

Finding a Unicorn!

Small Wastewater System Funding Series

Session 1: The Current Funding Landscape
Tuesday December 2, 2025

Today's Presenters:



Kathleen Kirkpatrick
Manager, Southeast



Tamira Jones,
Federal Grants Officer



Finding a Unicorn! Small Wastewater System Funding Series
Session 1: The Current Funding Landscape

Series Overview:



Designed to address the needs of small wastewater systems serving < 10,000, which typically have limited capability to pursue funding without assistance.

12-part series

- learn where to look for nationally available funding,
- how to craft a high-quality proposal, and
- comply with federal requirements through project completion

Dec 2, 16, 18 2025 then every other Tuesday Jan 13 through May 5, 2026



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Series Overview:



Following the project process from pre-development to closeout

Session 1 : The Funding Landscape

Session 2: Compelling Applications Pt 1

Session 3: Compelling Applications Pt 2

Session 4: SRF Pt 1 - Basics

Session 5: SRF Pt 2 - CWSRF Options

Session 6: Grants & SRF Office Hours

Session 7: Federal Award Management

Session 8: Federal Procurement Stds

Session 9: Awards & Procurement Office Hours

Session 10: Negotiating Indirect Rates

Session 11: Award Closeout & Single Audits

Session 12: Indirect Rates & Closeout Office Hrs

Session 1 Agenda:

