

Tribal Informational Webinar and  
Listening Session #2:  
Potential Revisions to the DWIG-TSA  
Regional Allocation Formula

Thursday, March 10, 2022

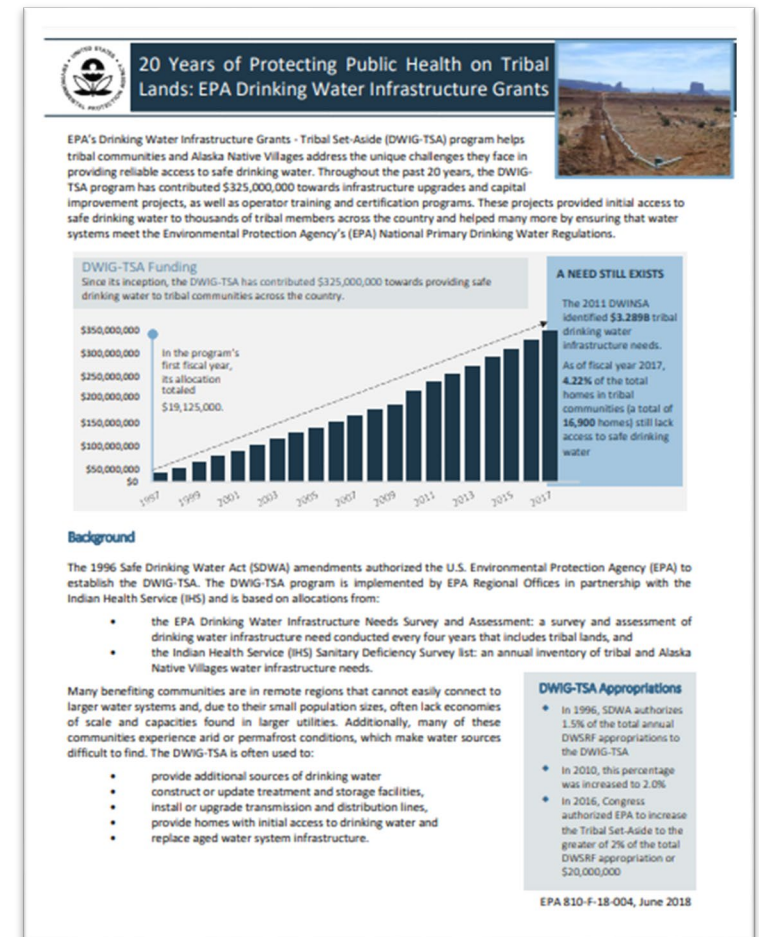
2 – 3 pm ET

# Outline for Today's Webinar

- **What is the DWIG-TSA?**
  - Who can receive funds?
  - What kind of projects are funded by the DWIG-TSA?
  - Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)
- **How does the program work?**
  - How does the funding get distributed (current allocation formula)?
- **What input is EPA seeking?**
- **How to participate**
- **Questions and comments period**

# What is the DWIG-TSA?

- The **D**rinking **W**ater **I**nfrastructure **G**rant **T**ribal **S**et-**A**side (DWIG-TSA) program allocates funds for infrastructure projects at tribal drinking water systems.
- Recent annual appropriations have set aside up to 2% of the total Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) or \$20 million (whichever is higher) for the DWIG-TSA program.
- Since 1998, over \$400 million has been allocated, averaging \$22 million per year in the last 5 years.



2018 fact sheet:

<https://www.epa.gov/tribaldrinkingwater/20-years-protecting-public-health-tribal-lands-drinking-water-infrastructure>

# Who can receive funds?

## Eligible Recipients:

- Federally recognized tribes
  - Direct grants awarded from EPA to tribes subject to approved grant work plan.
- The State of Alaska on behalf of Alaska Native Villages
  - May occur if the village asks the state to administer the project on their behalf and state agrees.
- Indian Health Service (IHS)
  - May occur if tribe requests that IHS design, construct, and/or administer construction of the project, and IHS agrees.
  - Funds are transferred from EPA to IHS through an Interagency Agreement (IA).

## Eligible Water Systems:

- Tribally owned water systems
- Non-tribally owned water systems serving a population governed by a federally recognized tribal entity.
  - Systems owned and operated by the federal government are *not eligible*.

