



## Funding Opportunities for Tribal Environmental Health

This document lists federal and regional funding opportunities that are available and may support Tribal environmental health initiatives. It also lists technical assistance programs for various Tribal projects and initiatives. This document is updated regularly.

The Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center (GLITEC) offers free grant writing and funding application assistance to Tribes and Tribal-affiliated organizations. For support, please contact GLITEC Director Will Funmaker at [wfunmaker@glitc.org](mailto:wfunmaker@glitc.org).





# Federal Funding Programs for Tribal Drinking Water Projects

- **Drinking Water Infrastructure Grant – Tribal Set-Aside (DWIG-TSA)**

- Provides funding for infrastructure improvements to public water systems serving Tribes.
- [Program OverviewUS EPA](#)
  - **Application Deadline:** N/A (2025)
  - **How to Apply:** Tribes are encouraged to contact their [EPA Regional Office](#) for information on how to apply for Tribal drinking water infrastructure funding

- **Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities (EC-SDC)**

### Tribal Grant Program

- Funds projects addressing emerging contaminants, including PFAS, in drinking water systems serving small Tribal communities.
- [Program InformationUS EPA](#)
  - **Application Deadline:** N/A (2025)
  - **How to Apply:** Tribes are encouraged to contact their [EPA Regional Office](#) for information on how to apply for Tribal drinking water infrastructure funding

- **Small, Underserved, and Disadvantaged Communities (SUDC)**

### Tribal Grant Program

- Assists small public water systems serving Tribes to comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- [Program OverviewUS EPA+3US EPA+3US EPA+3](#)
  - **Application Deadline:** N/A (2025)
  - **How to Apply:** Tribes are encouraged to contact their [EPA Regional Office](#) for information on how to apply for Tribal drinking water



infrastructure funding

- **Reducing Lead in Drinking Water Tribal Grant Program**

- Provides funding for projects aiming to reduce lead concentrations in Tribal drinking water.
- [Program DetailsUS EPA](#)
  - **Application Deadline:** N/A
  - **How to Apply:** Contact [EPA Regional Office](#) about availability of funding

- **Tribal Public Water System Supervision (PWSS) Grant Program**

- Supports the implementation of the Tribal PWSS program, helping drinking water systems maintain or achieve compliance with drinking water regulations. A portion of these funds is set aside for activities that address emerging contaminants and for operator certification and training.
- <https://www.epa.gov/tribaldrinkingwater/tribal-public-water-system-supervision-program>
  - **Application Deadline:** N/A
  - **How to Apply:** Once a Tribe has primacy over their PWSS program or have been granted “Treatment in the Same Manner as a State (TAS) contact [Regional Tribal Drinking Water Direct Implementation Coordinators](#) for assistance from the program

- **EPA Multipurpose Grant for States and Tribes**

- Intended to be used at state and Tribal discretion, for high-priority activities to complement activities funded under established environmental statuses. Encourages grantees to consider using funds to address PFAS and other contaminants.
- [Final\\_fy21\\_mpg\\_guidance\\_for\\_states.pdf](#)
  - **Application Deadline:** October 2030
  - **How to Apply:** Follow directions on link to apply according to your specific eligibility



- **Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program**
  - To assist underserved, small, and disadvantaged communities for the purpose of increasing drinking water facility resilience to natural hazards.
  - [Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability | USEPA](#)
    - **Application Deadline:** Current funding is currently closed, but has potential for future funding
  
- **SEARCH — Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities and Households in Minnesota**
  - Helps very small, financially distressed rural communities extend and improve water/waste treatment facilities that serve local households and businesses
  - [SEARCH - Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities and Households in Minnesota | Rural Development](#)
    - **Application Deadline:** N/A but OPEN
    - **How to Apply:** Contact state-specific project officer for project eligibility and directions
  
- **Water and Waste Facility Loans and Grants to Alleviate Health Risks on Tribal Lands in Minnesota**
  - Helps get safe, reliable drinking water and waste disposal services to low-income communities that face significant health risks
  - [Water and Waste Facility Loans and Grants to Alleviate Health Risks on Tribal Lands in Minnesota | Rural Development](#)
    - **Application Deadline:** N/A but OPEN
    - **How to Apply:** Contact state-specific project officer for project eligibility and directions



- **Tribal General Assistance Program (GAP) Grants**
  - Funding to Tribes for planning, developing and establishing environmental protection programs and for developing and implementing solid/hazardous waste programs on Tribal lands
  - [Indian Environmental General Assistance Program \(GAP\) | US EPA](#)
    - **Application Deadline:** Active for Region 5 (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin)
    - **How to Apply:** Contact EPA Project Officer for availability and application deadline
  
- **Environmental Justice Grant**
  - Up to \$1 million (\$200,000 each) to Tribes, states, and communities to improve the environment and public health conditions of low-income minority communities
  - [Inflation Reduction Act Environmental and Climate Justice Program | US EPA](#)
  - **Application Deadline:**
    - Closed:
      - Community Change Grants Program (Community Change Grants)
      - UPLIFT Climate and Environmental Community Action Grant
    - Open:
      - Thriving Communities Grantmaking (TCGM) Program: Date N/A
    - Not Specified:
      - Collaborative Problem-Solving (CPS) Cooperative Agreement Program
      - Government-to-Government (G2G) Program
  