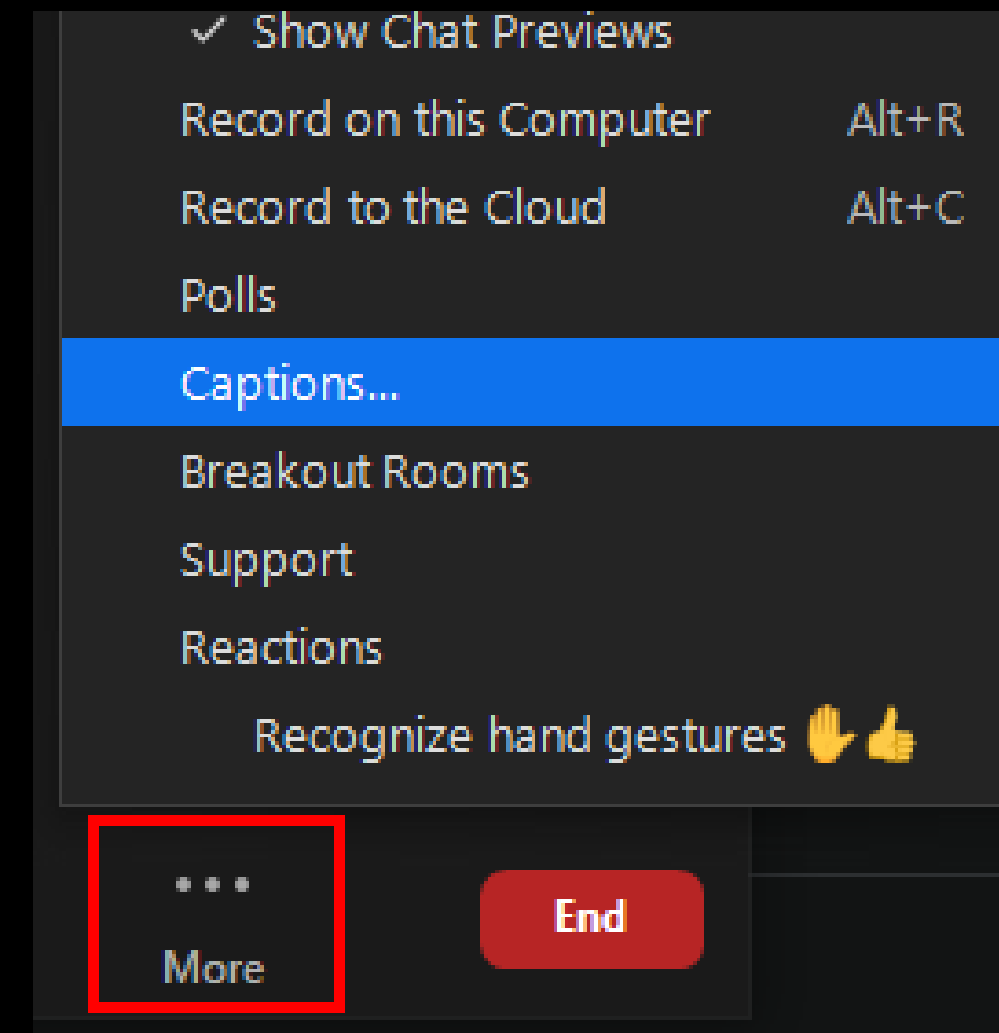


- The Current Funding Landscape - you still have options!
- Preparing to apply for funding - info you are likely to need for most sources
- Best Practices and Due Diligence
- Common funding application components
- Where to find support for pre-project development
- Q & A - please hold your questions til the end
- What's Next? - Upcoming sessions
- Wrap Up

Meeting Norms:



- Please stay muted
- Questions at the end
- We will also monitor questions in the chat
- Turn on captions if needed
- Slides will be made available
- Camera on/off as comfortable
- Take breaks as needed and take care of yourselves!



The Current Funding Landscape:



Things have certainly changed in recent months.

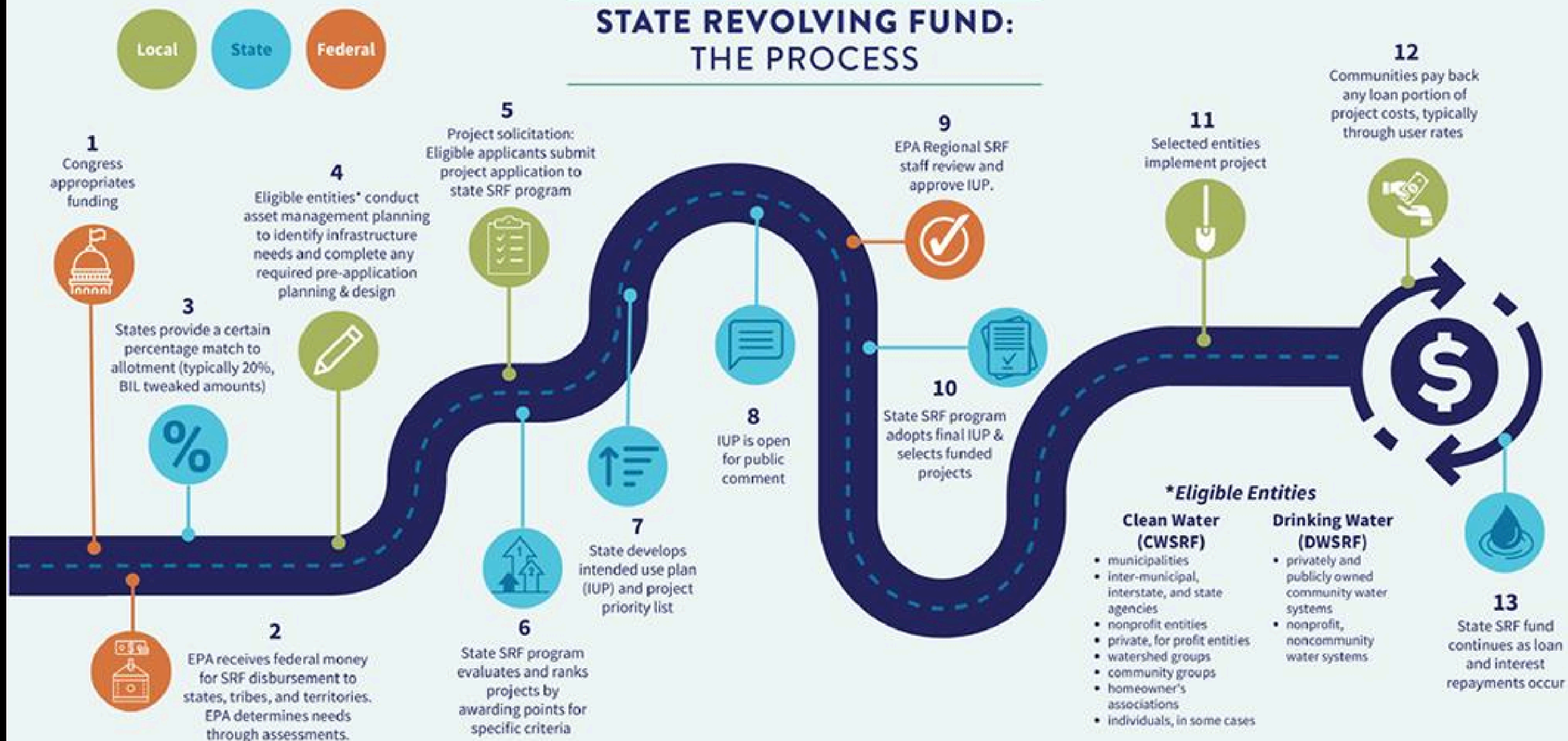
It may feel like a thrill ride at times, but there are unicorns to be found!

