

Sponsor/Title: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - Training and Technical Assistance to Improve Water Quality and Enable Small Public Water Systems to Provide Safe Drinking Water

External Link: <https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/361870>

Funding Opportunity Number: EPA-OW-OGWDW-26-01

Submission Limitation per Institution: One (1) proposal per each of the National Priority Areas (NPA 1-3).

- National Priority Area 1: Training and Technical Assistance for Small Public Water Systems to Achieve and Maintain Compliance with the SDWA, including Improving Financial and Managerial Capacity.
- National Priority Area 2: Training and Technical Assistance for Small Publicly-Owned Wastewater Systems and Onsite/Decentralized Wastewater Systems to Help Improve Water Quality and Sustainable Operations.
- National Priority Area 3: Training and Technical Assistance for Private Well Owners to Help Improve Water Quality.

Notre Dame Limited Submissions Listing:

<https://research.nd.edu/our-services/funding-opportunities/faculty/limited-submissions-program/>

Internal Expression of Interest Deadline: 2026-05-01 at Noon, Deadline Extended

Sponsor Application Deadline: 2026-05-13

Purpose: The purpose of this funding opportunity is to help communities comply with environmental regulations and to assist them in building their technical, managerial, and financial (TMF) capabilities to sustainably operate drinking water, wastewater, and private well infrastructure.

Description: The Training and Technical Assistance to Improve Water Quality and Enable Small Public Water Systems to Provide Safe Drinking Water grant program supports small public water systems (PWS) in operations and maintenance to achieve and maintain compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

The 1996 amendments of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) provide a framework for states and water systems to work together to protect public health. By law, every state has a Capacity Development Program to assist public water systems in building technical, managerial, and financial (TMF) capabilities (sometimes referred to as “capacity”). Additionally, provisions of the SDWA Section 1452(a)(3) have a requirement for PWSs to demonstrate TMF capability in order to receive loan assistance from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). Without TMF capabilities, States are not permitted to provide PWSs with loan assistance unless the system has agreed to make the necessary changes in operation to ensure that it has the TMF capabilities to comply over the long term.

Aside from enhancing eligibility for DWSRF funding, ensuring TMF capabilities of PWSs is essential to ensuring PWSs reliably deliver safe drinking water and protect public health. Strong TMF capabilities are necessary for systems to maintain or attain compliance with the SDWA National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWR) and state regulations.

The grant program also assists small publicly-owned wastewater systems and onsite/decentralized wastewater systems to improve operational performance and sustainable operations over the long term, improving public health and water quality. Additionally, the grant program provides technical assistance to private well owners to protect their drinking water supply and improve water quality.

Internal Application Requirements: Upload the following information to the Google Form at <https://forms.gle/pX6hEirojYTYmpfc7> by the internal deadline:

- Name of the Principal Investigator (PI)
- Project Title
- All ND Collaborators:
 - For each ND Collaborator listed, include name, department or unit, and specific role for this project in three sentences (maximum).
- Provide the National Priority Area for your internal application.
- Project Summary: Three (3) pages (maximum) addressing the following Review Criteria as outlined on pages 25-27 in the NOFO.
 - Providing Training and Technical Assistance on a National Basis
 - Environmental Results and Measuring Progress
 - Milestone Schedule
 - Programmatic Capability/Experience/Community Support

Questions: Contact Notre Dame Research Limited Submissions at limited@nd.edu.

Unless otherwise noted, all internal applications are due by 12:00 Noon Eastern Daylight Time on the internal expression of interest deadline.

Internal applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted