



DWSRF FREE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Office of Drinking Water

Free Technical Assistance through DWSRF

IACC Conference

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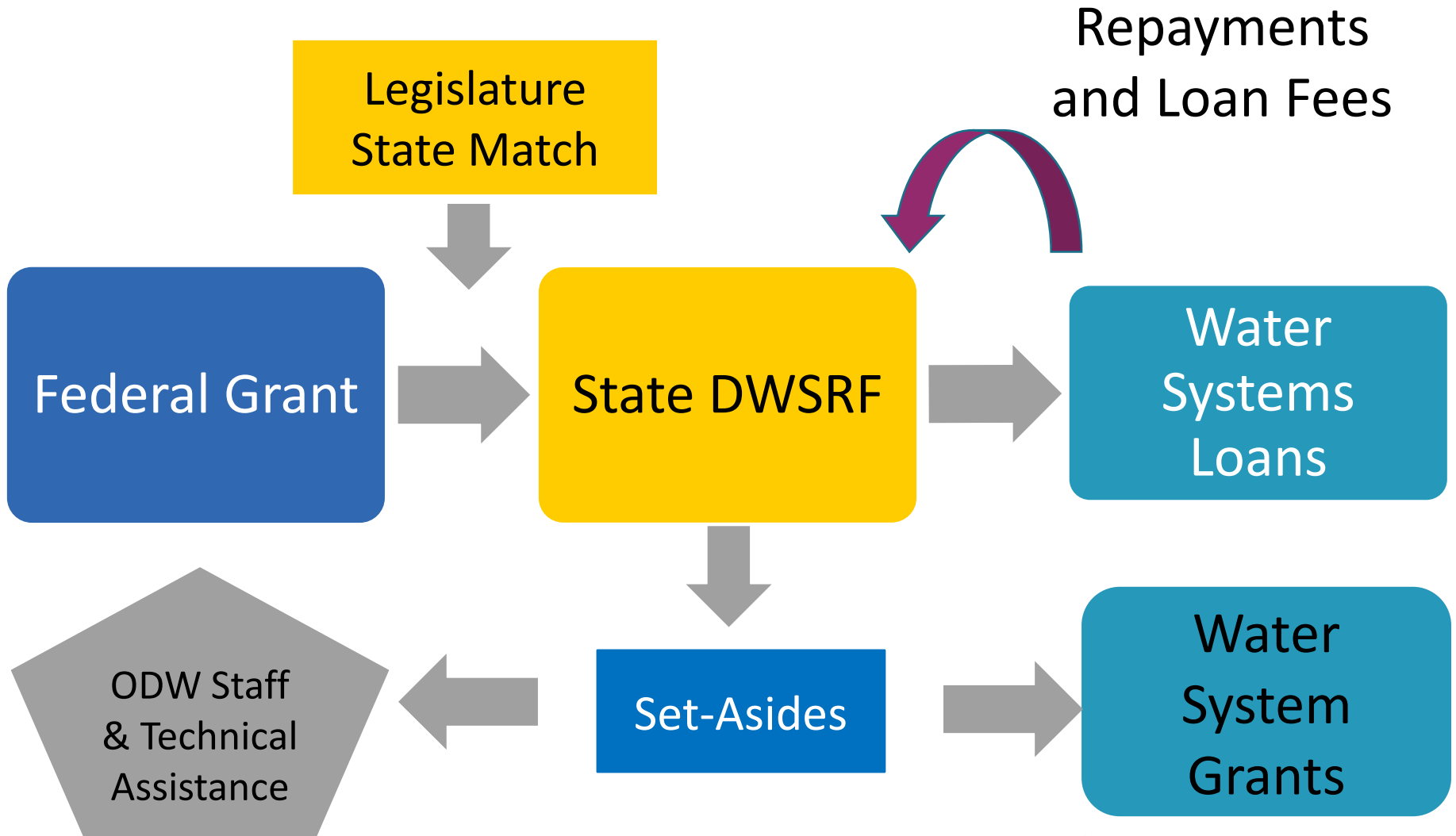
Presentation Overview

- DWSRF Overview:
 - Types of funding
 - Eligibility
 - Program structure
- DWSRF Free Technical Assistance Program
 - Primary hubs of assistance
 - About our providers
 - How to request assistance

What is DWSRF?