Federal funding continues:

EPA State Revolving Funds (CWSRF & DWSRF)

- federal allocations disbursed to states, tribes, and territories (with some state matching funds)
- historic funding increases from ARPA and BIL
- revolving loan program, so some of those funds can continue to support loans (varies by state)

STATE REVOLVING FUND: THE PROCESS



River Network SRF Training Series, 2024

Federal funding continues:

EPA State Revolving Funds (CWSRF & DWSRF)

Fundamentals to know:

- many of the details vary by state!
- loan program, very favorable rates for repayment
- opportunity for principal forgiveness
- for system improvements, not expansion

*** 2 webinar sessions in January dedicated to CWSRF! ***

Federal funding continues:



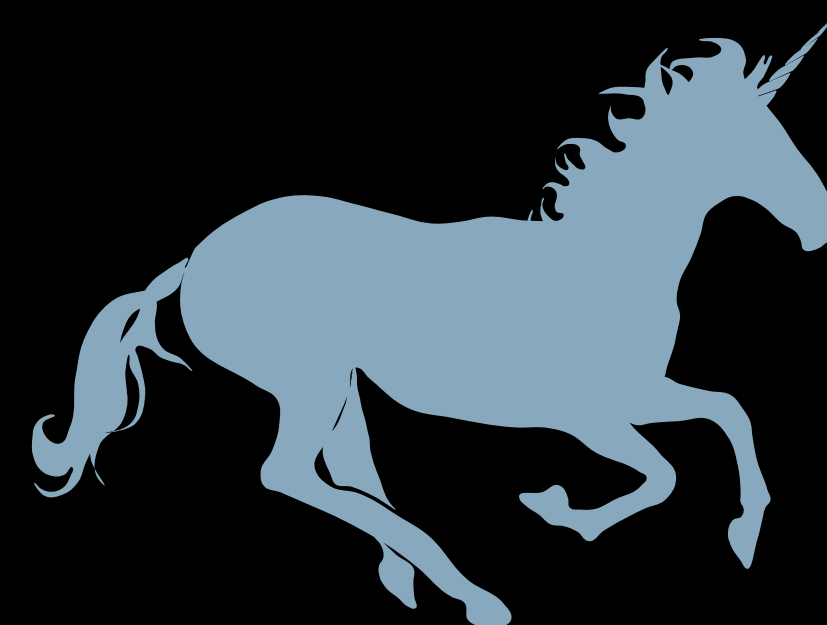
Other Federal Options:

- USDA Rural programs (may require match)
- HUD Community Development Block Grants
- Congressional allocations (“set-asides”)
- Regional commissions, federal/state partnerships such as ARC, DRA



Other potential funding sources:

- State Agencies
- Bonds
- Conventional Loans
- Foundation Grants



✖ SRF or grant funding tends to be overall less costly to the system and reduces requiring increases to ratepayers ✖

**What do all funding programs
have in common?**

**project plans, paperwork, and financials,
oh my...**

Best Practices:

1. Right Size Your Project!
2. Assess Your Capacity
3. Understand Public Grant Requirements
4. Federal Eligibility & Registrations
5. Familiarize Yourself with SRF and other funding priorities
6. Ready Your Environmental Compliance

How to Prepare Your Application:



Gather Needed Information

- Organization documents

Financial Sustainability

- Revenue forecasting & long-term operational costs

Make a Compelling Case

- Targeting specific community needs
- Serving disadvantaged populations
- Addressing compliance issues

Common Application Components:

