

Municipal Ombudsman

- **Independent, Impartial, and Confidential** resource to assist communities navigating the Clean Water Act
- Works at **all levels** of the Agency
- Provide information on:
 - Federal funding opportunities
 - Technical assistance
 - Flexibility available under the Clean Water Act
 - Integrated planning

www.epa.gov/ocir/municipal-ombudsman



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Municipal Ombudsman

<http://www.epa.gov/ocir/municipal-ombudsman>

The Municipal Ombudsman serves as a resource for communities seeking to comply with the **Clean Water Act** and works directly with Agency leadership and appropriate offices at headquarters and regional offices.

Consistent with the [Water Infrastructure Improvement Act](#), the Municipal Ombudsman will coordinate with the appropriate EPA offices to assist communities in navigating EPA resources. Specific resources include:

- [Federal assistance opportunities](#)
- Technical assistance
- Flexibility available under the Clean Water Act, and
- Information on [integrated planning](#) and example [municipal integrated plans](#).

Contact:

Jamie Piziali, Municipal Ombudsman

E-mail: Piziali.Jamie@epa.gov

Phone: 202-564-1709

Frequently Asked Questions about the Municipal Ombudsman

- [What is an Ombudsman?](#)
- [What does the Municipal Ombudsman do?](#)

What's New?

- New Report: [Water Utilities as Anchor Institutions](#)
- [Report to Congress on Integrated Plans and Municipality Profiles](#)
- [Technical Assistance for CWA Integrated Planning for Stormwater and Wastewater](#)
- [EPA Cybersecurity Assessments and Technical Assistance for Water and Wastewater Utilities](#) [EXIT](#)
- [Climate Adaption Action Plan Released](#)

Name That Acronym!

