



Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities (EC-SDC) Grant Program

Presentation to Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Toxic Contaminants Workgroup
July 12, 2023
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EC-SDC Program Background

- The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (2021) established and appropriated funds for the Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities (EC-SDC) grant program.
- The EC-SDC program provides grants to states and territories to fund projects and activities that assist public water systems (PWS) in small or disadvantaged communities to address emerging contaminants, including PFAS, in drinking water.
- 2% of EC-SDC appropriations are set aside for the EC-SDC Tribal Grant Program, which provides assistance to PWS serving Tribes.

EC-SDC Program Priorities

- Reduce public health risks associated with emerging contaminants (including PFAS) in drinking water
- Target resources to communities most in need of assistance
- Advance equity
- A complete list of EC-SDC Program Strategic Priorities can be found on page 6 of the [Implementation Manual](#)

Emerging Contaminants Definition

- For the purposes of this grant program, EPA defines “Emerging Contaminants” as any contaminant listed on any of EPA’s Contaminant Candidate Lists (i.e., CCL1 – CCL5).
 - Contaminant(s) with a [National Primary Drinking Water Regulation](#) would not be considered emerging contaminants, and projects that address these contaminants would be ineligible for EC-SDC funding (**Exception:** PFAS-focused projects will be eligible for funding regardless of whether EPA has established a NPDWR for that PFAS or group of PFAS)
- **Examples:** PFAS, Perchlorate, Strontium, Manganese, 1,4-Dioxane, Tungsten, Cyanotoxins, Lithium, Legionella pneumophila, Unregulated Disinfection byproducts (DBPs)

Eligible Applicants and Beneficiaries

- Funds are awarded to states (the “eligible entity”) based on an established allocation formula.
- States will use funding to provide assistance to public water systems that serve **small or disadvantaged** communities (defined below)
 - **Disadvantaged Communities:** Communities that are determined by the state to be disadvantaged under the affordability criteria established by the state under section 1452(d)(3) of the Safe Drinking Water Act.
 - **Small Communities:** Communities with a population of less than 10,000 individuals
- Eligible **Public Water Systems** include privately-owned and publicly-owned community water systems and non-profit non-community water systems, including systems utilizing point of entry or residential central treatment

Eligible EC-SDC Projects and Activities

- Projects/activities funded through the EC-SDC program must have the **primary purpose of addressing one or more emerging contaminants in drinking water in small or disadvantaged communities**
- EC-SDC grants can fund the following types of activities:
 - Testing or sampling for baseline assessment
 - Research and testing
 - Project scoping, planning, and design
 - Treatment of emerging contaminant(s) (e.g. construction or upgrading of treatment facilities etc.)
 - Source water protection activities related to emerging contaminant(s)
 - Storage (e.g. Construction or rehabilitation of water storage structures)
 - Water system restructuring, consolidation, or creation
 - Providing households access to drinking water services
 - Technical assistance
 - Public communication, engagement, and education

