



## Industry Overview:

The pandemic has created significant strain on municipal budgets and revenue streams. Wastewater treatment and sewage systems present an opportunity for municipalities to secure federal funds to modernize their infrastructure, create jobs, and reduce gaps in their budgets.

## About this Resource Guide:

This Resource Guide has been developed to provide municipalities and government officials whose responsibilities include wastewater infrastructure in New England with a summary of federal agency partners, how they might be able to assist, and the resources available (funding and technical assistance) to support a resilient recovery.



## Intended Audiences:

This Resource Guide is meant to provide useful information and resources for the following targeted audiences:

### Sub-Sector Overview (list is representative, not comprehensive)

#### State Agencies:

- [Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation](#)
- [Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management](#)
- [New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, Wastewater Engineering Bureau](#)
- [Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection](#)
- [Massachusetts Water Resources Authority](#)
- [Maine Department of Environmental Protection](#)
- [Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection](#)

#### Industry Associations:

- [Massachusetts Municipal Association](#)
- [Maine Municipal Association](#)
- [New Hampshire Municipal Association](#)
- [Vermont League of Cities and Towns](#)
- [Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns](#)
- [Connecticut Conference of Municipalities](#)
- [Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies](#)
- [Vermont Regional Planning Commissions](#)
- [Connecticut Regional Councils of Government](#)
- [New Hampshire Association of Regional Planning Commission](#)

## Federal Agency Partner Overview:

This next section of the Resource Guide gives a description of the key federal agency partners that can support Wastewater infrastructure initiatives and projects. Included are examples of how to engage with these agencies, what types of programs and support can be leveraged for recovery, along with helpful links and regional contact information.

### Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

FEMA Grant funds are available for pre and post emergency or disaster related projects. These funds support critical recovery initiatives, innovative research and many other programs. Grants are the principal funding

mechanism FEMA uses to commit and award federal funding to eligible state, local, tribal, territorial, certain private non-profits, individuals and institutions of higher learning.

## Type of support:

- **[Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\)](#)** Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) will support states, local communities, tribes and territories as they undertake hazard mitigation projects, reducing the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards. BRIC is a new FEMA pre-disaster hazard mitigation program that replaces the existing Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program. The BRIC program guiding principles are supporting communities through capability- and capacity-building; encouraging and enabling innovation; promoting partnerships; enabling large projects; maintaining flexibility; and providing consistency.
- **[Preparedness Grants](#)** Preparedness grants support our citizens and first responders to ensure we work together as a nation to build, sustain and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from and mitigate terrorism and other high consequence disasters and emergencies. The application period for FY 2020 funding closed on April 15, 2020.
- **[Public Assistance Grants](#)** FEMA's Public Assistance Program provides supplemental grants to state, tribal, territorial, and local governments, and certain types of private non-profits so that communities can quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies. FEMA also encourages protection of these damaged facilities from future events by providing assistance for hazard mitigation measures during the recovery process. More detailed information can also be located in the FEMA Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide.

## [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#)

The EPA's mission is to protect human health and the environment. To accomplish that mission, the agency develops and enforces regulations, gives grants and technical assistance, studies environmental issues, sponsors partnerships, teaches people about the environment, and publishes information on agency activities.

When Congress writes an environmental law, EPA implements it by writing regulations. The EPA also enforces regulations, and helps companies understand the requirements. Often, the agency sets national standards that states and tribes enforce through their own regulations. Nearly half of the EPA's budget goes into grants to state environmental programs, non-profits, educational institutions, and others. They use the money for a wide variety of projects, from scientific studies that help us make decisions to community cleanups.

The EPA does not protect the environment on its own. The agency works with businesses, non-profit organizations, and state and local governments through dozens of partnerships. A few examples include conserving water and energy, minimizing greenhouse gases, re-using solid waste, and getting a handle on pesticide risks. In return, the EPA shares information and publicly recognizes partners.

## **COVID-Related Information on Water and Wastewater**

There is no higher priority for EPA than protecting the health and safety of Americans. EPA provides important information about COVID-19 as it relates to drinking water and wastewater to provide clarity to the public that can be found at the following websites: <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-drinking-water-and-wastewater> and <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/water-utility-resources-covid-19-pandemic>.

