

WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Provide Funding for Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds

Action Needed:

Tell the House and Senate to provide funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) to ensure communities have the funding necessary to upgrade their drinking and wastewater infrastructure.

Background:

The nationwide need for investment in water and wastewater infrastructure continues to far outpace the amount of funding that is available at all levels of government and the United States. A primary source of federal funding for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure is the highly successful, but chronically underfunded, Safe Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) programs. These programs operate like a bank by providing low interest loans to eligible recipients for water infrastructure projects. Each state may provide various types of assistance like loans, refinancing, purchasing, or guaranteeing local debt and purchasing bond insurance. Funding for these revolving funds is typically provided by congress through the annual appropriations process and by providing annual funds for these programs, communities can upgrade aging systems, improve climate change resiliency, and implement new technologies in their water systems.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the 20-year national drinking water infrastructure need for the United States is \$625 billion. While the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) dedicated over \$50 billion in funding to these programs, it will not adequately address these future needs.

AGC Message:

- **Congress Should Fully Fund the SRF Programs.** The SRFs are stable revenue streams that enable communities to finance these desperately needed projects that impact public health, safety, and environmental quality. Congress should ensure that cuts to the SRF programs are not included in any future appropriations bills.
- **SRFs Provide Long-Term Certainty.** Modernizing and replacing aging water infrastructure may be the single largest public works endeavor in our nation's history. Both congressional appropriations for these programs and the IIJA provide long-term certainty for municipalities and construction to plan for large water projects.
- **SRFs Provide Access to Clean and Safe Drinking Water.** These funds provide consistency and give communities the ability to leverage federal dollars and plan capital improvements to ensure public health, safety and environmental quality.