

GREAT LAKES  
ST. LAWRENCE  
GOVERNORS  
& PREMIERS





ALLIANCE *for the*  
**GREAT LAKES**

*Protecting Water, Sustaining Life*

2021 Great Lakes St. Lawrence  
Governors & Premiers

# leadership summit

**Water Infrastructure Virtual Webinar**

Crystal M.C. Davis

VP of Policy & Strategic Engagement

Alliance for the Great Lakes

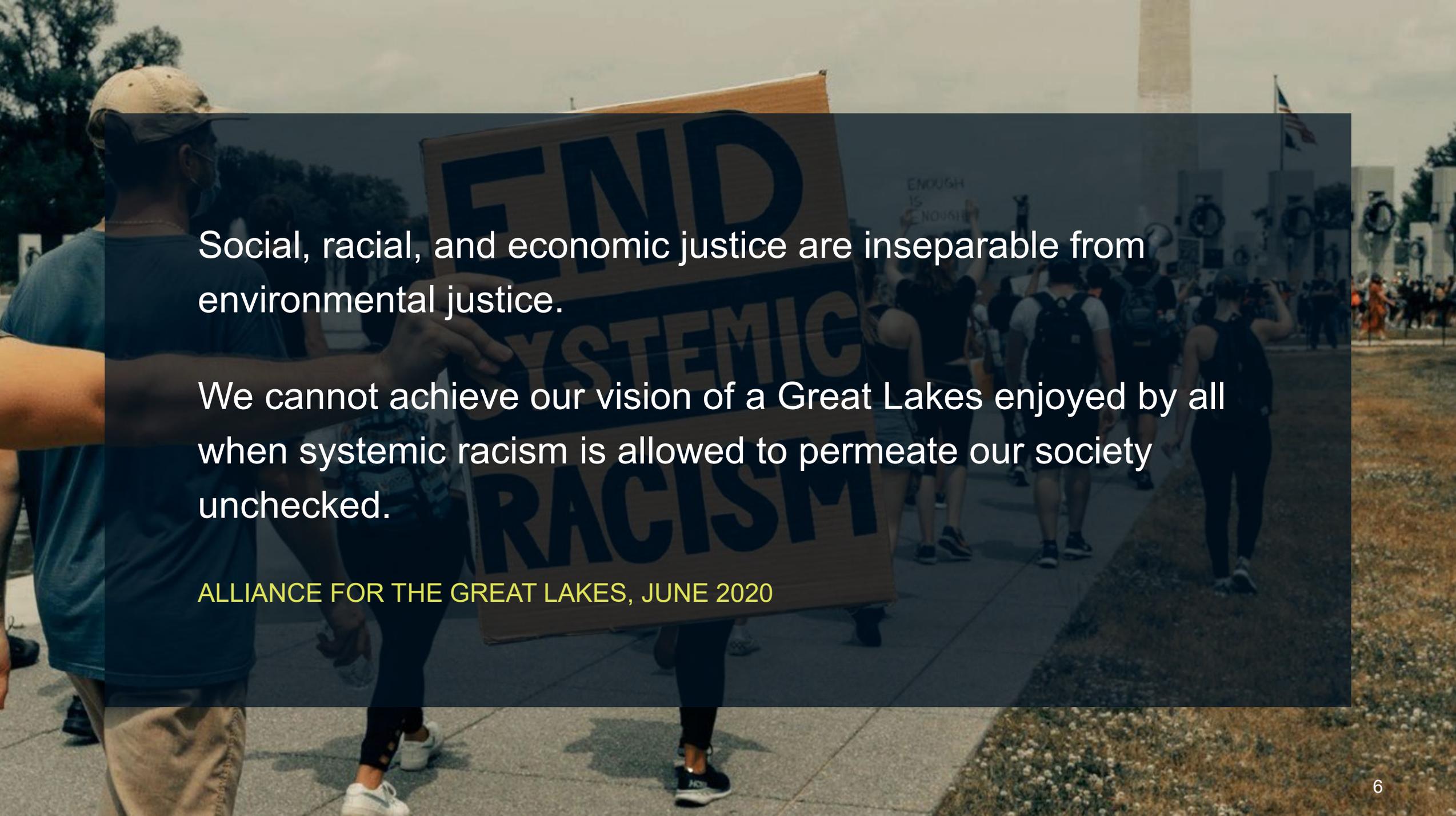


water means  
business

# Great Lakes Infrastructure Needs at a Glance

## GREAT LAKES REGION INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT NEEDS (\$ IN BILLIONS)

	Wastewater Infrastructure Need over 20 years	Drinking Water Infrastructure Need over 20 Years	Total Infrastructure Need over 20 Years
Illinois	\$6.537	\$20.910	\$27.447
Indiana	\$7.162	\$7.520	\$14.682
Michigan	\$2.077	\$13.046	\$15.123
Minnesota	\$2.389	\$7.520	\$9.897
New York	\$31.439	\$22.766	\$54.205
Ohio	\$14.587	\$13.405	\$27.992
Pennsylvania	\$6.950	\$16.772	\$23.722
Wisconsin	\$6.329	\$8.569	\$14.898
<b>Total Regional Need</b>	<b>\$77.470</b>	<b>\$110.496</b>	<b>\$187.966</b>

A photograph of a protest at the Washington Monument. A person in the foreground is holding a large cardboard sign that reads "END SYSTEMIC RACISM" in bold, black, sans-serif capital letters. The person is wearing a blue t-shirt and a tan baseball cap. In the background, a large crowd of people is gathered, some holding other signs, including one that says "ENOUGH IS ENOUGH". The Washington Monument is visible in the distance under a clear sky.

Social, racial, and economic justice are inseparable from environmental justice.

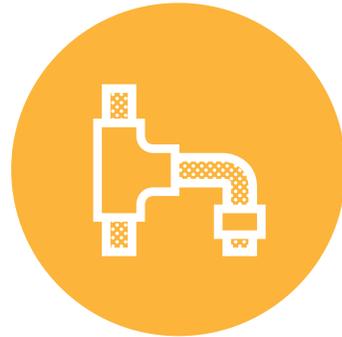
We cannot achieve our vision of a Great Lakes enjoyed by all when systemic racism is allowed to permeate our society unchecked.

ALLIANCE FOR THE GREAT LAKES, JUNE 2020

# Proposed Federal Investments



The American Jobs Plan, includes major water infrastructure commitments to the tune of \$111 billion



The bipartisan infrastructure bill (HR 3684) contains \$48 billion in water infrastructure investments, including \$15 billion for lead pipes



FY 2022 President's Budget, proposes reinvestments in domestic programs, including water and an increase for the U.S. EPA which will benefit the Great Lakes



The reconciliation bill also known as the Build Back Better Bill includes additional water infrastructure investments totaling \$39.6 billion, of which \$30 billion is for lead service line replacement

A photograph of a seagull standing on a sandy beach. The seagull is white with grey wings and a black tail. It is facing right. The background shows the ocean and a clear blue sky. The text "All Hands on Deck Approach" is overlaid in white on the image.

# All Hands on Deck Approach

A man in a white Adidas athletic shirt is drinking water from a clear plastic bottle on a red running track. The background is a blurred green field. A dark blue semi-transparent rectangle is overlaid on the image, containing white text.

