

Equitable Infrastructure Fact Sheet



Who are we?

US Water Alliance is a national nonprofit dedicated to building a sustainable water future for all. We believe in a One Water approach to water stewardship that emphasizes innovation, inclusivity, and integration. In 2023, the Alliance became a national Environmental Finance Center (EFC). As an EFC, the Alliance will provide technical assistance (TA) to communities that have historically been underserved, helping them to access federal funds for drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure improvements. Alliance staff have years of experience managing utilities and offer managerial, community planning, and community engagement expertise. We also partner with national experts in financial, engineering, and managerial services.

What is technical assistance (TA)?

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law promises over \$50 billion in water infrastructure investments. These funds are an opportunity to transform water infrastructure across the country, improving both public health and the environment. Accessing these funds can be challenging, however, particularly for the communities that need them most. This is where technical assistance (TA) comes in. TA is a targeted service that EPA offers to support for communities that may not have the capacity or resources to apply for federal funds on their own. TA includes identifying water quality issues, developing long-term plans, building organizational capacity, and putting together a successful application to access federal infrastructure funding.

Where do we provide TA?

The Alliance provides TA at a national level. In addition, we partner with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the University of New Mexico to provide community engagement support in EPA Regions 4 (Southeast) and 6 (South Central), respectively.

What makes the Alliance a unique TA provider?

As a TA provider, the Alliance will help underserved communities plan for, obtain, and implement federal funds in a way that furthers equity and delivers long-term benefits. Our own skills will be supplemented by our various partners with financial, engineering, and managerial expertise. While our exact work will vary depending on each community's distinct water infrastructure needs and challenges, there will be some constants to the way we approach this work:



Meaningfully engaging the community

It is essential that we begin our TA efforts by seeking to understand the community's needs, building trust and capacity along the way. By opening lines of communication with the community early on, we can seek input and provide updates throughout the process, ensuring that the final product is one that promotes well-being for all.



Developing comprehensive plans

We want to make sure that the projects we help fund are not only serving the community's immediate needs but are also sustained in the long term. To ensure this, we develop comprehensive plans for the communities that we work alongside.



Pursuing environmental justice

Where there are historical or current injustices affecting water or wastewater services, we aim to address them. Advancing environmental justice is a key priority of ours, whether that means involving the EPA Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights or addressing infrastructure issues head-on through our work.

If your community is interested in receiving TA, fill out the interest form [here](#). If you're specifically interested in what the Alliance has to offer, please indicate so in the form. **Thank you!**