

National Wildlife Federation

Environmental Justice, Climate, and Community Revitalization Program



11 EXAMPLES TO BUILD BACK BETTER

A breakdown of provisions within the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act that have the potential to impact urban, rural, and Tribal programs and communities



BACKGROUND

The purpose of this publication is to ground federal investments and identify both the challenges and opportunities for frontline and fence-line communities by centering their voices and their past, current, and future issue priorities. The communities and programs showcased in this report serve as examples to Build Back Better, and they represent the wide breadth of constituents across urban and rural landscapes, Indigenous communities, and programs that fall within this spectrum.

This document will include further information on the applications of the Build Back Better framework within the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and other legislation as Congress tackles further investments and provisions.



NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM



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HOW TO BUILD BACK BETTER

By: Dr. Mustafa Santiago Ali

As investments flow from the federal government to states and municipalities across the country, ensuring frontline and fence-line communities aren't left behind will be pivotal in realizing the administration's commitment to Justice40.



According to the Biden-Harris Administration, Justice40 is a whole-of-government effort to ensure that Federal agencies work with states and local communities to make good on President Biden's promise to deliver at least 40 percent of the overall benefits from federal investments in climate and clean energy to disadvantaged communities. Thanks to the leadership of community leaders and environmental and social justice organizations across the nation, we're one step closer to achieving these goals through the Build Back Better framework.

The Build Back Better framework consists of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (or Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework) and other legislative provisions aimed to make historic investments to upgrade our deteriorating infrastructure and lower the costs of childcare, healthcare, and housing along with bold and critical investments in climate change solutions, natural infrastructure and habitat restoration, wildlife recovery, and coastal resilience.



HOW TO BUILD BACK BETTER



Dr. Mustafa Santiago Ali (center) at the 2021 Advocates Award Gala as an Advocate Award recipient alongside Environmental Advocates NY staff and Mount Vernon (NY) municipal staff, including Mayor Shawn Patterson-Howard.

To ensure investments reach disadvantaged communities and address their urgent and pertinent issues, building capacity among states and counties and creating mechanisms of accountability will be critical.

Establishing an environmental justice analysis to guide decision-making and developing periodic evaluations to ensure investments flow to the communities most in need will be important. By collaborating with community leaders and building authentic partnerships with environmental justice organizations that have paved the way to these historic investments, we will be better positioned to achieve the Justice40 commitment.



INFRASTRUCTURE, INFRASTRUCTURE, INFRASTRUCTURE!

By: Simone Lightfoot

Our team at the National Wildlife Federation Environmental Justice program is excited to share this compilation of examples of how our nation can Build Back Better and leverage new, federal resources under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).



IIJA makes \$1.2 trillion in funding available, over five years, for infrastructure programs across the water, energy, building, and transportation sectors to improve our vast and aging infrastructure.

From deteriorating bridges, tunnels, dams, and water systems, to rapid and major transportation, flood controls, pedestrian and telecom system upgrades, we have a collective opportunity to help move beyond fossilized habits that resist change and cling to a prescribed set of practices.

In other words, no longer will infrastructure, priorities, decisions, and plans have to be formed from a place of scarcity. By welcoming, embracing, and centering intentionality and race, decision-makers can begin to operationalize past lessons learned from historic infrastructure decisions that represent a direct legacy of harm, particularly for households of lower wealth, and communities of color.



INFRASTRUCTURE, INFRASTRUCTURE, INFRASTRUCTURE!

At the National Wildlife Federation, our Environmental Justice Program intentionally prioritizes, amplifies, and includes the policy solutions, views, and voices of Black, Latine, Indigenous, Asian, Pacific Islander, and communities of lower wealth in a way that highlights the important, environmental justice voices that they are.



Mitch Landrieu (left) former New Orleans Mayor and currently President Biden's Senior Advisor and Infrastructure Coordinator.