## **EPA basic regulatory information**

- [Land, Waste, and Cleanup Topics | Environmental Topics | US EPA](#)
- [Water Topics | Environmental Topics | US EPA](#)

## Type of Support:

- [\*Federal Funding for Water and Wastewater Utilities in National Disasters \(Fed FUNDS\)\*](#) This website gives utilities information about federal disaster funding programs. Although Fed FUNDS focuses on major disasters, the information provided can be used for any incident that disrupts water or wastewater services or damages critical infrastructure, including EPA's Clean Water and Drinking Water (CWSRF and DWSRF) Programs.
- [\*Environmental Protection Agency—Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act \(WIFIA\)\*](#) The WIFIA program accelerates investment in our nation's water infrastructure by providing long-term, low-cost supplemental loans for regionally and nationally significant projects. Website includes more information on how to apply and application materials.
- [\*Environmental Protection Agency—Integrated Planning for Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater\*](#) Integrated Planning gives municipalities the framework to upgrade their wastewater infrastructure and meet various Clean Water Act (CWA) requirements. Website includes information on the program, an explanatory webinar, and other resources.

## *U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Development (USDA-RD)*

USDA Rural Development is committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in rural America. The term 'rural' is much broader and encompasses a much larger portion of New England than many might imagine. There are multiple rural definitions to reflect the reality that rural and urban are multidimensional concepts. Sometimes population density is the defining concern, in other cases it is geographic isolation. Population thresholds used to differentiate rural and urban communities range from 2,500 up to 50,000, depending on the definition.

USDA-RD offers loans, grants and loan guarantees to help create jobs and support economic development and essential services such as housing; health care; first responder services and equipment; and water, electric and communications infrastructure.

USDA has created this valuable Resource Guide with comprehensive information about all the programs and resources offered within this agency. [\*COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide\*](#):

### *USDA Rural Development Summary of Major Programs*

USDA-RD offers loans, grants and loan guarantees to help create jobs and support economic development and essential services such as housing; health care; first responder services and equipment; and water, electric and communications infrastructure. Out of the many, these are of the most relevance to wastewater:

## Type of Support:

- [\*Water & Waste Disposal Grants to Alleviate Health Risks on Tribal Lands and Colonias\*](#)
- [\*Water & Waste Disposal Loans & Grants\*](#)
- [\*Water & Waste Disposal Predevelopment Planning Grants\*](#)
- [\*Water & Waste Disposal Technical Assistance & Training Grants\*](#)
- [\*Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants\*](#)
- [\*504 Home Repair Program\*](#)

Note: Water loan interest rates are historically low and have fallen by over a third since 2009. Interest rates are now just 1.125% to 2.125% with 40-year repayment terms.

## U. S. Economic Development Administration (EDA)

**Mission:** To lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness, preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy.

The U.S. Economic Development Administration's investment policy is designed to establish a foundation for sustainable job growth and the building of durable regional economies throughout the United States. This foundation builds upon two key economic drivers - innovation and regional collaboration. Innovation is key to global competitiveness, new and better jobs, a resilient economy, and the attainment of national economic goals. Regional collaboration is essential for economic recovery because regions are the centers of competition in the new global economy and those that work together to leverage resources and use their strengths to overcome weaknesses will fare better than those that do not. EDA encourages its partners around the country to develop initiatives that advance new ideas and creative approaches to address rapidly evolving economic conditions.