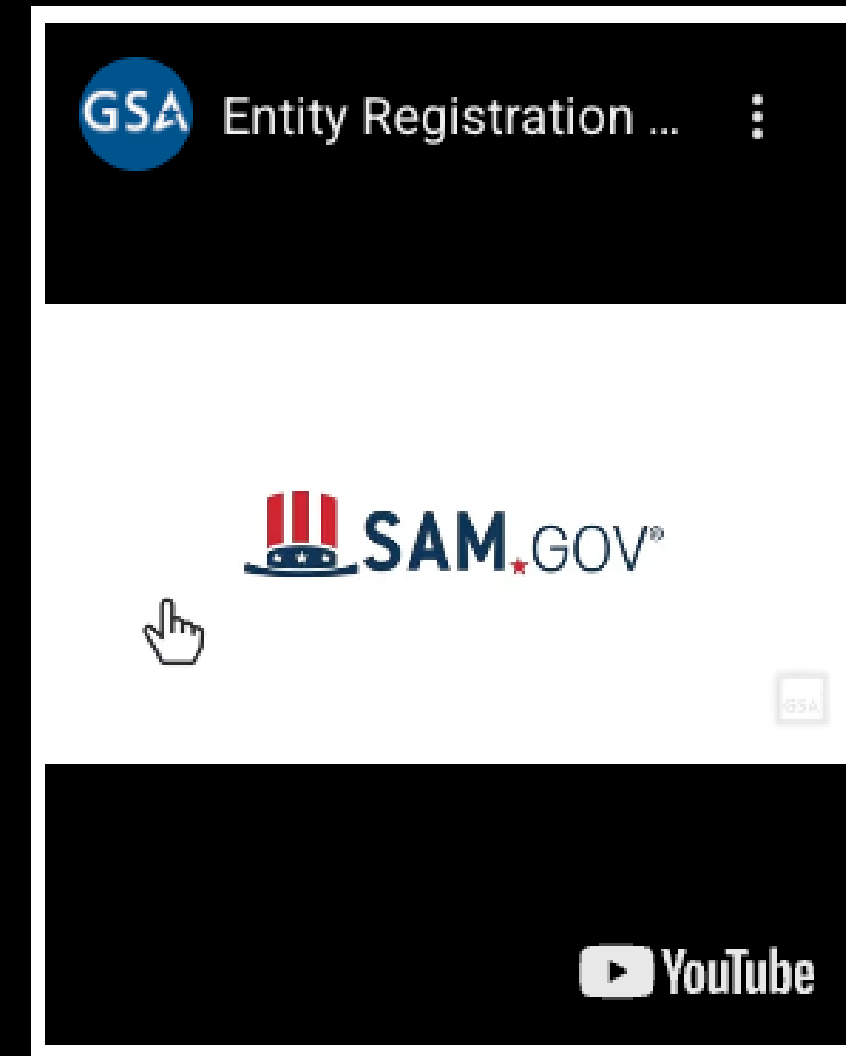


Review the Notice of Funding/Application Package:

- Eligible Entities & Activities
- Target communities/regions (census data)
- Cost match requirements
- Allowable costs & indirect rate agreement

Ensure SAM.gov is active (Instructions)

- Register for Grants.gov



Common Application Components:



Forms:

- Project Narrative
- Project Budget & Budget Narrative
- SF424 forms
- History of Work Performed
- Applicable wage determination (construction)

Application Workplan Template (Excel worksheet)

- Timeline, Tasks & Roles



Project Development & Proposal Support:



Finding assistance is easier than finding the unicorn!

- EFC Network Technical Assistance request (that's us!)
- EPA Tools, Training, and TA for Small Systems Directory
- State and Local Regulatory Agencies - they want to help
- Many EFCN TA Providers also offer additional services
- National & Regional Economic Development Orgs, NGOs

 **join us for 2 sessions in January to learn about SRF!**



Q&A

Join us next time!



Register for Session 2:

Compelling Federal Award Applications Part 1
Tuesday, Dec 16 10-11am PT/1-2pm ET

Register for Session 3:

Compelling Federal Award Applications Part 2
Thursday, Dec 18 10-11am PT/1-2pm ET



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Thank You!



The Capacity Collaborative

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