Celebrate Progress and  
Invest in Programs That Work

# Our Commitments



Advocate for  
Increased Funding at All  
Levels



Multi-sector Coalition  
Building



Educate Key  
Stakeholders

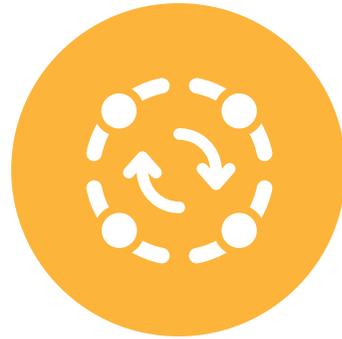


Amplify Community Voice

# Call to Action



Share and adopt best practices on healthy water infrastructure implementation



Support for Full Lead Service Line Replacement with Timelines and Delivery Plans



Increase Investment and Resources



Workforce Development and Public Engagement

A hand holding a smartphone is visible in the background, slightly out of focus. The background is a dark blue/purple gradient with colorful bokeh light spots. A vertical white line separates the 'Thank You' text from the contact information.

**Thank You**

**Crystal M.C. Davis**

Vice President of Policy  
& Strategic Engagement  
Alliance for the Great Lakes

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[www.Greatlakes.org](http://www.Greatlakes.org)

# SAFE WATER FOR ALL

PRESENTED BY THE WISCONSIN DNR  
Secretary Preston D. Cole







## How Safe is Wisconsin's Water?

### o Nitrates

- Approximately **10% of well owners** have their well water tested for any contaminant.
- Greater than **10%** of wells exceed the maximum contaminant levels for nitrates.
- Approximately **300** public water systems exceed the health standard for nitrates.
- Private well owners have spent greater than **\$9 million** to replace wells with elevated nitrate levels.

### o Lead

- Wisconsin public water systems have over **200,000** lead service lines.

### o PFAS

- Approximately **50** known PFAS contaminated sites in Wisconsin.
- **5 of 91** municipal water systems sampled exceed state recommended health levels for PFAS.
- **17 PFAS** fish consumption advisories issued after DNR sampling.

Water in Wisconsin - Fast Facts



## Drinking Water in Wisconsin

- o **3 in 4** Wisconsinites get water from public water systems and **1 in 4** get their water from private wells.
- o Wisconsin has **11,451 public water systems** – the most of any state in the US.

## Laws Protecting Wisconsin's Water



### o Federal Protections

- **Clean Water Act:** Protects national waterways.
- **Safe Drinking Water Act:** Establishes safe drinking water protections.
- **Superfund:** Requires cleanup of over 40 contaminated sites.

### o Wisconsin Protections:

- **Groundwater Law**, nationally recognized as it protects and restores groundwater.
- **Spills Law**, a comprehensive cleanup law that restores our state waters, land and air.
  - Over **27,000 cleanups** have been completed and approved.
  - Over **41,000 spills** have been reported and addressed.





## What are PFAS?

PFAS are a group of human-made chemicals used for decades in numerous products.



stain-resistant carpet & fabric



non-stick cookware



firefighting foam



fast food packaging

Products that **may contain PFAS**.

## Why Should I Care?

PFAS persist in the environment and the human body for long periods of time. Recent findings indicate that exposure to certain PFAS may have harmful health effects in people.



certain types of cancers



thyroid & heart issues



infertility & low birth weight



developmental delays

## What is Wisconsin Doing About It?



establishing PFAS health standards for drinking water, groundwater and surface water



soil & water testing



researching fish & wildlife



listening & feedback sessions



state collaboration

Additional efforts include a **PFAS Action Committee (WisPAC)** and a **PFAS Technical Advisory Group**.





## WHAT IS LEAD?

Lead is a toxic metal that people are exposed to from a variety of sources every day.

## Sources of lead:



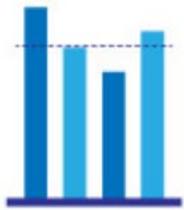
Lead-based paint

Drinking water



Food

Air and Soil



## WHY SHOULD I CARE ?

- Lead damages the brain and other body systems.
- Lead can hurt anyone, but kids under age 6 are most vulnerable, and the damage can last a lifetime.
- Drinking water can make-up 20% or more of a person's total exposure to lead.



## WHAT IS WISCONSIN DOING ABOUT IT ?

- Expanding funding for lead service line replacements.
- Prevent leaching from lead pipes.
- "Get the lead out" educational campaign.



