

Technical Assistance for Water Infrastructure Funding

A Historic Opportunity for Hill Country Communities

In November 2021, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) was signed into law, and with it will come an estimated \$2.9 billion in federal funding over five years for water infrastructure in Texas through the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds (DWSRF and CWSRF). Pending voter approval in November, Texas is set to invest another \$1 billion in water infrastructure, as a result of Senate Bill 28. **This influx of funding presents a historic opportunity for Hill Country communities to invest in and shore up their water infrastructure.**

But accessing these funds is not easy— especially in resource-constrained rural communities with pressing water infrastructure needs. **To help rural communities in the Hill Country access funding, the Hill Country Alliance (HCA) is partnering with four technical assistance providers to offer free assistance to our rural partners.**

The Hill Country Alliance has found that the most effective way to support communities in advancing water projects that build their resilience is to first meet with you to discuss your water infrastructure needs. HCA can then help identify the technical assistance provider most suited to your particular needs. **Technical assistance providers can help with things like assessing your infrastructure options, finding grant opportunities to pay for that infrastructure, and applying for funding.** If you decide to move forward with technical assistance, an MOU outlining each organization's respective roles and expertise is helpful in creating clear expectations.

If your community would like to take advantage of this opportunity, please contact Marisa Bruno at marisa@hillcountryalliance.org.



Our Technical Assistance Partners

Water Finance Exchange is a 501(c)(3) that strives to provide a conflict-of-interest free group of experts to help communities organize, plan, fund, manage and execute sustainable water infrastructure that will link them to regionally collaborative opportunities and economic development. WFX proactively works with small, rural, and economically distressed communities to address water and wastewater needs.

Texas Rural Water Association provides technical assistance, training, and asset management assistance to rural utilities. They work with utilities to address their immediate and long term needs with tasks such as water loss, treatment and compliance, capital improvement planning, funding applications, and rate setting.

Communities Unlimited works with rural communities to construct, operate and maintain safe drinking water and sanitary wastewater facilities. Their technical assistance providers work with officials, staff and operators to ensure that they have the documentation necessary to access funding. They also assist systems in budget development and securing financing for system improvements.

Quantified Ventures helps disadvantaged communities connect with DWSRF, CWSRF, and other national funding sources to build projects, including nature-based solutions, that improve water quality. They offer assistance completing project information forms (PIFs) and funding applications, coordinating meetings between community partners and public utilities, capital stack development, and long-term strategic project management

Eligible Entities

Drinking water infrastructure projects:

- Publicly and privately-owned community water systems.

Wastewater, reuse, and stormwater infrastructure projects:

- Cities, counties, districts, and river authorities;
- Designated management agencies;
- Authorized Indian tribal organizations; and
- Public and private entities proposing nonpoint source or estuary management projects.