## OTCO Compliance Workshop for Water & Wastewater Treatment

Jon Bernstein, P.E. Chief, Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

October 9, 2024



## Water/Wastewater Funding

• State Revolving Funds

• "BIL" Federal Infrastructure Bill

• H2Ohio

• Technical Resources



State Revolving Fund (SRF) Programs





# **Program Funding**

## Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF)

- Created by Clean Water Act amendments
- 1st loans awarded in September 1989
- Awarded over \$1 billion in 2023
- Wastewater and Stormwater

## Annual average = \$750M

## Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA)

- Created by Safe Drinking Water Act amendments
- 1<sup>st</sup> loans awarded in February 1999
- Partnership between Division of Drinking and Ground Waters (DDAGW) and DEFA
- Awarded over \$600 million in SFY23
- Drinking Water

### Annual average = \$350 million

# **Ohio EPA Priorities**

- Regionalization
- Underserved Areas
- Emerging Contaminants
- Water Reuse



# **SRF Funding Cycles**

### WSRLA – State Fiscal Year

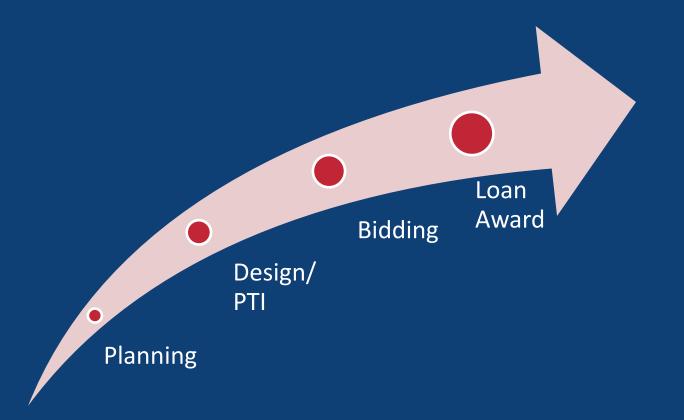


WPCLF – Calendar Year

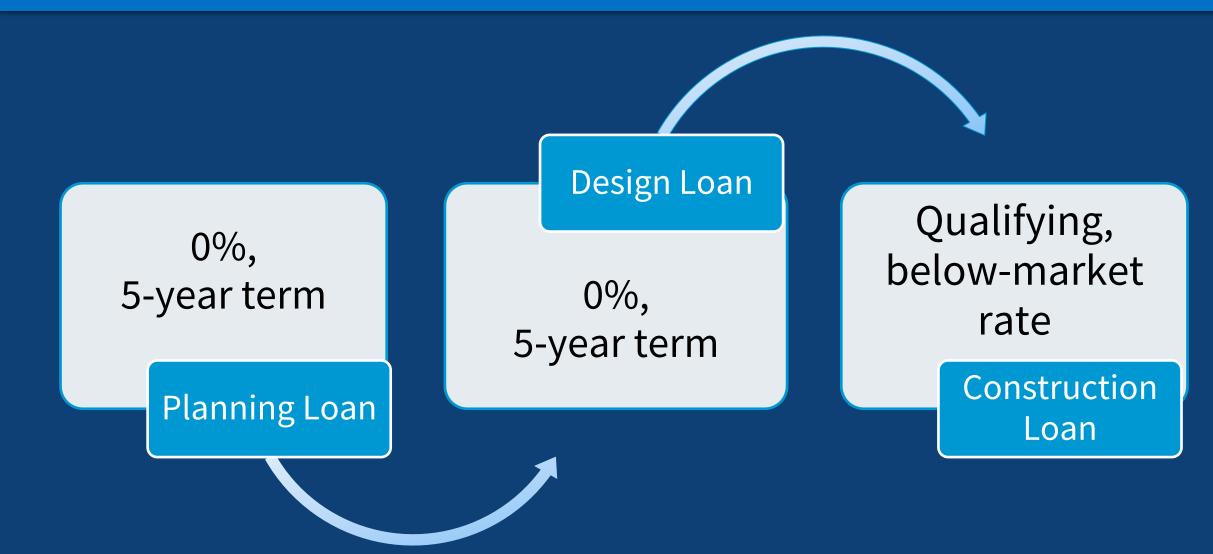


# **General SRF Process**

- Project Planning
- Design
- Permit-to-Install/ Detail Plan Review
- Competitive Bidding
- Loan Awards
  - OWDA Board Meeting