- Established by 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act amendments
- Funds drinking water system infrastructure projects
- Partnership between EPA and states
- Funded through federal and state money
- Subject to specific federal and state regulations (BABA/Labor)
- Competitive, scoring and ranking system

Flow of DWSRF Money



Types of DWSRF Funding

Loans

Grants

•Construction

•Lead Service Line

•Planning and
Engineering

•Consolidation
Feasibility Study

•Water System
Rehabilitation and
Consolidation

•Emerging Contaminants
for Small and
Disadvantaged
•(in development)

Emergency Projects
(<10,000 people)

Planning
(in development)

Source Water Protection

Eligible Systems for DWSRF Funding

Group A

- Community
- TNC/NTNC not for profit

Group B / Private Wells

- When consolidating into a Group A
- Some emerging contaminant funding

Tribally Owned

- All qualify
- Considered disadvantaged communities

How to be Eligible for a Loan

- Dedicated budget to pay back the loan
- Cash flow must be POSTIVE (sound fiscal management)
- PWS must have legal control of the property
- PWS has no substantive audit findings
- Governing body must approve the application
- PWS must be a legal entity registered with WA SOS
- Planning documents are required for most funding



Have you used DWSRF funding?

DWSRF Technical Assistance Program

WHAT IS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE?



Technical Assistance

Helping systems increase **technical, managerial, or financial capacity.**

ODW provides technical assistance to water systems in daily work.

DWSRF supplements with additional technical assistance through third-party providers.

What is DWSRF Technical Assistance

- Third-party providers contracted with DOH with specific scopes of work
- Helps systems with compliance, planning, infrastructure, and funding
- Alleviates ODW workload by providing additional capacity to help systems
- Prioritized to small, rural, disadvantaged or struggling systems
- Can be short-term acute needs or long-term multi-need projects

Primary Hubs of Technical Assistance

DWSRF Eligibility/Application

- Planning documents (WSP/SWSMP)
- Project planning
- Bidding and Procurement
- Engineered designs

Managerial Development

- Needs assessment
- Reviewing ordinances, bylaws, policies
- Leadership development
- Help with meeting facilitation

Financial Management

- Rate structuring
- Budget and finance planning
- Asset management
- Credit worthiness
- Income Surveys
- New connection fees

Project Funding

- Navigating funding options
- Assessing eligibility
- Applying for funding
- Managing deliverables

Technical Help

- Help coming into compliance or addressing specific issues
- Completing Lead Service Line Inventory
- Designing treatment or addressing contaminants

Training

- Many topics available to maintain operator/specialist CEUs or to build knowledge base
- In-person, virtual options across state

DWSRF Free Technical Assistance



We prioritize technical assistance to systems serving less than 10,000 people in rural or disadvantaged communities. Any system can request technical assistance, but we do not guarantee the system will receive free help through our providers. [Technical Assistance Request Form.](#)

Lead Service Line Inventory

- ◆ Historical records review
- ◆ Classifying lines
- ◆ Guidance for visual inspection
- ◆ Fill out and submit inventory to DOH

Managerial Development

- ◆ Needs assessment
- ◆ Reviewing ordinances, bylaws, policies
- ◆ Leadership Development
- ◆ Help with meeting facilitation
- ◆ Governance evaluation for consolidation

Planning & Engineering

- ◆ Planning documents (WSP or SWSMP)
- ◆ Engineer Designs for improvement projects
- ◆ Pre and Post construction Work
- ◆ Bid documents
- ◆ Project management (for non DWSRF projects)
- ◆ Engineering assessments for treatment of emerging contaminants

