



Water Infrastructure Enhancement Act of 2023

The Water Infrastructure Enhancement Act of 2023 would establish a grant program at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for public water system infrastructure improvements. The grant program would fund upgrades and installation of water treatment facilities, storage tanks, distribution pipes, pump stations, emergency generators, wells, and advanced meters.

The Act requires at least 50 percent of funds to be used for rural areas to ensure small water systems have the funding needed for critical infrastructure improvements. It also requires at least 15 percent of funding to be awarded for projects in historically disadvantaged communities or areas of persistent poverty.

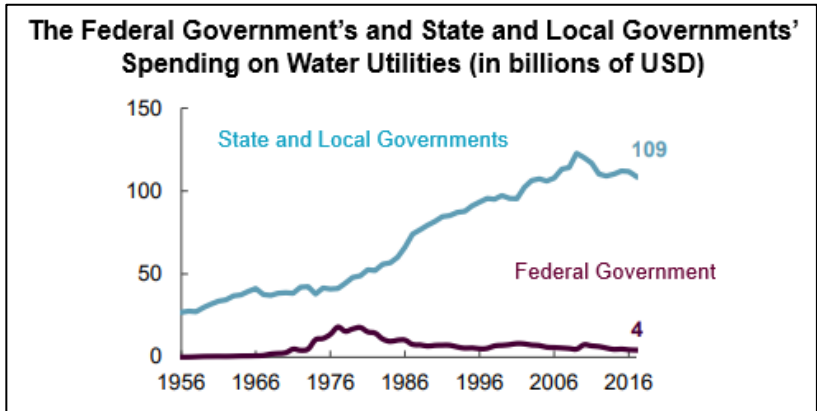
Background

According to the most recent [EPA Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment](#), \$473 billion is needed to maintain and improve the nation's drinking water infrastructure over the next 20 years, including:

- \$313 billion to replace aging pipelines
- \$83 billion to improve water treatment
- \$48 billion for water storage reservoirs
- \$29 billion for wells and spring collectors¹

Although 2021's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act made

historic investments in our nation's water infrastructure, funding is still needed to strengthen the quality and resiliency of our water systems. State and local governments have increasingly had to cover more costs to make water infrastructure improvements, with the federal government's share of funding for water utilities falling from 31 percent in 1977 to just under 4 percent in 2017.² This bill will provide funding needed to ensure residents have safe and reliable water by authorizing \$800 million per year for water infrastructure improvements.



Endorsements

Texas Rural Water Association, Texas Water Conservation Association

¹ Environmental Protection Agency, "EPA's 6th Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment," March 2018.

² Congressional Budget Office, "Public Spending on Transportation and Water Infrastructure, 1956 to 2017," October 15, 2018.