BIL

IJA

IRA

ARPA

LIHWAP

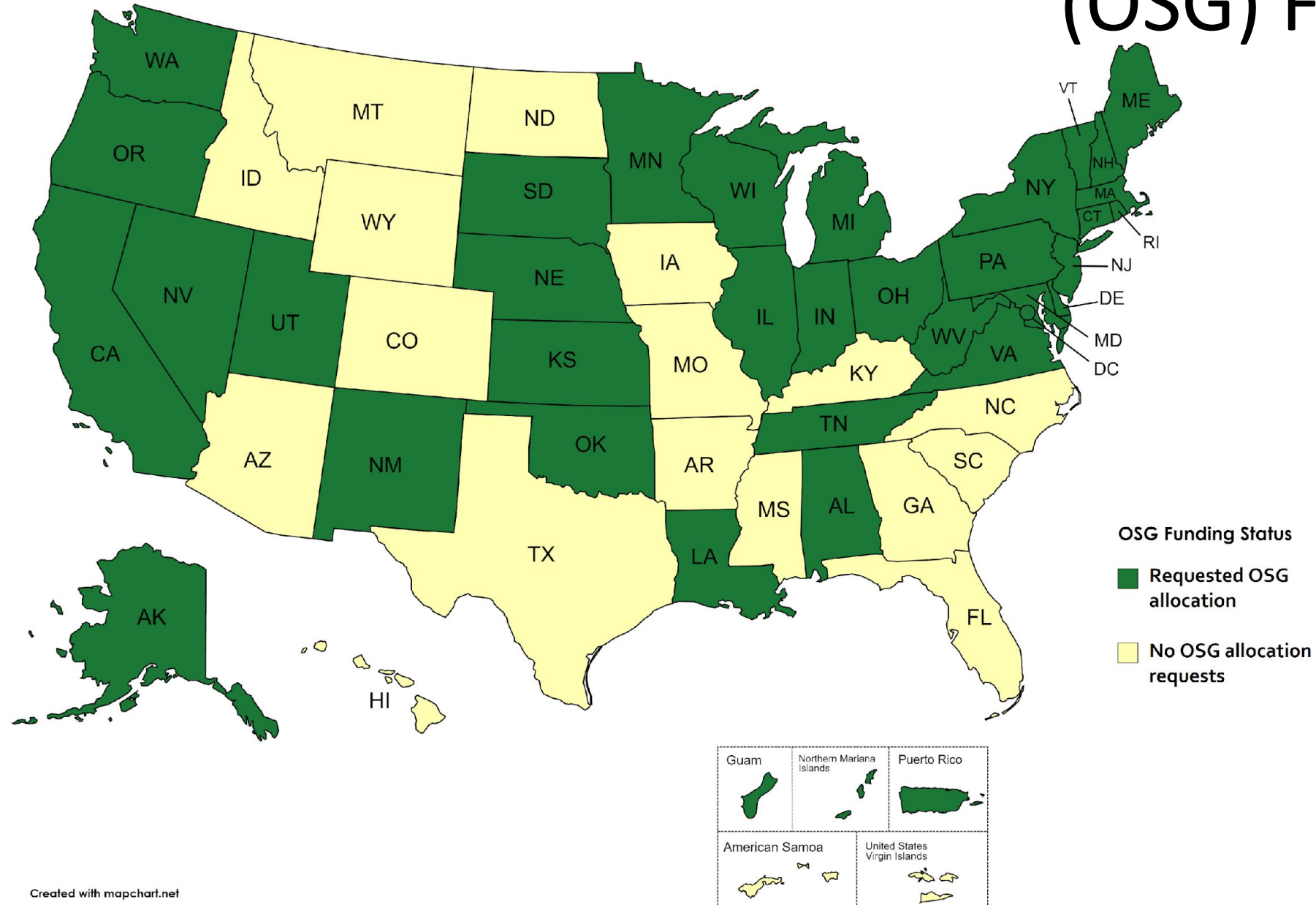
BIL SRF Funding Details

SRF Funding Program	Total Funding	State Match	Additional Subsidy	Eligible for Additional Subsidy
Clean Water SRF Supplemental	\$11,713,000,000	10% in 2022 & 2023	49%	Assistance recipients that meet the state's affordability criteria or project types as described in section 603(i) of the CWA.
		20% in 2024 - 2026		
Drinking Water SRF Supplemental	\$11,713,000,000	10% in 2022 & 2023	49%	Disadvantaged Communities
		20% in 2024 - 2026		
Clean Water Emerging Contaminants	\$1,000,000,000	0%	100%	No restriction
Drinking Water Emerging Contaminants	\$4,000,000,000	0%	100%	25% for Disadvantaged Communities or Public Water Systems Serving Fewer Than 25,000 Persons
Drinking Water Lead	\$15,000,000,000	0%	49%	Disadvantaged Communities

Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Grants (OSG) Funding

- New grant program provides funding for critical stormwater infrastructure projects
- Grants are awarded to **states**, who provide sub-awards to eligible entities for projects that address infrastructure needs for CSOs, SSOs, and stormwater management.
- States prioritize funding projects for communities that are financially distressed, have a long-term municipal CSO or SSO control plan, or for projects that have requested a grant on their Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Intended Use Plan.