Financial Management

- ◆ Rate structuring
- ◆ Budgeting & financial planning
- ◆ Asset management
- ◆ Credit worthiness
- ◆ Income surveys
- ◆ New connection fees

DWSRF Eligibility and Application

- ◆ Planning documents (WSP or SWSMP)
- ◆ Project planning
- ◆ Bidding and procurement
- ◆ Submitting DWSRF applications

Technical Help

- ◆ Technical assistance for coming into compliance or addressing specific issues
- ◆ On-site trouble shooting of system components
- ◆ Certified Operator Apprenticeships
- ◆ Quest Programs

Bidding & Procurement

- ◆ Developing RFPs and RFQs for professional services
- ◆ Developing bid documents for construction
- ◆ Contract solicitation
- ◆ Bid submittal review
- ◆ Assist with interviewing firms for professional services

Training

- ◆ Many topics available for in-person & virtual trainings to maintain CEUs or build knowledge base. Example topics include
- ◆ Water System 101
- ◆ Board Management
- ◆ Water Quality Sampling Requirements
- ◆ Bidding and Procurement
- ◆ SWSMP development

[DWSRF Technical Assistance Request Online Form](#)



Other Assistance Resources

EPA Water TA



IACC Tech Teams



RCAC Free Training



Notes about DWSRF Technical Assistance

- **Free** to assigned water systems
- Not all systems who request assistance will receive it
- Work is specific, with deliverables and scope outlined in each individual assignment.

DWSRF Technical Assistance



OUR THIRD-PARTY PROVIDERS



Rural Communities Assistance Cooperation (RCAC)

Provides **training and short-term assistance** to address technical, managerial, financial needs and funding eligibility.

In 2024, held 40 trainings to over 1000 participants. New Drinking Water Leadership Series!

RCAC Training Topic Examples (Free, mainly virtual, typically 0.3 CEUs per)		
SWSMP		GIS Mapping
Board Roles/Responsibilities		Asset Management
Cybersecurity		Cost of Service Analysis
Bidding/Procurement		Intro to Quickbooks
RCAC Direct Assistance Examples		
SWSMP Development	Rate Studies	Asset Inventories
Income Surveys	Applying for SRF	Budget, Billing & Accounting

Small Communities Initiative (SCI)

Provides **long-term assistance** to small systems facing compliance issues, governance/administrative gaps, with a multiple technical and financial needs.

Has assisted over 85 communities and helped secure over \$281 million in state and federal funding for improvement projects.

SCI Direct Assistance Examples		
Meeting facilitation	Budget/rate setting debt payoff	Long-term compliance
Bylaws/Policies	Applying for SRF	Priority setting
Accessing Funding	New connection costs	Strategic investments
Board development	Community engagement	Project planning



Celerity Consulting Group

Provides assistance with completing the Lead Service Line Inventory. Has helped 51 systems complete the inventory so far. Still available!

Celerity Direct Assistance Examples

Record review of water system, and GIS parcel data. Record connections after 1986 as non-lead.

Develop initial draft inventory with unique service line locations, identifying line material through record review

Guide system through statistical sampling, visual inspection, customer surveys and submitting inventory

Discuss public notification requirements via DOH guidance as applicable



Evergreen Rural Water of Washington (ERWoW) *coming soon*

Provides **short-term assistance** to address technical issues, operator recruitment and funding eligibility. On-site assistance.

ERWoW Direct Assistance Examples

SWSMP Development	Income surveys	Asset Inventory
Technical issues on-site	Operator recruitment and training	Budget, Billing & Accounting
Lead service line inventory	Policy development	Compliance Issues

Planning and Engineering *coming soon*



We will be contracting with six firms providing **in-kind engineering services**. Some are state-wide providers, others are regional. Services vary by contract. May include:

- Lead service line inventory and replacement plan
- Planning documents and funding applications
- Engineered design and project planning (get shovel ready)
- Emerging contaminant remediation project designs (PFAS)



Have you received Technical Assistance?