With tireless intentionality, our team embraces the 17 Principles of Environmental Justice and the Jemez Principles. We employ our innate instincts and lived experiences to creatively pivot and pretzel solutions to multiple competing interests while thinking outside of the box to address habitat, policy, and community needs.

From the streets to the suites, our environmental justice team invests the time, cultural respect, and regard required to build authentic, sustainable relationships and to connect our federal advocacy efforts to those urban and rural communities that are committed to addressing the environmental challenges connected to climate change, cumulative impacts, and the inequitable distribution of burdens and amenities. Our team effectively bridges distinctions and long-standing assumptions that often pose barriers to connecting ecological restoration, wildlife, and habitat protection to where people live, learn, work, worship, and play. We engage, convene, and partner up close and personal with allies in the environmental, civil rights, formerly incarcerated, social justice, public health, labor, and faith-based movements.



INFRASTRUCTURE, INFRASTRUCTURE, INFRASTRUCTURE!

We value our work and relationships with organizations including, but by no means limited to:

We The People of Detroit; the Black Chicago Water Council; the Flint Community Development Center & Flint Water Lab; Green Latinos; Amnesty International Gun Violence Campaign; National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; National Urban League; the Lower Ninth Ward Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development (New Orleans, LA); National Association of Black State Legislators; the REGENESIS Project (Spartanburg, SC); BuildUP Ensley (Birmingham, AL); Ms. Thomasine Jackson of East Thomas Neighborhood (Birmingham, AL); Jacquie Gillon of Black Environmental Leaders (Cleveland, OH); the African American Mayors Association; National Association of Black County Officials; the Congressional Caucuses of Color; WMPR FM-90.1 (Jackson, MS); the National Black Farmers Association; Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II of The Poor People's Campaign; WE-ACT; National Children's Campaign; National Environmental Justice Journal; National Coalition on Black Civic Participation; Rev. Lennox Yearwood of The Hip Hop Caucus; Rev. Nelson B. Rivers III of National Action Network (SC); the Milwaukee Water Commons (Milwaukee, WI); Rev. Leo Woodbury of New Alpha Community Development; the National Black Caucus Foundation; Union of Concerned Scientists; Little Village Environmental Justice Organization; Outdoor Afro; the League of United Latin American Citizens; Green Door Initiative (Detroit, MI); and Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting, and the Outdoors.



