

Protect Public Health
SAVE THE SRFs



About the SRFs

The Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs) are the nation's premier program for funding infrastructure that protects public health.

SRFs are fiscally responsible infrastructure programs.

The SRFs offer subsidized loans to build infrastructure that provides safe drinking water, recycled water, wastewater treatment services and stormwater management in thousands of communities around the nation every year. SRF loan repayments create a permanent, recurring source of funding to pay for new water infrastructure projects every year. Today, an estimated \$90 remains constantly revolving in new loans for more water infrastructure, more than total combined federal funding since the programs were established.

SRFs save money on construction to keep water bills affordable.

Subsidized loans offer interest rates significantly below the municipal bond market and private lenders. In 2022, the average interest rate was 1.25%, compared to market rates which exceeded 3%. An SRF loan can save as much as 75% in interest payments for communities.

SRFs are effective, efficient state-federal partnerships.

The SRFs are successful partnerships between Congress and each state. Congress establishes a broad federal framework which allows states to customize and manage their programs to meet the unique needs of their communities. Over the last thirty years, the SRFs have turned \$79 billion in federal funding into more than \$215 billion in total funding for more than 64,000 projects.

SRFs help communities.

The SRFs provide funding and technical assistance to small and rural communities, many of whom can't qualify for financing in the private or municipal market and don't have the professional staff to manage a capital improvement project for safe drinking water and wastewater services.

Learn more about the SRFs, www.cifanet.org, or contact Deirdre Finn, Executive Director, Council of Infrastructure Financing Authorities, dfinn@cifanet.org.

Take the Pledge to Save the SRFs

Whereas, public health – the intentional prevention of disease – is the foundation of a productive, growing economy and a high standard of living;

Whereas, clean water and safe drinking water are cornerstones of public health;

Whereas, clean water saves lives by preventing exposure to dangerous chemicals, harmful contaminants and deadly pathogens;

Whereas, safe drinking water is essential for life and prevents deadly and debilitating illnesses, especially among the most vulnerable – babies, pregnant women, the immunocompromised and the elderly;

Whereas, water scarcity is as threatening to human health as poor water quality;

Whereas, a core function of government is the development and maintenance of physical infrastructure necessary for communities to function and prosper, such as roads, water systems and the electrical grid;

Whereas, federal, state and local governments share responsibility for funding, financing and incentivizing construction and maintenance of infrastructure that provides safe drinking water, wastewater services, recycled water and stormwater management;

Whereas, utilities face unprecedented costs for planning, engineering and construction of water infrastructure to maintain service and meet increasingly stringent water quality standards, which are compounded by higher financing costs from rising interest rates in the municipal market;

Whereas, availability of affordable financing for water infrastructure is inextricably linked to affordable household water and wastewater bills, which are fundamental to public health protection;

Whereas, the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs) are the nation's most effective, efficient and responsive programs for providing affordable financing for water infrastructure that protects public health;

Whereas, defunding and underfunding the SRFs reduces investment and increases the cost of water infrastructure, which threatens the health of hundreds of millions of Americans;

Now therefore, the SRFs and our partners urge Congress to fund the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds at congressionally authorized levels of \$3.25 billion each for federal fiscal year 2025.

www.SaveTheSRFs.org