Example Activities

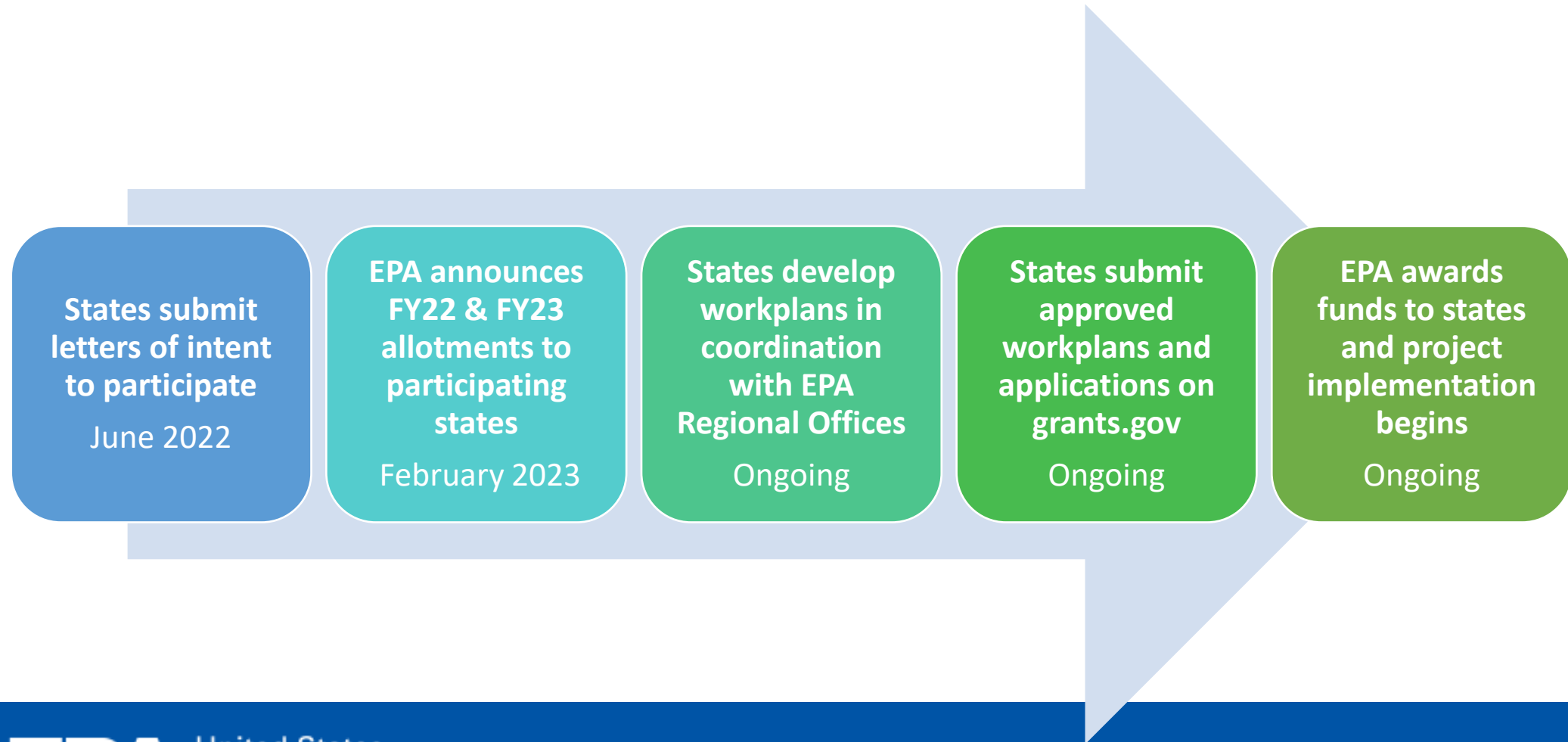
1. Research and investigations to identify the presence, source, or extent of emerging contaminant contamination in water systems or source water, including non-routine monitoring and testing;
2. Developing emerging contaminant action plans;
3. Source water protection activities (e.g., developing source water protection plans, monitoring source waters for emerging contaminants, implementing watershed protection measures to mitigate EC contamination, etc.);
4. Upgrading existing treatment facilities to add new treatment processes such as activated carbon, ion exchange, and reverse osmosis
5. Technical assistance to help public water systems plan, develop, administer, or perform any other eligible activity or use;

Available Funds

- \$5 billion is appropriated to the EC-SDC grant program for FY 2022-2026 (\$1 billion for each fiscal year)
- Funds are non-competitively allocated to participating states based on an allocation formula
- Of the \$1.89 billion in FY 22 and FY 23 funds that have been made available to states, the allocations for Chesapeake Bay states and DC are as follows:

DC	Delaware	Maryland	New York	Pennsylvania	Virginia	West Virginia
\$18,914,000	\$19,407,000	\$18,914,000	\$83,708,000	\$75,086,000	\$27,239,000	\$18,914,000

Program Implementation and Timeline



For More Information

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- **Other EPA Regional and State Contacts:** <https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/contacts-emerging-contaminants-ec-small-or-disadvantaged-communities-grant-sdc>
- **EC – SDC Program Website:** <https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/emerging-contaminants-ec-small-or-disadvantaged-communities-grant-sdc>