11 CITIES & PROGRAMS

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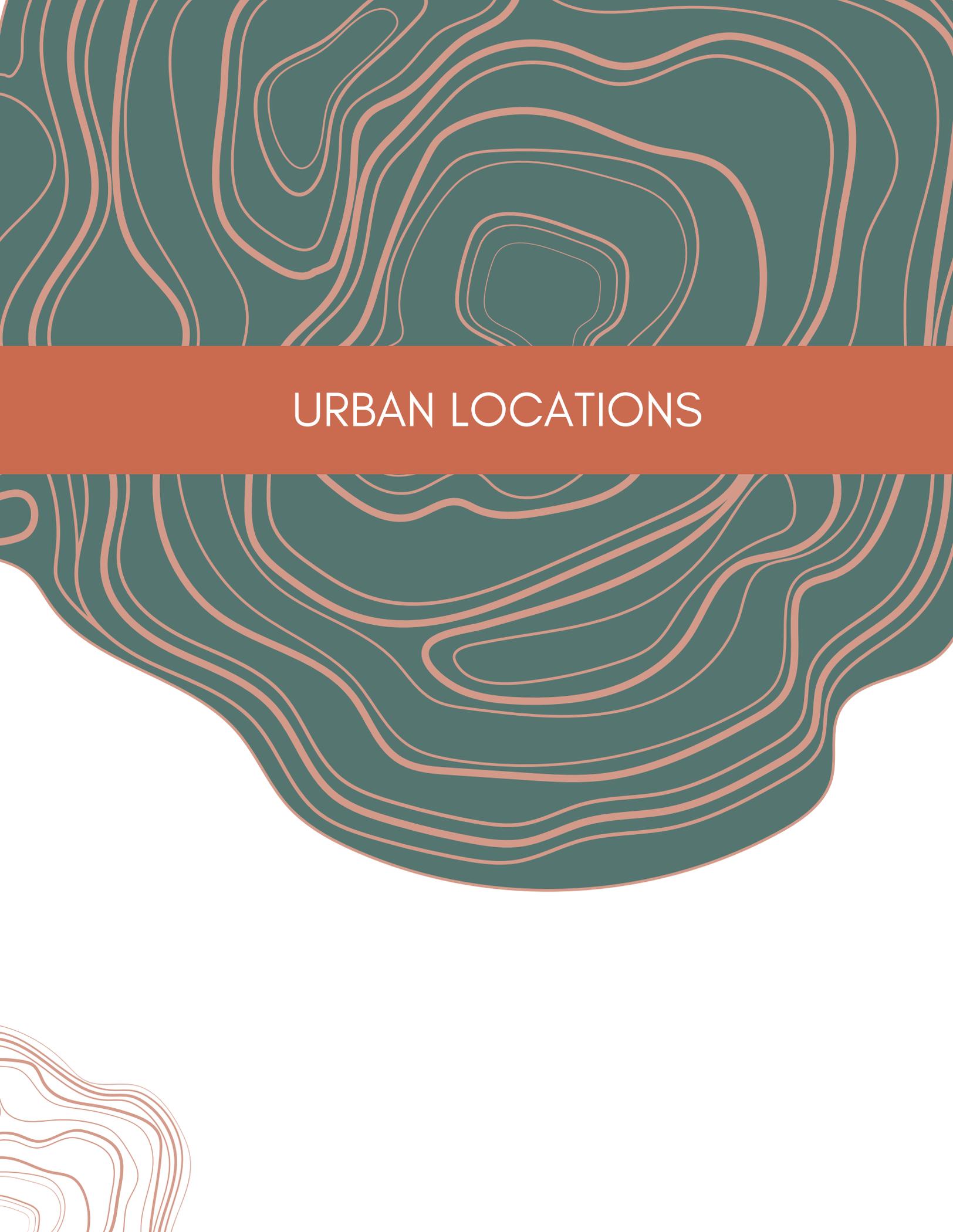
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URBAN LOCATIONS

BENTON HARBOR, MI

LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT AND LEAD IN WATER URBAN

TOTAL POPULATION: 9,103 PEOPLE

Source: US Census Bureau

- **Black (Alone): 85.1%**
- **White (Alone): 10.2%**
- **Latino (Of Any Race): 3.9%**
- **Two or More Races: 1.5%**
- **American Indian/ Alaska Native (Alone): <.01%**
- **Asian (Alone): <.01%**
- **Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (Alone): <.01%**

BACKGROUND

- For years, outdated infrastructure has negatively impacted the quality of treated drinking water flowing through the pipes of Benton Harbor.
- Like many communities, particularly in the Midwest “Rust Belt,” the pipes that make up the drinking water distribution system in Benton Harbor are either near the point of retirement or have exceeded it.
- On September 9, 2021, after three years in a row of tests showing lead contamination that exceeded allowable levels, approximately twenty organizations and advocacy groups made an appeal to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency by filing an emergency petition. These concerns included, but were not limited to:
 - The continued detection of lead levels well above 15 parts per billion (ppb), the federal threshold for action.
 - Corrosion control measures and their current efficacy.
 - Lead levels are increasing. They are currently higher than in the initial lead exceedance from Fall 2018 when eight homes tested above 15 ppb, with the highest testing at 60 ppb. In 2021, 11 homes tested above 15 ppb with the highest at 889 ppb.