- **Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants (ECWAG)**
  - Provide to low-income communities that face significant health risks through the lack of safe drinking water and clean sanitation facilities
  - [Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants | Rural Development](#)
    - **Application Deadline:** N/A but OPEN
    - **How to Apply:** Contact state-specific project officer for project eligibility and directions



- **WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects**

- 50/50 cost share funding (\$200,000 each) for small water efficiency improvements: installation of flow measurement or automation in specific parts of a water delivery system, lining of a section of a canal to address seepage, etc.
- [WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects | Bureau of Reclamation](#)
  - **Application Deadline:** Deadline and applications are paused currently
  - **How to Apply:** When/if available, apply here [Search Results Detail | Grants.gov](#)

- **Intervention Research to Improve Native American Health (R34 Clinical Trial Optional)**

- Support research on interventions to improve health in Native American populations.
- [PAR-25-378](#)
  - **Application Deadline:** January 7, 2027
  - **How to Apply:** Apply here [Search Results Detail | Grants.gov](#)
- [PAR-25-379](#)
  - **Application Deadline:** January 7, 2027
  - **How to Apply:** Apply here [Search Results Detail | Grants.gov](#)

- **NIH Small Research Grant Program (Parent R03 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)**

- Supports small research projects that can be carried out in a short period of time with limited resources
- [PA-25-302](#)
  - **Application Deadline:** January 7, 2028
  - **How to Apply:** Apply here [Search Results Detail | Grants.gov](#)



- **Environmental Health Sciences Core Centers Program (P30 Clinical Trials Optional)**
  - Identify and capitalize on emerging issues that advance improving the understanding of the relationships among environmental exposure, human biology and disease
  - [RFA-ES-25-002](#)
    - **Application Deadline:** January 29, 2027
    - **How to Apply:** Apply here [Search Results Detail | Grants.gov](#)
  
- **Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health (R21 Clinical Trial Optional)**
  - Support studies that identify, develop and/or test strategies for overcoming barriers to the adoption, adaptation, integration, scale-up and sustainability of evidence-based interventions, practices, programs, tools, treatments, guidelines, and policies
  - [PAR-25-143](#)
    - **Application Deadline:** January 7, 2028
    - **How to Apply:** Apply here [Search Results Detail | Grants.gov](#)
  - [PAR-25-233](#)
    - **Application Deadline:** January 7, 2028
    - **How to Apply:** Apply here [Search Results Detail | Grants.gov](#)
  - [PAR-25-144](#)
    - **Application Deadline:** January 7, 2028
    - **How to Apply:** Apply here [Search Results Detail | Grants.gov](#)
  
- **Native American Research Centers for Health (NARCH) (S06 Clinical Trial Optional)**
  - Fund federally recognized AI/AN Tribes and Tribal organizations to support health-related research, research career enhancement, and research infrastructure enhancement activities
  - [PAR-23-166](#)
    - **Application Deadline:** August 7, 2026
    - **How to Apply:** Apply here [Search Results Detail | Grants.gov](#)



- **Forecast to Publish a Notice of Funding Opportunity Announcement for Addressing Determinants of Health Disparities Among Rural Populations (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)**
  - Support intervention and etiologic studies in rural communities to address factors that increase, reduce, or prevent disparities in health outcomes among rural populations
  - [FOR-MD-25-003](#)
    - **Application Deadline:** Estimated close date November 26, 2025
    - **How to Apply:** Apply here [Search Results Detail | Grants.gov](#)
  
- **Community Health Aide Program: Tribal Assessment and Planning**
  - Support assessment and planning of Tribes and Tribal organizations in determining the feasibility of implementing a Community Health Aide Program in their respective communities. The program is designed to support the regional flexibility required for T/TO to design a program unique to the needs of their individual communities.
  - [HHS-2025-IHS-TAP-0001](#)
    - **Application Deadline:** Deadline not established yet
    - **How to Apply:** Apply here [Search Results Detail | Grants.gov](#)
  
- **Risk and Protective Factors of Family Health and Family Level Interventions (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)**
  - Advance the science of minority health and health disparities by supporting research on family health and well-being and resilience
  - [PAR-25-217](#)
    - **Application Deadline:** May 8, 2027
    - **How to Apply:** Apply here [Search Results Detail | Grants.gov](#)



- **Time-Sensitive Research Opportunities in Environmental Health Sciences (R21 Clinical Trials Not Allowed)**

- Understand the consequences of natural and human-made disasters, emerging environmental public health threats and policy changes in the US and abroad
- [RFA-ES-25-003](#)
  - **Application Deadline:** December 1, 2025
  - **How to Apply:** Apply here [Search Results Detail | Grants.gov](#)