# What kind of projects are funded by the DWIG-TSA?



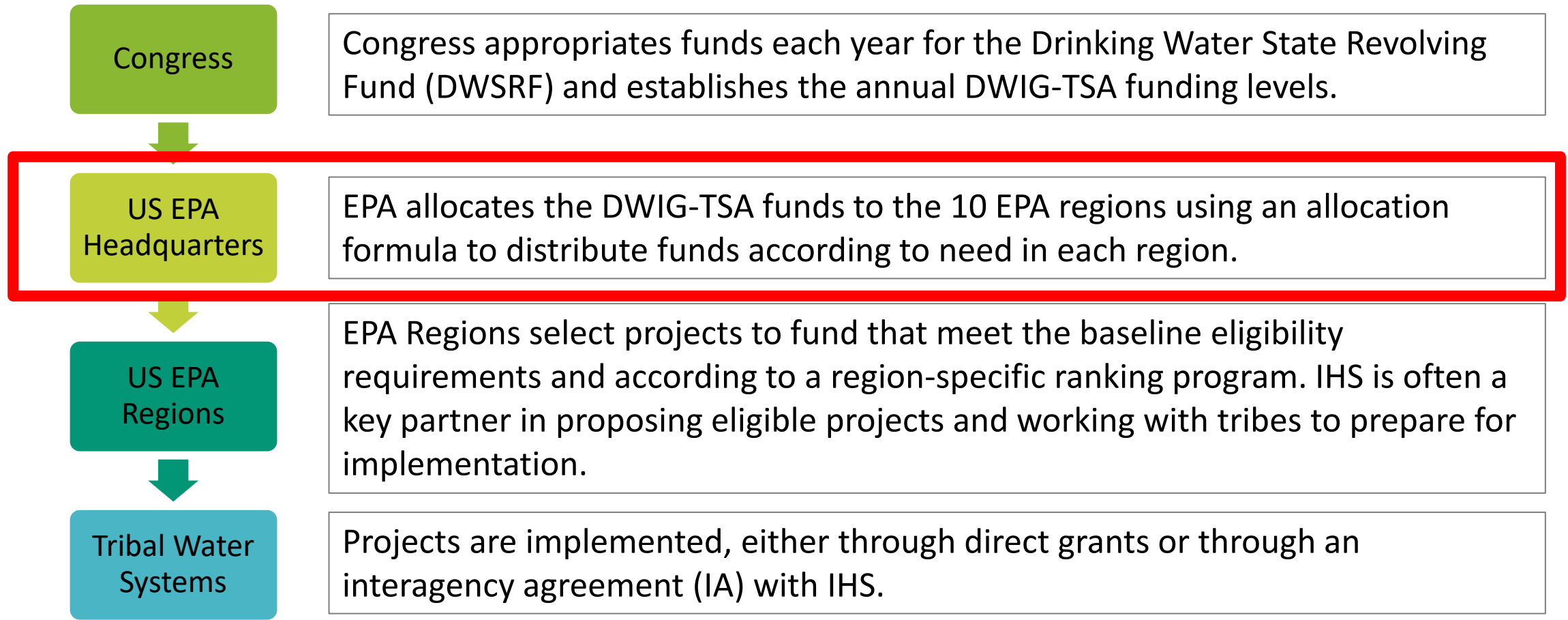
Eligible drinking water infrastructure projects include those that:

- Address a current National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) health-based violation (MCL) or treatment technique violation (TT);
- Address a current MCL or action level exceedance(s);
- Address a system deficiency as part of an approved NPDWR exception;
- Address drinking water outages or limited supply needed for human consumption;
- Reduce the risk of failure of major treatment or distribution system components;
- Provide first service to homes that lack access to safe drinking water; and
- Provide operational efficiencies to reduce operation and maintenance costs.

# Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

- Signed into law November 2021.
- Provides over \$50 billion in drinking water and wastewater infrastructure investments over five years.
- For Fiscal Year 2022, tribal drinking water allotments include:
  - \$38 million for base DWIG-TSA eligibilities
  - \$60 million for lead service line replacement and identification projects
  - \$16 million to address emerging contaminants
- Additional funding and additional eligibilities (lead service lines and emerging contaminants) will be incorporated into the DWIG-TSA program.
- More information available at: <https://www.epa.gov/infrastructure/water-infrastructure-investments> .

# How does the program work?



# How does the funding get distributed (current allocation formula)?

- 2% of the total DWIG-TSA funding is allocated to each EPA Region as a baseline amount (10 regions, 20% total)
- Of the remaining 80% of funds:
  - Half is distributed among EPA Regions according to the needs of their tribal drinking water systems, as compiled in the most recent Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment (DWINSA).
  - Half is distributed among EPA Regions according to the needs of their tribal drinking water systems as reported in the most recent year of Indian Health Service (IHS) Sanitation Deficiency System (SDS) database.



# What input is EPA seeking?

How can EPA more equitably distribute the DWIG-TSA funds among the ten EPA Regions?

What factors should be considered and prioritized in determining the drinking water infrastructure funding needs for tribes in an EPA Region?

What factors should be considered and prioritized in determining the drinking water funding needs related to lead service line identification and replacement for tribes in an EPA Region?

What factors should be considered and prioritized in determining the drinking water infrastructure funding needs related to emerging contaminants (such as PFAS) for tribes in an EPA Region?

# How to Participate



## Webinar

- Submit comments in the chat or raise hand to be unmuted and make comments verbally.

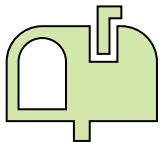


## Online Form

<https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/forms/tribal-consultation-dwig-tsa-regional-allocation-formula-2022>



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90-day consultation period is January 31 to May 2, 2022

**Thank You**

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# QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS PERIOD

Type into the chat or raise hand to be unmuted.