### Type of Support:

- **Public Works** Empowers distressed communities to revitalize, expand, and upgrade their physical infrastructure to attract new industry, encourage business expansion, diversify local economies, and generate or retain long-term, private sector jobs and investment. [Printable Public Works Program \(PDF\)](#)
- **Economic Adjustment** assists state and local interests in designing and implementing strategies to adjust or bring about change to an economy. The program focuses on areas that have experienced or are under threat of serious structural damage to the underlying economic base. Under Economic Adjustment, EDA administers its [Revolving Loan Fund \(RLF\) Program](#), which supplies small businesses and entrepreneurs with the gap financing needed to start or expand their business. [Printable Economic Adjustment Program \(PDF\)](#)
- **Planning** supports local organizations ([Economic Development Districts](#), Indian Tribes, and other eligible areas) with short and long-term planning efforts. The [Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy \(CEDs\) Content Guidelines](#), provides suggestions, tools, and resources for developing comprehensive economic development strategies. [Printable Planning Program \(PDF\)](#)
- **Build to Scale (formerly known as Regional Innovation Strategies)** The [Build to Scale \(B2S\) Program](#) builds regional economies through scalable startups and includes three competitions supporting entrepreneurship, acceleration of company growth and increased access to risk capital across regional economies.
- **Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms** A national network of [11 Trade Adjustment Assistance Centers](#) to help strengthen the competitiveness of American companies that have lost domestic sales and employment because of increased imports of similar goods and services. [Printable Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms Program \(PDF\)](#)
- **University Centers** A partnership of the federal government and academia that makes the varied and vast resources of universities available to the economic development community. [Printable University Centers Program \(PDF\)](#), Report: [Making Connections, Evaluation Project to Assess Best Practices in EDA's University Center Program \(PDF\)](#)
- **Research and National Technical Assistance** supports research of leading edge, world class economic development practices and information dissemination efforts. [Printable Research and National Technical Assistance Program \(PDF\)](#)
- **Local Technical Assistance** helps fill the knowledge and information gaps that may prevent leaders in the public and nonprofit sectors in distressed areas from making optimal decisions on local economic development issues. [Printable Local Technical Assistance Program \(PDF\)](#)

## [U.S. Small Business Administration \(SBA\)](#)

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) continues to help small business owners and entrepreneurs pursue the American dream. The SBA is the only cabinet-level federal agency fully dedicated to small business and provides counseling, capital, and contracting expertise as the nation's only go-to resource and voice for small businesses.

### Type of support:

- [\*The U.S. Small Business Administration's \(SBA\) Office of Disaster Assistance\*](#) provides low-interest, long-term loans following a disaster. These loans are available to private for-profit and private non-profit drinking water and wastewater utilities. The loans help utilities return infrastructure to its pre-disaster operability. Loans may be for up to 30 years.
- [\*Business Physical Disaster Loans\*](#) These loans are for the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged property, including inventory and supplies.
- [\*Economic Injury Disaster Loan program \(EIDL\)\*](#) These loans aid small businesses and most private non-profits that have suffered substantial economic injury (regardless of physical damage) and are in a state, presidential, and U.S. Department of Agriculture declared disaster area. EIDL is a working capital loan. It cannot be used to repair, replace, or purchase physical assets.
- [\*7a Loan program\*](#) The 7(a) loan program is the SBA's primary program for providing financial assistance to small businesses. The terms and conditions, like the guaranty percentage and loan amount, may vary by the type of loan. Follow the hyperlink for a breakdown of the various loan types within the program.

## [U.S. Department of Energy](#)

The mission of the Energy Department is to ensure America's security and prosperity by addressing its energy, environmental and nuclear challenges through transformative science and technology solutions.

### Type of support:

- [\*Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure of the Future \(SWIFt\)\*](#) Through the Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure of the Future (SWIFt) Initiative, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is working with water resource recovery facilities to accelerate a pathway toward sustainable infrastructure. SWIFt aims to catalyze the adoption of innovative and best practices in data management, advanced technologies, and financing for infrastructure improvement. SWIFt Phase 2 kicked off in summer 2020 and is currently welcoming interested state, regional, and local agency and facility partners.

## [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\)](#)

The Department of Housing and Urban Development is the Federal agency responsible for national policy and programs that address America's housing needs, that improve and develop the Nation's communities, and enforce fair housing laws. HUD's business is helping create a decent home and suitable living environment for all Americans, and it has given America's communities a strong national voice at the Cabinet level. HUD offers grant programs that can be used to support economic development and public infrastructure, including wastewater and sewage systems.