## Regional Funding Opportunities in the Midwest

- **EPA Region 4 – Drinking Water Infrastructure Grants**

- For Tribes in EPA Region 4 administers the DWIG-TSA program.
- [Regional GuidelinesUS EPA](#)
  - **Application Deadline:** N/A
  - **How to Apply:** Contact the EPA Project Officer for availability and application deadline

- **Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program in MN**

- Provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas
- [Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program in Minnesota | Rural Development](#)
  - **Application Deadline:** N/A but OPEN
  - **How to Apply:** Contact state state-specific project officer for project eligibility and directions



- **The Community Hear and Soul Seed Grant Program**
  - Provides start-up funding for resident-driven groups in small cities and towns
  - [CHS Seed Grant Program Grant Guidelines](#)
    - **Application Deadline:** OPEN, monthly submission deadlines
    - **How to Apply:** View “Application Process” in the link above for application directions
  
- **Environmental Response Fund (ERF)**
  - Addressing the legacy of environmental issues, the contamination cleanup grant program
  - [Environmental Response Fund | Ramsey County](#)
    - **Application Deadline:** Proposals typically accepted twice, per year:
      - March 15 – May 1
      - September 15 – November 3
    - **How to Apply:** Before applying, please [contact Community and Economic Development](#) to discuss your project and application requirements.
  
- **Drinking Water Planning and Design Funds for PFAS Treatment**
  - Funding for planning and design of PFAS treatment systems for owners and operators of community drinking water supply systems in Minnesota
  - [Drinking water planning and design funds for PFAS treatment | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency](#)
    - **Application Deadline:** December 31, 2025
    - **How to Apply:** Review request for proposal [Drinking Water Planning and Design Funds for PFAS Treatment Request for Proposal](#)



- **Brownfield Grants and Loans**

- Funding for projects that promote economic development and reuse blighted and contaminated properties in Michigan
- [Brownfield Grants and Loans | EGLE](#)
  - **Application Deadline:** [NA](#)
  - **How to Apply:** Contact an EGLE [brownfield redevelopment coordinator](#) to discuss your project

- **Water Quality and Storage Grants**

- Provides financial assistance in Minnesota to model, design, and construct projects and practices that will control water volume and rates to protect infrastructure, improve water quality and related public benefits, and mitigate climate change impacts.
- [Apply for BWSR Grants | MN Board of Water, Soil Resources](#)
  - **Application Deadline:** December 23, 2025
  - **How to Apply:** Applications must be submitted through [eLINK](#)

## Regional Funding Opportunities (Outside of Midwest Region)

- **Small Surface Water and Groundwater Storage Projects  
(Small Storage Program)**

- Funds small surface water and groundwater storage projects — that **increase water storage or move water to/from a storage project**. Eligible applicants include Indian Tribes or Tribal organizations in the 17 western U.S. states, Alaska, and Hawaii.
- [Search Results Detail | Grants.gov](#)
  - **Application Deadline:** April 17, 2026
  - **How to Apply:** Submit electronically via [Grants.gov](#) Contact the Bureau of Reclamation after reviewing the full NOFO for details.



## Technical Assistance for Water Needs

- **EPA Water Technical Assistance (WaterTA) Services**
  - Offers free services to support communities in identifying water challenges, developing plans, building capacity, and preparing application materials to access water infrastructure funding.
  - **WaterTA Services:** [US EPA](#)
  - **Request Form:** [Water Technical Assistance Request Form | US EPA](#)
- **EPA Clean Water Act Section 106 Program**
  - Provides technical assistance and funding to assist in understanding, assessing and preserving water resources on Tribal lands (once given TAS status): control, prevent and eliminate water pollution
  - [Tribal Grants under Section 106 of the Clean Water Act | US EPA](#)
  - [Grants for State and Interstate Agencies under Section 106 of the Clean Water Act | US EPA](#)
    - **Contact EPA for more information and eligibility:** [Contact Us About Water Pollution Control \(Section 106\) Grants | US EPA](#)
- **Drinking Water and Wastewater Technical Assistance Support**
  - Technical assistance and training to improve the operation and maintenance of drinking water/wastewater systems serving Tribal communities provided through IHS areas
  - [Tribal Public Water System Supervision Program | US EPA](#)
  - [Small and Rural Wastewater Systems | US EPA](#)
    - **Contact your EPA Regional Officer for more information**  
[Regional Tribal Drinking Water Coordinators | US EPA](#)



- **Training and Technical Assistance to Improve Water Quality and Enable Small PWSs to Provide Safe Drinking Water Grants**
  - o Funding for this program will be used for meeting technical, financial, and managerial needs at small public drinking water and wastewater systems to achieve and maintain compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act. It will also assist private well owners with improving water quality, including testing for PFAS contamination. Additionally, these investments can be used to address challenges with onsite wastewater management (e.g., septic systems)
  - o [Training and Technical Assistance for Small Systems Funding | USEPA](#)
    - **Application Deadline:** N/A
    - **How to Apply:** Contact [SmallSystemsRFA@epa.gov](mailto:SmallSystemsRFA@epa.gov) for information and application process