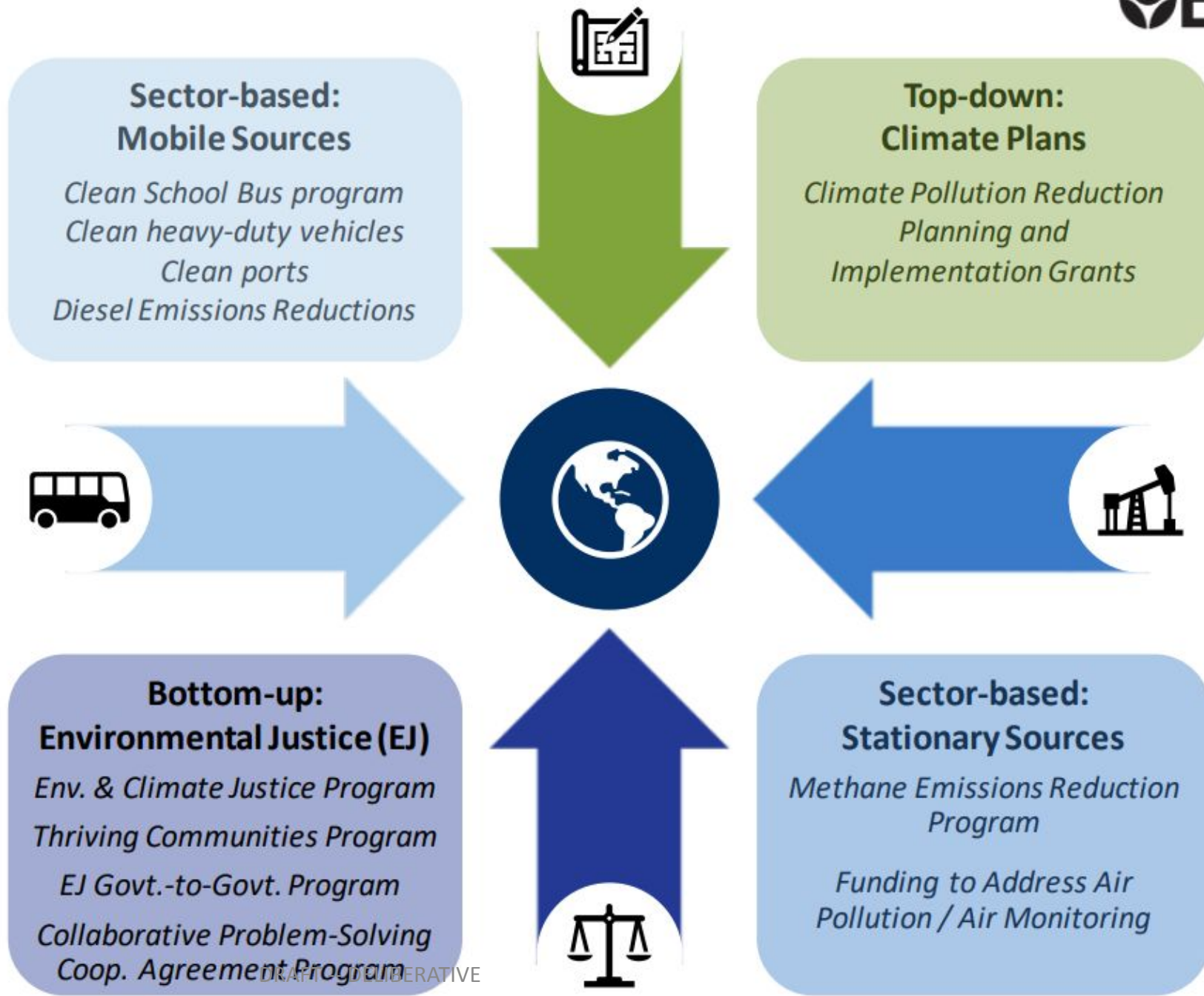
Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Grants (OSG) Funding



EPA Community Grants

- **Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS)** for drinking water, wastewater, stormwater infrastructure, and water quality protection Community Grants projects.
- **[FY 2022 Consolidated Appropriations Act \(P.L. 117-103\)](#)**
 - \$841,405,095
 - 483 Community Grants Projects
- **[FY 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act \(P.L. 117-328\)](#)**
 - \$1,472,364,541
 - 715 Community Grants Projects

TACKLING CLIMATE AND AIR POLLUTION FROM MULTIPLE ANGLES



WATER-ENERGY NEXUS

01



Energy Capture

Resiliency, onsite generation, and renewable energy integration (e.g., combined heat and power, solar photovoltaic, biogas, heat recovery, and energy storage)

02



Energy Efficiency

Advanced energy efficiency technologies (e.g., ammonia based aeration control, optimized pumping system technologies, and membrane bioreactors)

03



Resource Recovery

Biosolids recovery for land application as fertilizer and water recovery

04



Advanced Data Management

Advanced data management, sensing and control for optimized energy performance (e.g., Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems and Artificial Intelligence (AI) techniques)

CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANTS (CPRG)

1. **Planning grants** to develop strong climate pollution reduction strategies (\$250 million)
2. **Competitive implementation grants** to help put plans into action (\$4.6 billion)

On September 20, 2023, EPA announced two competitions for **\$4.6 billion** in implementation grants under the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants program. Visit the CPRG implementation grants webpage and register for an overview webinar for more information.

