



Partnerships Checklist

Opportunities to Solve Water System Challenges with Partnerships

Use this checklist to determine if your water system, or water systems in your community, might benefit from a partnership.

Is your water system or a water system in your community...

- Struggling to meet technical, managerial, and financial (TMF) capacity? (see specific T, M, and F sections below)
- Facing similar challenges as a nearby water system?
- Within 5-10 miles of another water system?
- Currently working with another water system either directly or indirectly (e.g., providing treatment chemicals, sharing an operator)?
- Able to share and expand upon strengths to help other systems (e.g., strong TMF capacity)?

Technical (T)

- Experiencing inadequate or aging infrastructure?
- Experiencing limited/poor source quality/quantity?
- Lacking an operator with the appropriate level of certification for their treatment?
- Other: _____

Managerial (M)

- Operating with a part-time manager whose attention is stretched thin?
- Lacking expertise in long-term water system planning or operations?
- Other: _____

Financial (F)

- Lacking economies of scale (few households = high costs)?
- Experiencing a history of water rates that are set too low to cover costs?
- Experiencing limited knowledge of financing options?
- Other: _____

If you checked at least one box above, the water system(s) could benefit from a partnership and may consider some of these next steps:

- *Strategize* how to conduct outreach to the water systems you identified above.
- *Facilitate* partnership building between the water systems (e.g., host an informal meeting).
- *Identify* potential stakeholders, allies, and champions who could facilitate partnership building or support a workshop.
- *Host* a Water System Partnerships Training Workshop for the water systems. For more information visit: <https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/water-system-partnerships>.