BENTON HARBOR, MI

LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT AND LEAD IN WATER

BBB APPLICATIONS

- Funding to support lead service line replacement projects.
- Grants to assist in the planning, design, construction, implementation, operation, or maintenance of a program or project to increase the resiliency or adaptability of water systems to natural hazards.
- Technical assistance and grants for emergencies affecting public water systems.
- Funding to help drinking water and wastewater systems address emerging contaminants.



Rev. Edward Pinkney points to the water stations donated to the Benton Harbor schools.



Volunteers in October (2021) distributing bottled water to Benton Harbor residents.



BIRMINGHAM, AL

FLOODING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

URBAN

TOTAL POPULATION: 200,733 PEOPLE

Source: US Census Bureau

- **Black (Alone): 68.3%**
- **White (Alone): 24.5%**
- **Latino (Of Any Race): 4.1%**
- **Two or More Races: 2.0%**
- **Asian (Alone): 1.2%**
- **American Indian/ Alaska Native (Alone): 0.2%**
- **Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (Alone): <.01%**

BACKGROUND

- Burdened with almost \$970 million in long-term debt, regulatory requirements, the need to replace aging infrastructure, and a customer base stressed by rising water service costs, city leaders must work across governance boundaries to address sewer, water and utility infrastructure that is operated and maintained by entities other than the city.
- Developing partnerships and ensuring that those already most burdened are not shouldering the load of the sewer rate increases are key (i.e. rural, urban, and suburban areas, septic tanks, sewer systems, golf courses, roofs, roads).
- Leadership must address long-term strategies for infrastructure needs and other hazards. These include trains blocking neighborhoods, aging roads, and bridge systems, etc., along with environmental hazards such as tornadoes, severe storms, and flooding.



BIRMINGHAM, AL

FLOODING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

BBB APPLICATIONS

- Funding for projects that reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings insured by the national flood insurance program.
- Funding for stormwater infrastructure planning/development and implementation grants.
- Funding for Federal Emergency Management Agency hazard mitigation programs to build resilience in communities.
- Establishment of a “Healthy Streets Program” to fund projects that mitigate some of the impacts of rising urban temperatures to reduce stormwater risks.



East Thomas Neighborhood Association, at a Birmingham tree planting event with Mrs. Thomasine Jackson (2nd from left).



NWF Environmental Justice Program Infrastructure Interns in Birmingham with BuildUP Ensley in Summer 2021.



BIRMINGHAM, AL

FLOODING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [NWF EJ Team's Publication: Investing in Birmingham: 2020 Biannual Report \(March - November\)](#)
- [Learn more](#) about the National Wildlife Federation's investment in Birmingham to address climate impacts through green workforce training for youth and returning citizens.
- Read more:
 - [National Wildlife Federation: Giving Thanks to Community Partners](#)
 - [National Wildlife Federation Invests in Birmingham](#)
 - [National Wildlife Federation Continues to Build UP Birmingham students](#)
 - [How National Wildlife Federation is Building Back Better in Birmingham](#)



Birmingham, AL former City Councilman, John Hilliard (center).



Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin (left) engaging Dr. Karen Weaver (right), former Mayor of Flint, MI, and NWF intern Candice Mushatt (center).



JACKSON, MS

FLOODING

URBAN

TOTAL POPULATION: 153, 701 PEOPLE

Source: US Census Bureau

- **Black (Alone): 82.5%**
- **White (Alone): 15.4%**
- **Latino (Of Any Race): 1.3%**
- **Two or More Races: 0.7%**
- **Asian (Alone): 0.3%**
- **American Indian/ Alaska Native (Alone): 0.1%**
- **Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (Alone): <.01%**

