Water/Wastewater Projects: Arkansas Governor's Office Announces $261 Million in Funding



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11/23/2026

The Arkansas Governor's Office announced in a November 18th news release an additional $261,103,410 in financial assistance for 75 water and wastewater projects.

The funding was approved by the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission ("ANRC").

The news release lists five categories of funding:

- Clean Water State Revolving Fund.
- Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.
- Emerging Contaminants and Small and Disadvantaged Communities Grant Program.
- Water and Sewer Treatment Facilities Grant Program.
- State Programs.

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund ("CWSRF") is a federal-state partnership that provides low-cost financing to communities for a wide range of water quality infrastructure projects that include:

- Municipal wastewater facilities.
- Non-point source pollution control.
- Decentralized wastewater treatment systems.
- Stormwater runoff mitigation.
- Green infrastructure.
- Estuary protection.
- Water reuse.

The CWSRF was created by the 1987 amendments to the Clean Water Act. States are provided the flexibility to fund a range of products that address their highest priority water quality needs.

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund ("DWSRF") was established by the 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act. The DWSRF is a financial assistance program to help water systems in states achieve the health objectives of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency awards capitalization grants to each state for their DWSRF based on the results of the most recent drinking water infrastructure needs survey and assessment. The state provides a 20% match.

Under the DWSRF, states may provide various types of assistance, including:

- Loans.

- Refinancing.
- Purchasing.
- Guaranteeing local debt.
- Purchasing bond insurance.

States rank the project applications they receive from water systems and produce a Project Priority List.

The Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities grant program provides states with grants to public water systems in small or disadvantaged communities to address emerging contaminates, including PFAS. A focus is on projects in which the primary purpose is to address the challenges of PFAS in drinking water. However, projects that address any contaminant listed in any of EPA's Contaminant Candidate List are also eligible.

Sometimes referred to as "contaminants of emerging concern" are chemicals that have been recently shown to occur in the environmental and identified as a potential risk to public health and the environment. A number of these may be in common use and found in products in farms, homes, and businesses.

A copy of the news release which lists the various projects receiving financial assistance from the ANRC can be found here.