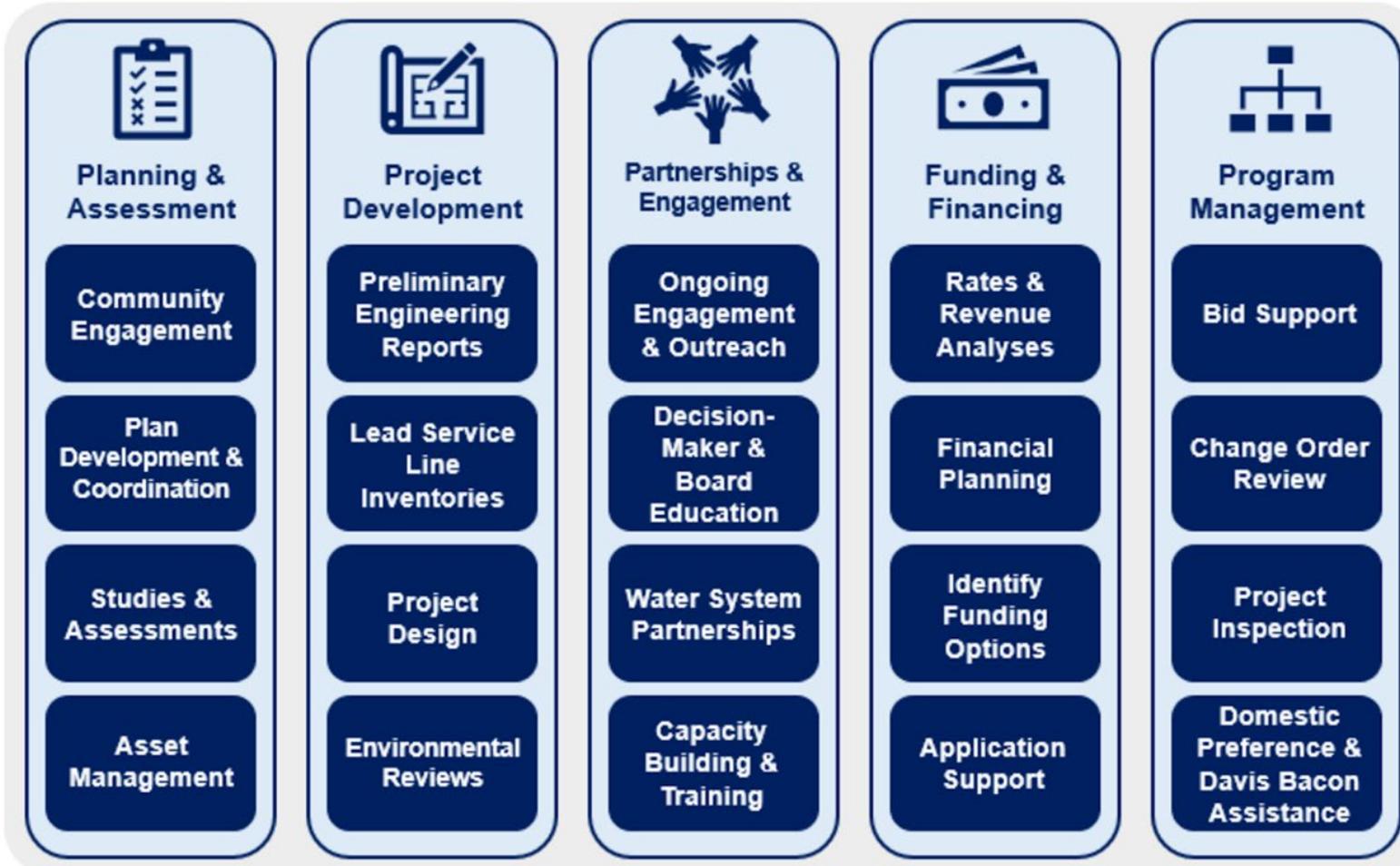
CONTACT US

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



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. CASSILY
Harford County Executive