## WHAT MORE COULD WISCONSIN DO ?

- Revise lead regulation.
- Pursue additional funding for complete lead service lines replacement.



## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Everyone should follow these steps:

- Run tap water a few minutes prior to using water for drinking.
- Clean your faucet's screen.
- Use the cold water tap for drinking and preparing food.
- Have your water tested.



Sensitive groups should also follow these steps:

*Sensitive groups are bottle-fed babies, pregnant women, and children that have lead in their home's plumbing.*

- Use a safe source of water for drinking and preparing food.
- Remove lead sources from residential plumbing.





## WHAT IS NITRATE?

Nitrate is a compound that is formed when nitrogen combines with oxygen in water.

## Sources of nitrate in groundwater:



Waste Water



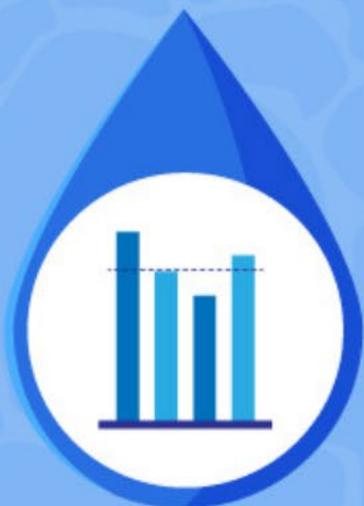
Nitrogen-based Fertilizers



Animal Manure

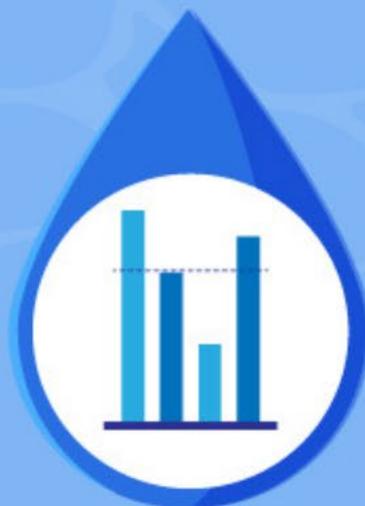


Sewage/Septic Waste



## WHY SHOULD I CARE ?

- High levels of nitrate in drinking water can be dangerous to health, especially for infants and pregnant women.
- Studies estimate that at least 10% of private wells in Wisconsin have nitrate above health standard.
- Drinking nitrate-nitrogen contaminated water over time can be harmful.



- Nitrate can cause blue baby syndrome. This can affect infants less than 6 months old.
- Nitrate may cause thyroid disease.
- Nitrate may increase the risk for certain kinds of cancer.
- Nitrate may cause birth defects. This can affect women who are or may become pregnant.



## WHAT IS WISCONSIN DOING ABOUT IT ?

- Revising well construction requirements.
- Setting standards to reduce loss of nitrate to groundwater.
- Developing support tools for better nutrient management planning.



## WHAT MORE COULD WISCONSIN DO ?

- Expand Well Compensation Program.
- Provide funding to test private wells.
- Expand mapping of sensitive geologic areas.



## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Test your private well every year.
- Inspect your well and septic system for proper construction and operation.







# THANK YOU.



/WIDNR



@WDNR



@WI\_DNR



/WIDNRTV



"WILD WISCONSIN:  
OFF THE RECORD"