# Loan Types – Deferred Repayments



### **Rough Estimates of Ohio's Portion of IIJA Funds for the SRF Programs**

Year	Ohio's CWSRF Portion for Base Program	Ohio's CWSRF Portion for Emerging Contaminants	Ohio's DWSRF Portion for Base Program	Ohio's DWSRF Portion for Emerging Contaminants	Ohio's DWSRF Portion for Lead	Estimated Total
2022	\$102 M	\$5 M	\$45 M	\$19 M	\$71 M	\$242 M
2023	\$117 M	\$12 M	\$47 M	\$17 M	\$166 M	\$359 M
2024	\$128 M	\$12 M	\$52 M	\$17 M	\$184 M	\$393 M
2025	\$138 M	\$12 M	\$56 M	\$17 M	\$184 M	\$407 M
2026	\$138 M	\$12 M	\$56 M	\$17 M	\$184 M	\$407 M
Total*	\$623 M	\$53 M	\$256 M	\$87 M	\$789 M	\$1.808 B

Proportion of Total that can be awarded	\$53 M	\$125 M	\$87 M	\$387 M	\$957 M
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# WSRLA Program LSL Funding Options

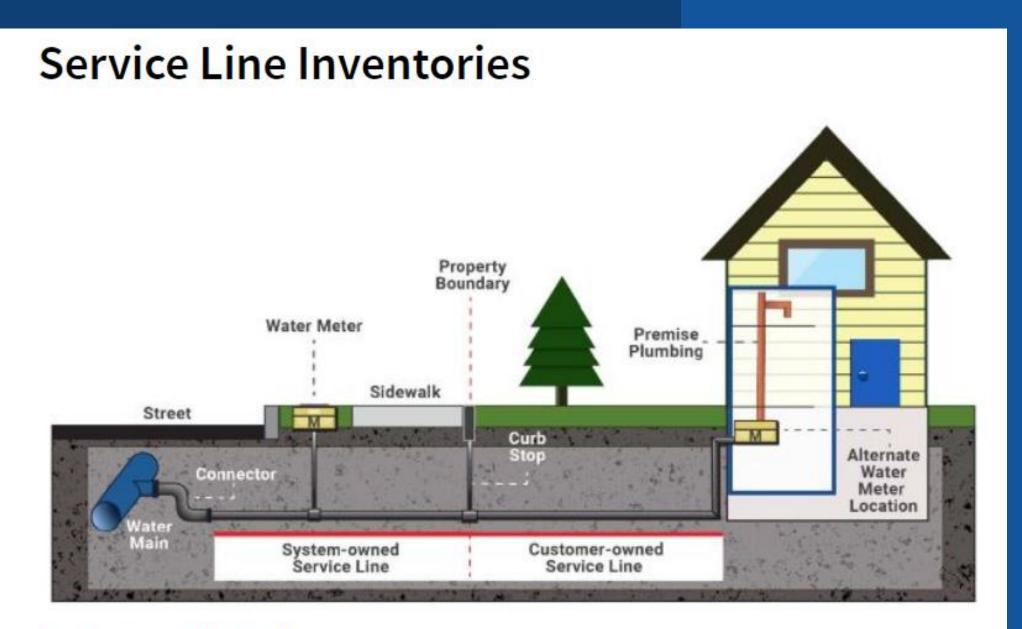
### **Construction Financing**

- 0% loans available
- For disadvantaged communities:
  - 53% of LSL costs as principal forgiveness, remainder at 0% interest financing
  - No population threshold for LSL disadvantaged community criteria

\*Both private and public side replacement!







New Requirement, Not Lead Maps

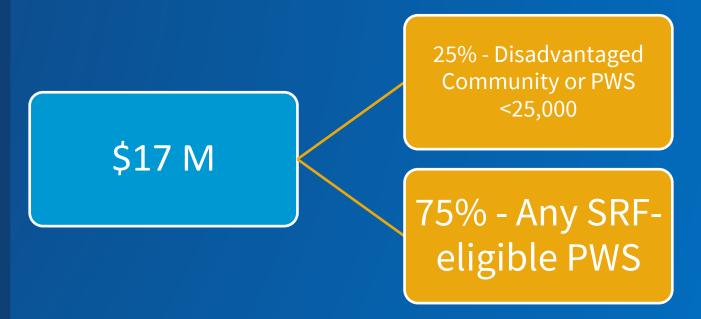
# LSL Direct Assistance

- Eligible activities
  - Historical Document Review
  - On-site Identification
  - Inventory Development
  - Replacement Plan Development
- PWS submits request form with project information
- Ohio EPA prioritizes projects and directs contractors