ROBERT S. McCORD
Director of Administration



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

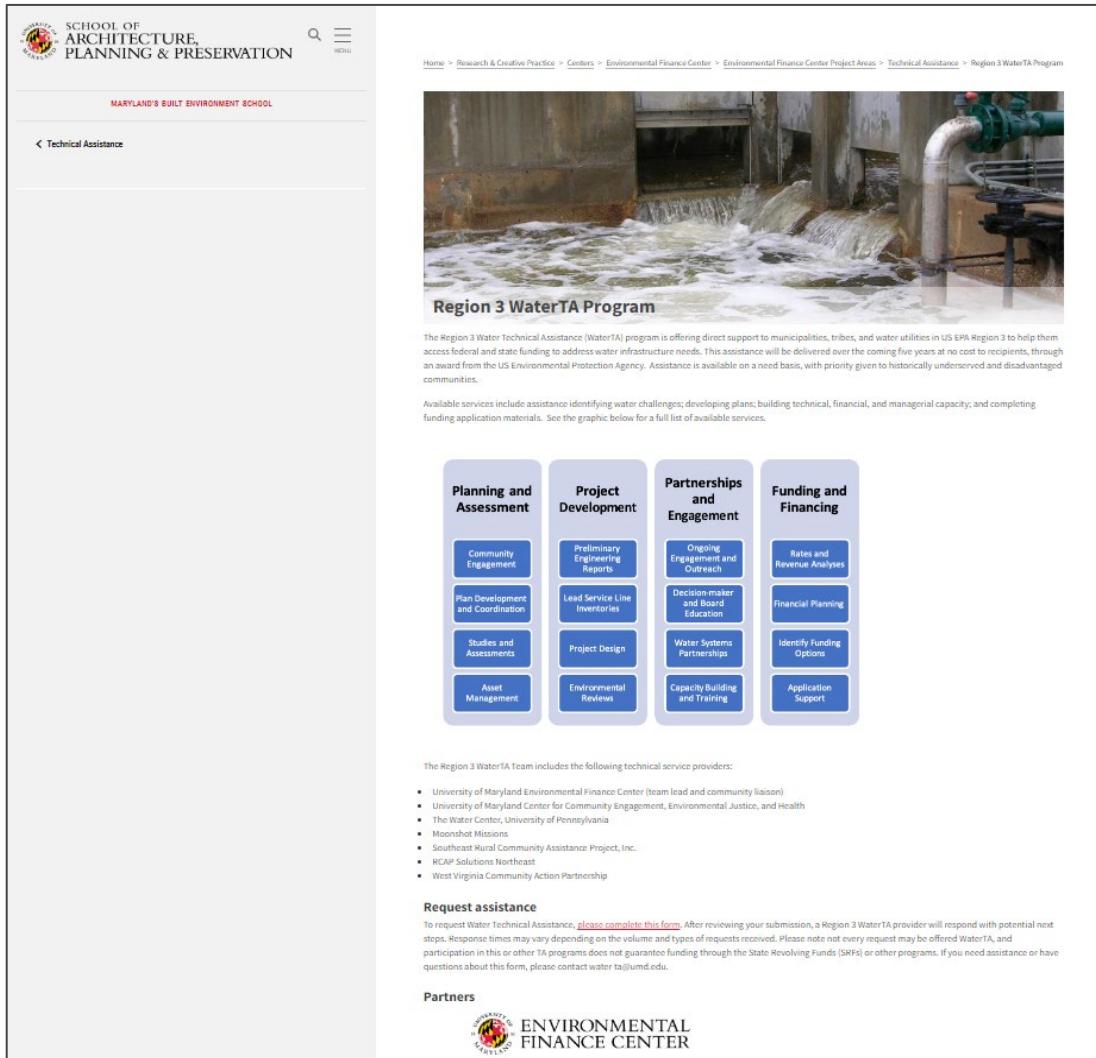
September 6, 2024

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



The screenshot shows the 'Region 3 WaterTA Program' page. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the University of Maryland logo, the School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation name, and a search bar. Below the navigation, a breadcrumb trail shows the path: Home > Research & Creative Practice > Centers > Environmental Finance Center > Environmental Finance Center Project Areas > Technical Assistance > Region 3 WaterTA Program. The main content area features a large image of water flowing from a pipe into a concrete structure. Below the image, the title 'Region 3 WaterTA Program' is displayed. A descriptive text block follows, explaining the program's purpose: '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.' Below this, a list of available services is provided, categorized into four main groups: Planning and Assessment, Project Development, Partnerships and Engagement, and Funding and Financing. Each group has several sub-options listed. At the bottom of the page, there's a section for 'Technical service providers' and a 'Request assistance' section with a note about completing a form. The footer includes the University of Maryland logo and the 'ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE CENTER' logo.

EPA Intake Form

<https://www.epa.gov/wateinfrastructure/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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