### Type of support:

- [\*Community Development Block Grant \(CDBG\)—Entitlement Communities\*](#) CDBG funds are generally used for long-term community needs involving housing, economic development, and infrastructure. CDBG funds cannot duplicate funding from FEMA, the Small Business Administration, and the USACE. CDBG may be used to buy, construct, or rehabilitate public facilities such as water and sewer systems. CDBGs may be used to match FEMA grants. These grants are administered directly by the federal government. Applicants must qualify as an "Entitlement Community" to be eligible. This includes three groups: (1) Metropolitan cities with populations of at least 50,000, (2) Principal cities of Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), and (3) Urban counties with populations of at least 200,000 (excluding the population of entitled cities)

- **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)— State Administered** CDBG funds are also dispersed through bloc grants to 49 states. Non-entitlement communities must apply through their states to receive funds. They include: (1) Cities with populations of less than 50,000 people, (2) Cities that are NOT designated as principal cities of Metropolitan Statistical Areas; and (3) Some counties with populations of less than 200,000 people.
- **CDBG Disaster Recovery Assistance** HUD provides flexible grants to help cities, counties, and States recover from Presidentially declared disasters, especially in low-income areas, subject to availability of supplemental appropriations. In response to Presidentially declared disasters, Congress may appropriate additional funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program as Disaster Recovery grants to rebuild the affected areas and provide crucial seed money to start the recovery process. Since CDBG Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) assistance may fund a broad range of recovery activities, HUD can help communities and neighborhoods that otherwise might not recover due to limited resources.
- **Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program** The Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program (Section 108) provides Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) recipients with the ability to leverage their annual grant allocation to access low-cost, flexible financing for economic development, housing, public facility, and infrastructure projects. Communities can use Section 108 guaranteed loans to either finance specific projects or to launch loan funds to finance multiple projects over several years.

## Resource Contact Information:

### FEMA Region 1

Jim McPherson, Federal Disaster Recovery  
Coordinator [james.mcpherson@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:james.mcpherson@fema.dhs.gov)

Bob Fogel, Deputy Federal Disaster Recovery  
Coordinator. [robert.fogel@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:robert.fogel@fema.dhs.gov)

Cassandra Thomas, Federal Disaster Recovery  
Officer [cassandra.a.thomas@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:cassandra.a.thomas@fema.dhs.gov)

Dr. Christopher Zevitas, FEMA Liaison for CT  
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Andrew Henson, FEMA Liaison for NH  
[a.henson@northeastern.edu](mailto:a.henson@northeastern.edu)

### FEMA Federal Agency Field Coordinators:

#### EDA:

Please refer to the Regional Office Section on the website below to find the state by state contact, <https://eda.gov/contact/>

### USDA Rural Development:

Maine  
Tim Hobbs, State Director  
Phone: (207) 990-9160  
[www.rd.usda.gov/me](http://www.rd.usda.gov/me)

Massachusetts | Rhode Island | Connecticut  
George Krivda, State Director  
Phone: 1 (800) 352-8015  
[www.rd.usda.gov/ma](http://www.rd.usda.gov/ma)  
[www.rd.usda.gov/ri](http://www.rd.usda.gov/ri)  
[www.rd.usda.gov/ct](http://www.rd.usda.gov/ct)

Vermont | New Hampshire  
Anthony Linardos, State Director  
Phone: (802) 828-6000  
[www.rd.usda.gov/vt](http://www.rd.usda.gov/vt)  
[www.rd.usda.gov/nh](http://www.rd.usda.gov/nh)

### SBA:

Wendell Davis, Regional Administrator  
[Wendell.davis@sba.gov](mailto:Wendell.davis@sba.gov)

### EPA:

Information and contacts for EPA programs in New England can be found at:  
<https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-region-1-new-england>

Jessica Dominguez  
Opportunity Zone and Smart Sector Advisor  
EPA New England - Region 1  
Phone: (617) 918-1627

<https://www.epa.gov/opportunity-zones>

<https://www.epa.gov/smartsectors>

**HUD:**

David Tille, Region 1 Administrator  
(617-994-8223)

<https://www.hud.gov/states/shared/working/r1/cp>

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