DWSRF Technical Assistance

HOW TO REQUEST HELP

Technical Assistance Request Form

- New on our website
- Systems, regulators, and public can request help
- Ideally, primary contact for a water system will submit
- Funding questions and assistance requests welcome!

Technical Assistance Request Form



Use the form below to request technical assistance for a water system in Washington State through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. For assistance or with questions, please contact WaterSystemHelp@doh.wa.gov

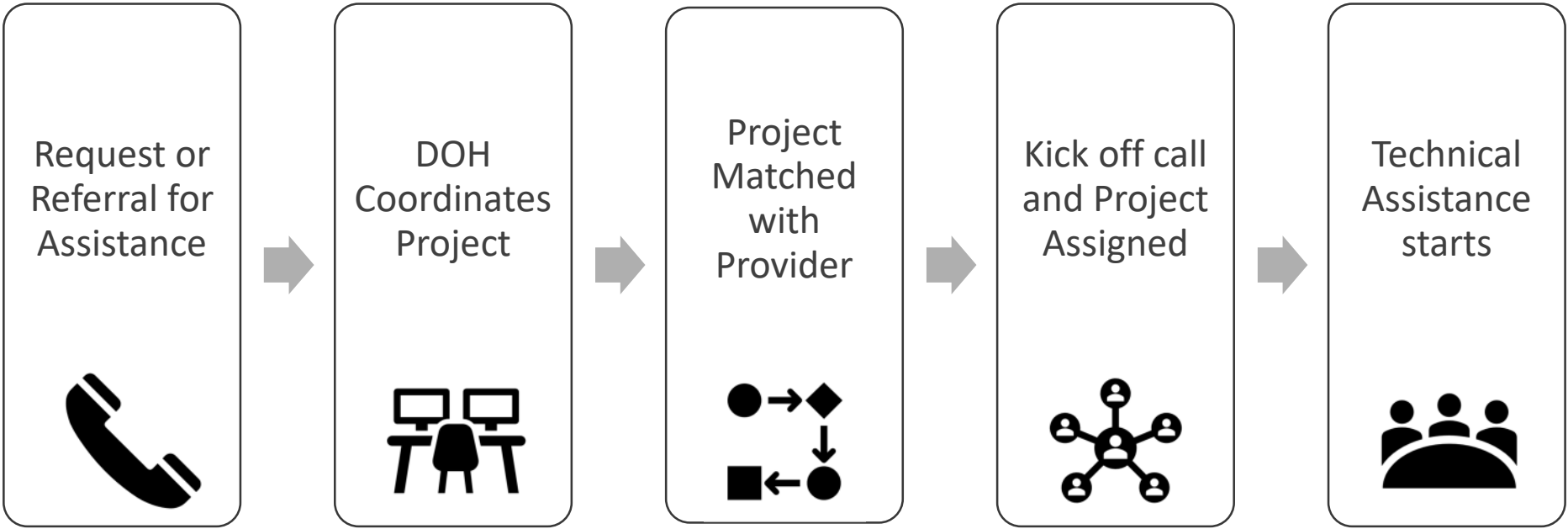
Your name*

Your phone number*

Your email address*

Your relationship to the water system*

Technical Assistance Assignments



What to Expect After a Request

- Provide information about your system
- Attend coordination calls with DWSRF, technical assistance providers, and ODW regional staff
- Correspond with technical assistance provider after assignment is made

Request Technical Assistance Here:



Email us at WaterSystemHelp@doh.wa.gov

Connect with your regional planner and engineer early to speed up the process!

Other Avenues for Technical Assistance



EPA WaterTA: Assists communities with applications for funding and infrastructure projects.



IACC Technical Assistance Portal: Coordinated technical assistance for infrastructure projects through “Tech Teams.”



RCAC Training Calendar: Free Trainings available to public water systems in Washington

Questions?

WaterSystemHelp@doh.wa.gov

DWSRF@doh.wa.gov

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

www.doh.wa.gov/dwsrf



@WADeptHealth



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