

SAMPLE

Dear [Name]:

A little more than eight months ago, President Joe Biden signed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. This is a big and bold investment in our nation's infrastructure, including a historic \$60 billion investment in key programs and initiatives implemented by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to build safer, healthier and cleaner communities. Since November 2021, the EPA has been hard at work putting this critical funding to work on behalf of the American people. This funding will help the EPA clean up Superfund toxic waste sites faster, redevelop blighted and polluted sites across America to contribute to local economies, clean up the nation's school bus fleet and put people to work revitalizing aging water infrastructure in communities across the country.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law included \$50 billion to strengthen the nation's drinking water and wastewater systems – the single largest investment in water that the federal government has ever made. The EPA has been honored to work with you and your staff to reshape America's water future.

Today, I write with an additional opportunity to partner in delivering clean and safe drinking water to your residents. The EPA recognizes that many communities are struggling with resources to address emerging contaminants, such as perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, and to reduce or eliminate the risk of exposure to these harmful contaminants. The EPA is announcing the *Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities* grant program as a resource to communities in states, territories and tribal nations. This grant program is authorized under section 1459A of the Safe Drinking Water Act. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides \$5 billion for the program in fiscal years 2022-26.

The goal of the grant program is to reduce exposure to PFAS and other emerging contaminants in drinking water in communities that may not have resources to fund projects necessary to address these risks. This historic opportunity to invest in small and disadvantaged communities demonstrates the commitment from President Biden and Congress to address PFAS contamination, perchlorate and other emerging contaminants in drinking water with higher levels of occurrence or health concerns.

States, territories and tribes will be able to apply for funding through the Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities grant program later this year. Eligible activities include:

- Efforts to address emerging contaminants in drinking water that would benefit a small or disadvantaged community on a per household basis;
 - Technical assistance to evaluate emerging contaminant problems;
 - Programs to provide household water-quality testing, including testing for unregulated contaminants;
 - Local contractor training;
 - Activities necessary and appropriate for a state to respond to an emerging contaminant;
- and

- Installing centralized water treatment to address emerging contaminants at a small or disadvantaged community water system.

To receive grant funding, states and territories must submit a letter of intent by August 15, 2022, notifying the EPA of the intent to participate and the designating the appropriate agency. This information should be sent to:

Via email (preferred):

WIINDrinkingWaterGrants@epa.gov

Attention: BIL Emerging Contaminants Grant Letter of Intent to Participate

Via mail:

Yvonne Gonzalez

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

MC: 4606M

Washington, D.C. 20460

At the close of the submission deadline, the EPA will:

- Determine allocations based on the number of participating states and territories;
- Release an allotment memo, including the tribal set-aside;
- Host a training webinar on grant requirements and implementation; and
- Release an implementation document to participating entities, including reporting criteria, eligibilities and Q&As.

Further details on the implementation of this grant program will be made available to participating entities in the fall. More information regarding future events, webinars or presentations regarding the program will be made available via the Drinking Water Grants webpage at <https://bit.ly/3MVczrI>. Additionally, participating states and territories will be sent notifications in advance of any future meetings or webinars.

If your staff has specific questions concerning the grant opportunity, they are welcome to contact Yvonne Gonzalez at (202) 564-2912 or gonzalez.yvonne@epa.gov.

I would be pleased to speak with you about this opportunity, and your staff can always work with Deputy Associate Administrator for Intergovernmental Affairs John Lucey about this or any EPA matters at (202) 564-1820 or lucey.john.d@epa.gov.

Sincerely yours,

Michael S. Regan