

# Small Systems Cohort Learning Program

Environmental Finance Center Network | Smart Management for Small Water Systems

Are you ready for online trainings that are more interactive? Do you learn better from a group of peers tackling the same challenges as you? Are you interested in meeting water professionals from outside your organization? If yes, then the Small Systems Cohort Learning Program is for you!

The Small Systems Cohort Learning Program is a new opportunity for small drinking water and wastewater systems to learn together in an interactive, peer-training format. This program offers system operators, managers, and decision-makers the chance to:

- Dive deeply into a topic of their choosing
- Learn with and from a group of their peers tackling similar challenges
- Meet water professionals from outside their organization

**Who can apply.** Eligible entities include public or private drinking water and wastewater systems in Maryland and New Jersey, serving fewer than 10,000 people. Selected entities will be grouped into cohorts of 5-10 systems from across the country with similar needs, interests, and characteristics.

**What is offered.** Each cohort will receive access to three asynchronous technical assistance sessions, as well as the opportunity to engage in three peer-to-peer discussions with other members of their cohort. All training will be delivered virtually and is *offered free of charge*. Continuing education credits will be available.

**Training topics.** Topics will be selected by each cohort and delivered by subject area experts. Sample topics include:

- Introductory, Intermediate, and Advanced Asset Management
- Financial Management for Small Water Systems
- Building Resilience and Planning for an Uncertain Future
- Beyond Drought: Is Your Water Utility Prepared?
- Strategic Planning Tools for Small Systems
- The Power of Partnership: Sharing Resources with Neighboring Systems
- Regulatory Compliance
- Recovery from COVID-19 for Small Systems
- Access to Funding Sources
- Understanding and Applying Effective Utility Management Principles to Your Utility
- Green Asset Management: Incorporating Green and Natural Assets
- Are your Rates Too High? Looking at Rate Affordability
- Finding Lost Revenue: Completing a Water Audit
- Controlling Energy Costs at Your System
- Mapping and Data Collection
- Workforce Planning: How to Attract and Retain Talent at Your System
- Source Water Protection as Green Asset Management
- Lead Pipe Identification and Remediation

*Multiple cohorts will be offered between July and December 2022. Applications are due July 11 and applicants will be notified about their acceptance and cohort assignment by July 25.*

For more information, please contact: Michelle Kokolis, University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center, [mkokolis@umd.edu](mailto:mkokolis@umd.edu).

Applications are due July 11, 2022.

Learn more and apply: <https://tinyurl.com/SSCohorts>



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