

FY 2024

Clean Water Indian Set-Aside Program Fact Sheet



What is CWISA?

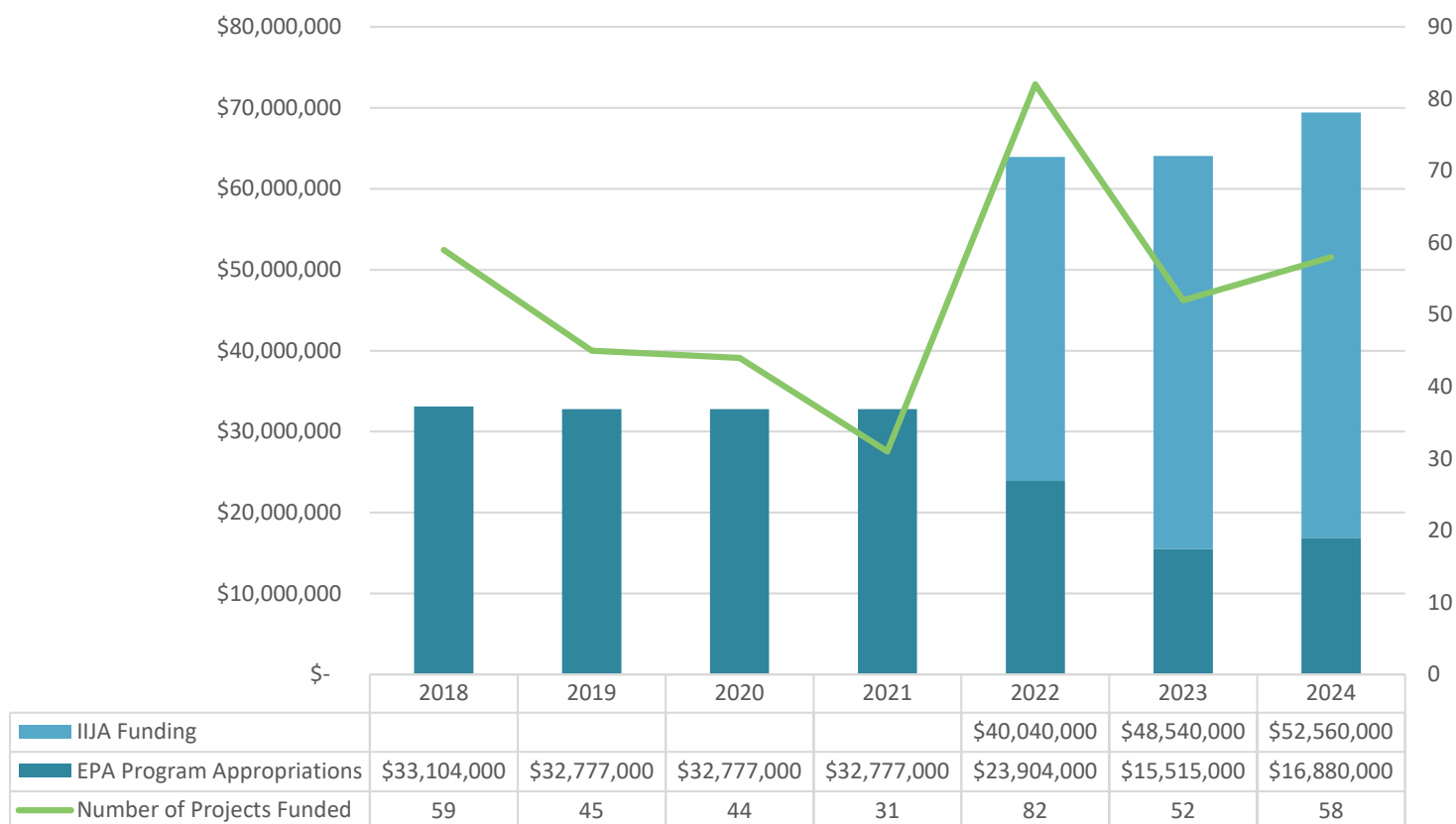
The Clean Water Indian Set-Aside (CWISA) program protects public health and the environment by improving wastewater sanitation facilities for tribal communities. The 1987 amendments to the Clean Water Act (CWA) established the CWISA program. Section 518 of the CWA, as amended by the 2014 Water Resources Reform & Development Act, governs the program and allows the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide funding for the planning, design, and construction of wastewater treatment plant facilities that serve federally recognized Indian tribes, Alaska Native Villages (ANV), and certain tribes in Oklahoma.

Since inception, EPA has administered the CWISA program in close cooperation with the Indian Health Service (IHS) Sanitation Facilities Construction program. The ten EPA Regions are responsible for the administration of the regional CWISA programs, and EPA Headquarters provides national program coordination, oversight, and policy direction. EPA Regions use the IHS Sanitation Deficiency System (SDS) database to identify projects for CWISA program funds.

CWISA Funding Levels

In FY 2024, the CWISA program received \$69,440,000 through annual congressional appropriations and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

CWISA Program Impact



Case Study: Effluent Disinfection in Muscogee (Creek) Nation

The Town of Porter, located within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation about 40 miles south of Tulsa, OK, owns and operates a wastewater treatment facility that serves over 400 homes. The wastewater treatment facility was no longer equipped to manage increased precipitation and high influent flow, leading to discharges of partially treated wastewater during heavy rainfall. The system was in need of an updated disinfection system to treat effluent. It also required new aerators and effluent monitoring.

Through the CWISA, the facility installed a new UV effluent disinfection system, an innovative Parshall flume to monitor effluent, a floating brush aerator to help facilitate aerobic treatment, new yard piping, and an influent lift station. The system is now more effective, more prepared for heavy rain events, and ready to serve the community.

Case Study Data Source: Indian Health Service Sanitation Deficiency System



The new floating brush aerator in the Porter wastewater treatment plant

Case Study: Filter and Disposal System in Bay Mills Indian Community

The wastewater treatment system in Bay Mills Indian Community serves 104 homes on the reservation, which is located about 20 miles from Sault Ste Marie, MI. Over time, the wastewater treatment system began receiving more influent than it was designed to handle, resulting in leaks from the pressurized mound disposal system. A temporary drainbed was installed, but permanent work was needed to construct a new filter and disposal system, upgrade treatment, and enhance maintenance equipment.

Construction on the treatment system resulted in a new geotextile pod packed filter bed system and a new pressurized disposal system. In addition, Bay Mills was able to procure needed maintenance equipment including an industrial steam cleaning unit, well sampling tools, and a system control panel cover. Improvements to the treatment system increased its effectiveness and capacity to serve homes in the Spectacle Village housing development and the Mission area of the reservation.

Case Study Data Source: Indian Health Service Sanitation Deficiency System



The previous sand filter system, which was blocked by vegetation and frequently leaked partially treated effluent



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EPA Publication **832F25007**