## Drinking Water Emerging Contaminants Projects

- ~\$17 million principal forgiveness per year 2022-2026
- Targeted at unregulated contaminants on U.S. EPA Contaminant Candidate Lists (CCL)
- Focus on PFAS projects
  - Better Source Water
  - Enhanced Treatment
  - Regionalization
- Potential for planning/design funding
- WIIN Emerging Contaminants Grant
  - ~\$23 million/year
  - "small **or** disadvantaged"





## Wastewater Emerging Contaminants Projects

- ~\$12 million principal forgiveness per year 2022-2026
- Focus on PFAS projects
- Potential for planning/design funding
- Examples
  - Analytical Equipment
  - Sewershed Studies
  - Pretreatment





# **Funding Requirements**

- Davis-Bacon Wage Rates
- American Iron and Steel
- Build America Buy America Act\*
- Disadvantaged Business Enterprise
- Equal Employment Opportunity
- Federal Debarment
- Single Audit/SEFA Reporting\*



\*Federal funded projects



# **Principal Forgiveness and Discounts**

- Principal Forgiveness = grant-like funding
  - For disadvantaged communities and program priorities
    - Ready to proceed for construction
  - Limited availability, dependent on federal grant funding
  - Highly competitive
- Discounts reduction of interest rate
  - Program Priorities: Regionalization, Water Reuse, Harmful Algal Blooms, Sponsorship Program

# **Principal Forgiveness Eligibility**

### WSRLA

System Population	10,000 or less
Documented human health-related factors	Present
Water and sewer rates compared to MHI	≥ 2.5%
Median Household Income (MHI)	≤ \$61,938
Poverty Rate < 200% of Poverty Level	≥29.88
Unemployment Rate	≥ 5.26%

WPCLF	
МНІ	\$61,938
Poverty Level	29.88%
Unemployment	5.26%
Percent Population Change	<150%

\*Population not a factor for LSL or EC

3/4 Criteria

\$27.5 million/year for Ohio EPA in SFY 2024-2025 biennium. Ohio EPA focus areas:

- Water/Wastewater Infrastructure
- Drinking Water Distribution Equipment
- Chloride Reduction
- Water Quality Monitoring
- Dam Removal
- Technology Assessment
- Water Quality Modeling
- HSTS Repair and Replacement
- LSL Identification/Replacement

# H2Qhio

# H2Qhio

- >\$50 million over five years
- 52 infrastructure projects
- >100 projects for lead identification or removal

• 23 health districts supported



# H2Qhio

**Drinking Water Distribution Equipment** 

Over 350 PWS!



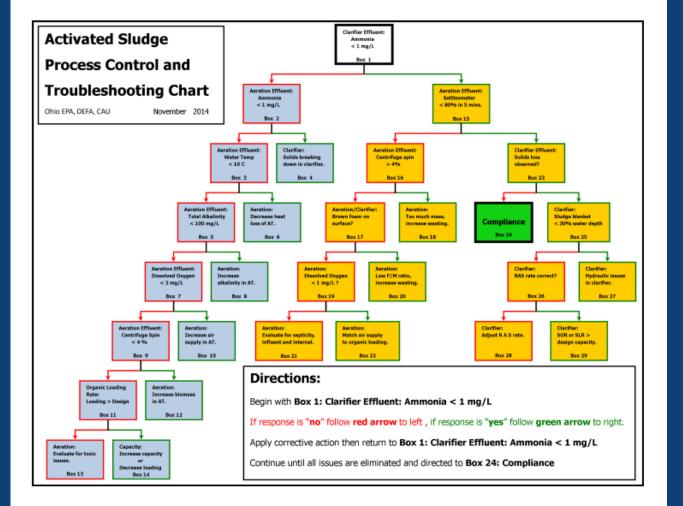
DDAGW Financial Assistance

- November 2024
- <u>DDAGW.Grants@epa.ohio.gov</u>

- Water Audit and Water Loss Grants
  Up to \$20,000
- Well Abandonment Grants
   \$15,000/well
- Emergency Generator Grants
- Source Water Protection Strategies Grants

# Technical Assistance

### Activated Sludge Process Control and Troubleshooting Chart Methodology



 DSW Wastewater Compliance Assistance Unit

### • <u>Activated Sludge Process</u> <u>Control</u>

## Compliance with lowcost tools



### SCEIG

The Ohio Small Communities Environmental Infrastructure Group (SCEIG) is an association of federal and state agencies, local governments and groups, service organizations, and educational institutions designed to help small communities in meeting their environmental infrastructure needs.