FUN in Funding

Threatened or Endangered Species?

Energy Efficiency?

Coal Community?

Elderly residents?

Wildlife Crossings?

Railroads? Trails?

Electric Car Infrastructure?

Invasive Species?

Community Art Projects?

Air Pollution?

Underserved Communities?

Emerging Contaminants? PFAS? 6PPD?

DOT's [FY22-23 Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program \(WCPP\) \(20.205\)](#). To save lives, prevent serious injuries, and protect motorists and wildlife by reducing wildlife vehicle collisions (WVCs); and improve habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species. Apply by **August 1, 2023**.

DOT's [Reconnecting Communities Pilot \(RCP\) grant program](#), \$1 billion over the next 5 years - a first-of-its-kind initiative to reconnect communities that are cut off from opportunity and burdened by past transportation infrastructure decisions. Funding construction and planning for transformative community-led solutions and will help revitalize communities, provide access to jobs and opportunity, and reduce pollution.

Apply for Asphalt Art grants

Bloomberg Philanthropies is inviting cities of any size in Canada, Mexico, and the United States to apply for a chance to receive \$25,000 grants through the [Asphalt Art Initiative](#). The program supports arts-driven street redesign projects that improve safety, revitalize public spaces, and engage local communities. Data shows asphalt art to be a creative, low-cost way to make streets safer, including a 50-percent drop in the rate of crashes involving pedestrians or cyclists after projects are installed. Three previous rounds of Asphalt Art Initiative grants have supported 64 projects across the U.S. and Europe. The deadline for cities to apply is June 12.

To join my **weekly list of federal clean water resources with a municipal focus**, send email to municipalombudsman@epa.gov with "subscribe

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Water Infrastructure

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Request Water Technical Assistance

Using this [Water Technical Assistance \(WaterTA\) Request Form](#), communities can request no-cost direct WaterTA to evaluate their drinking water, wastewater, stormwater infrastructure, and water quality improvement needs.

After submitting the WaterTA Request Form, EPA will review requests and, as appropriate and contingent on available resources, connect communities in need with potential TA providers. EPA will coordinate with states, tribes, territories and other federal agencies as appropriate when responding to requests.

Request WaterTA Today!

[WaterTA Request Form](#)

EPA's Water TA Menu

Planning and Assessment	Project Development	Partnerships and Engagement	Funding and Financing	Program Management Support
Community Engagement	Preliminary Engineering Reports	Ongoing Engagement and Outreach	Rates and Revenue Analysis	Bid Support
Plan Development and Coordination	Lead Service Line Inventories	Decision-maker and Board Education	Financial Planning	Change Order Review
Studies and Assessments	Project Design	Water Systems Partnerships	Identify Funding Options	Project Inspection
Asset Management	Environmental Reviews	Capacity Building	Application Support	Domestic Preference and Davis Bacon Assistance

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

EPA's Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (EJ TCTAC)

Provides support to communities with environmental justice concerns and their partners – includes training and assistance on writing grant proposals, navigating federal systems such as Grants.gov and SAM.gov, effectively managing grant funds, community engagement, meeting facilitation, and translation and interpretation services for limited English-speaking participants.

Community Change program grants

Approx \$2 billion in Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Community Change program grants

Approx \$2 billion in Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding

NOW OPEN! Deadline to apply is November 21, 2024.

EPA accepting applications on a rolling basis for to support community-driven projects that build capacity for communities to tackle environmental and climate justice challenges, strengthen their climate resilience, and advance clean energy.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



Jamie Piziali

Municipal Ombudsman

Office of the Municipal Ombudsman

Contact Information:

Piziali.Jamie@epa.gov

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