# GREAT LAKES ST. LAWRENCE GOVERNORS & PREMIERS WEBINAR

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michigan municipal league



# Decades of Decline & Compounding Stress

**\$8.6 BILLION**  
LOST MUNICIPAL REVENUE FROM  
20 YEARS OF STATE UNDERFUNDING



**PROP A / HEADLEE**  
MICHIGAN RANKS LAST IN LOCAL EMPLOYMENT

POLICE **23% DROP**



FIRE PERSONNEL **36% DROP**



GLOBAL  
PANDEMIC  
MAKES IT  
WORSE



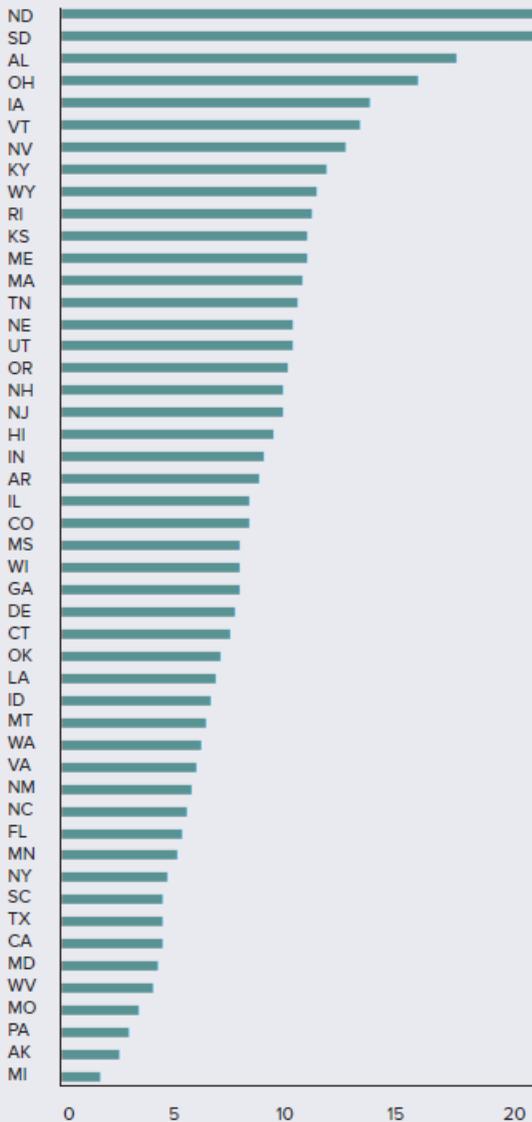


Figure 3. Proportion of drinking water systems that received a DWSRF award by state, 2010–2020

## Scarcity, disinvestment & distrust

- + Lack of trust
- + Limited capacity
- + Assistance – inaccessible, unaffordable
- + Outdated State Policy
- + The Cost of Emerging Contaminants

Katy Hansen, Sara Hughes, Andrea Palne, and James Polidori (2021). Figure 3, pp 10. "Drinking Water Equity: Analysis and Recommendations for the Allocation of the State Revolving Funds." Environmental Policy Innovation Center.

# Reverse the Decline, Invest in the Future

## CARES ACT

The Michigan Municipal League leveraged \$100,000 for \$33 million

\$100K

\$33 MILLION



20% of Michigan communities returned federal stimulus

## AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN



STATE OF MICHIGAN \$6.4 BILLION



MICHIGAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT \$4.4 BILLION

Additional funding \$1 trillion

### GOAL

CATALYTIC, TRANSFORMATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- 1 SHORT-TERM TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
- 2 LONG-TERM STRATEGIC ASSISTANCE
- 3 COMMUNICATION ASSISTANCE



- Don't leave money on the table
- Develop partnerships with business, NPOs, philanthropy
- Rebuild trust
- Pivot to a positive narrative

# Community Wealth Building

We define community wealth building as strategies that build community and individual assets, creating resilient and adaptable systems to address social and economic needs.



# Why this matters:

+ Climate Migration

+ The Value of Land



# Project Goals:

- + Simplify the process
- + Create an Equitable Platform
- + Better Communication b/t applicants and agency
- + Boost Local Capacity
- + Establish a better understanding on how Michigan water systems engage and utilize the SRF.



# THANK YOU!

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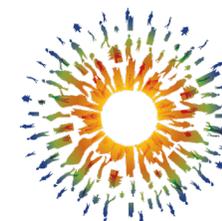
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- Government of Canada
- Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District
- Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District
- Ohio Department of Natural Resources