Contact:

800-775-9767



### • <u>SCEIG</u>

- Present projects to finance agencies
- Learn about funding opportunities

#### 2024 Meeting Schedules

#### SCEIG General Body

Monday, March 4, 2024 Tuesday, June 4, 2024 Tuesday, September 10, 2024 Tuesday, December 3, 2024

#### **Finance Committee**

February 9, 2024 April 12, 2024 June 13, 2024 August 8, 2024 October 10, 2024 December 12, 2024

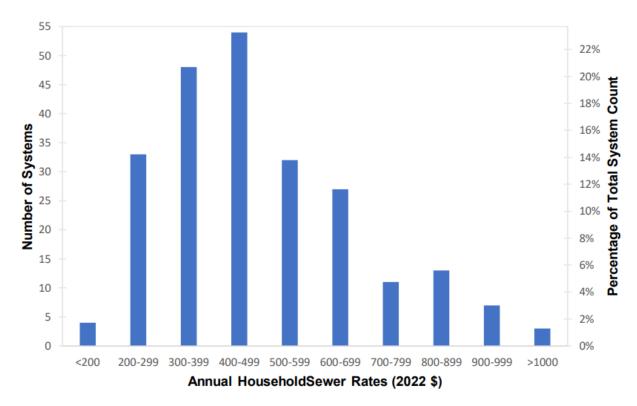
#### Appalachia Environmental Infrastructure Group January 18, 2024 July 18, 2024

## Water Technical Assistance (WaterTA)



### US EPA

- Identifying lead pipes for removal
- Enhancing resilience against cybersecurity threats
- Identifying climate adaptation strategies
- Providing resources for workforce development
- Addressing stormwater challenges
- Complying with the Safe Drinking Water and Clean Water Acts



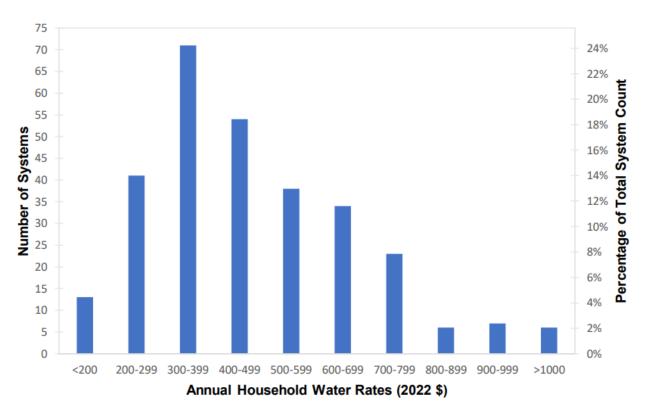
Rate Survey open until October 18!

### 2022 Sewer and Water Rate Survey Wastewater Rates

Figure 2: 2022 Annual Sewer Rate Distribution Using 4,000 gal
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Table 1: Descriptive	Statistics for Annual Housend	old Sewer Rates (n=233)	
	Annual Sewer Rates [\$/yr]		
	Reported Sewerage Use	4,000 gal/mo Use	
Median	432.75	453.49	
Mean	482.27	489.95	
St. Dev.	216.70	199.33	
Minimum	24.00	24.00	
Maximum	1,151.28	1,125.09	

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### Rate Survey open until October 18

### 2022 Sewer and Water Rate Survey Water Rates

Figure 4: 2022 Annual Water Rate Distribution Using 4,000 gal/mo.

	Annual Water Rates [\$/yr]		
	Reported Water Demand	4,000 gal/mo Use	
Median	427.98	421.72	
Mean	466.03	476.93	
St. Dev.	202.47	207.78	
Minimum	24.00	24.00	
Maximum	1,270.60	1,339.84	

# How to Participate and Stay Engaged

- Comments and questions to: infrastructurefunding@epa.ohio.gov
- Materials will be posted on Ohio EPA website
- Follow DEFA newsletters
- Follow Ohio EPA on social media
- Follow SRF program announcements



# Thank Vou

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epa.ohio.gov/defa

### Follow Ohio EPA on