BACKGROUND

- For years, the city has faced structural challenges paying for deferred infrastructure maintenance and legacy costs which has fostered an inability to proactively invest in infrastructure upgrades.
- In addition, the city has a declining population and a high percentage of low-income residents and is located within one of the poorest states in the country. Therefore, the ability to pay for drinking water and wastewater is limited.
- With a population that is over 82% Black, race, legacy costs, and divestment in the capital city's water quality and infrastructure all play a part in the city's ongoing water, flooding, and infrastructure crisis.
- NWF donated \$5,000 to assist WMPR in their efforts to continue their work as "The Voice of the Community." Read more here: [WMPR receives National Wildlife Federation donation](#)
- Read about NWF's COVID-19 and Environmental Justice frontline community roundtables here: [National Wildlife Federation, Partners Hold Environmental Justice Roundtable with Alabama, Florida, Mississippi Leaders](#)



JACKSON, MS

FLOODING

BBB APPLICATIONS

- Funding for projects that reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings insured by the national flood insurance program.
- Establishment of a “Healthy Streets Program” to fund projects that mitigate some of the impacts of rising urban temperatures and to reduce stormwater risks.
- Funding for stormwater infrastructure planning/development and implementation grants.
- Funding for Federal Emergency Management Agency hazard mitigation programs to build resilience in communities.



Jackson City Councilman Vernon Hartley is committed to improving infrastructure and addressing flooding.



MS State Rep. De'Keither Stamps (left) partnered with NWF to address water issues in Jackson.



JACKSON, MS

FLOODING



Jackson, MS Mayor Chokwe Lumumba engages in a conversation with key experts.



In July (2021), Jackson residents waited in long lines for water assistance.



Jackson residents benefit from innovative water and infrastructure partnerships between the Better MEN Society (Robert Davis, left) and Amnesty International (Ernest Coverson, right).



Jackson welcomes innovative water and infrastructure partners, including Michael J. Harris, Flint Water Lab (left) and Vicksburg, MS Mayor George Flaggs Jr. (right).



MOUNT VERNON, NY

SEWER SYSTEM REPLACEMENT AND SERVICE LINES

URBAN

TOTAL POPULATION: 73,893 PEOPLE

Source: US Census Bureau

- **Black (Alone): 62.7%**
- **Latino (Of Any Race): 17.4%**
- **White (Alone): 17.2%**
- **Two or More Races: 5.1%**
- **Asian (Alone): 2.1%**
- **American Indian/Alaska Native (Alone): 0.5%**
- **Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (Alone): <.01%**

BACKGROUND

- The City of Mount Vernon is the eighth largest city in New York State and has a Black-majority. For almost two decades, residents have lived with raw sewage backing up into their homes, flooding their streets and polluting local waterways. In the past three years alone, the city has experienced 900 sewer backups.
- Old and corroded sewer pipes, made of clay and designed in three-foot sections, are breaking over time with the combination of usage, wear, and tear. This causes city workers to prioritize and address these backups, which result in delays in compliance work and other illicit discharge prevention.
- The city's sanitary sewage system includes more than 195 miles of sewer lines, 3,200 catch-basins, and 3,000 manholes. Broken pipes and illegal hook-ups mean that raw sewage has the potential to end up in storm drains and ultimately local waterways.
- With an annual city operational budget of \$122 million and no capital budget, more than 100 miles of city sewer lines are at various levels of disrepair, and more than 40 miles of that are severely affected and hampered by an estimated \$42 million in replacement costs. The cost to fix the entire system could be anywhere from \$125 million to \$200 million.



MOUNT VERNON, NY

SEWER SYSTEM REPLACEMENT AND SERVICE LINES

BBB APPLICATIONS

- Funding for technical assistance and grants for emergencies affecting public water systems.
- Funding for projects in rural and/or financially distressed communities for planning, design, and construction of treatment works for stormwater and other polluted waters.
- Grants to assist in the planning, design, construction, implementation, operation, or maintenance of a program or project to increase the resiliency or adaptability of water systems to natural hazards.
- Decentralized Households grants to help low-income homeowners construct or repair failing septic systems.



Municipal contractors actively replacing clay pipes with newer, sturdier PVC pipes.

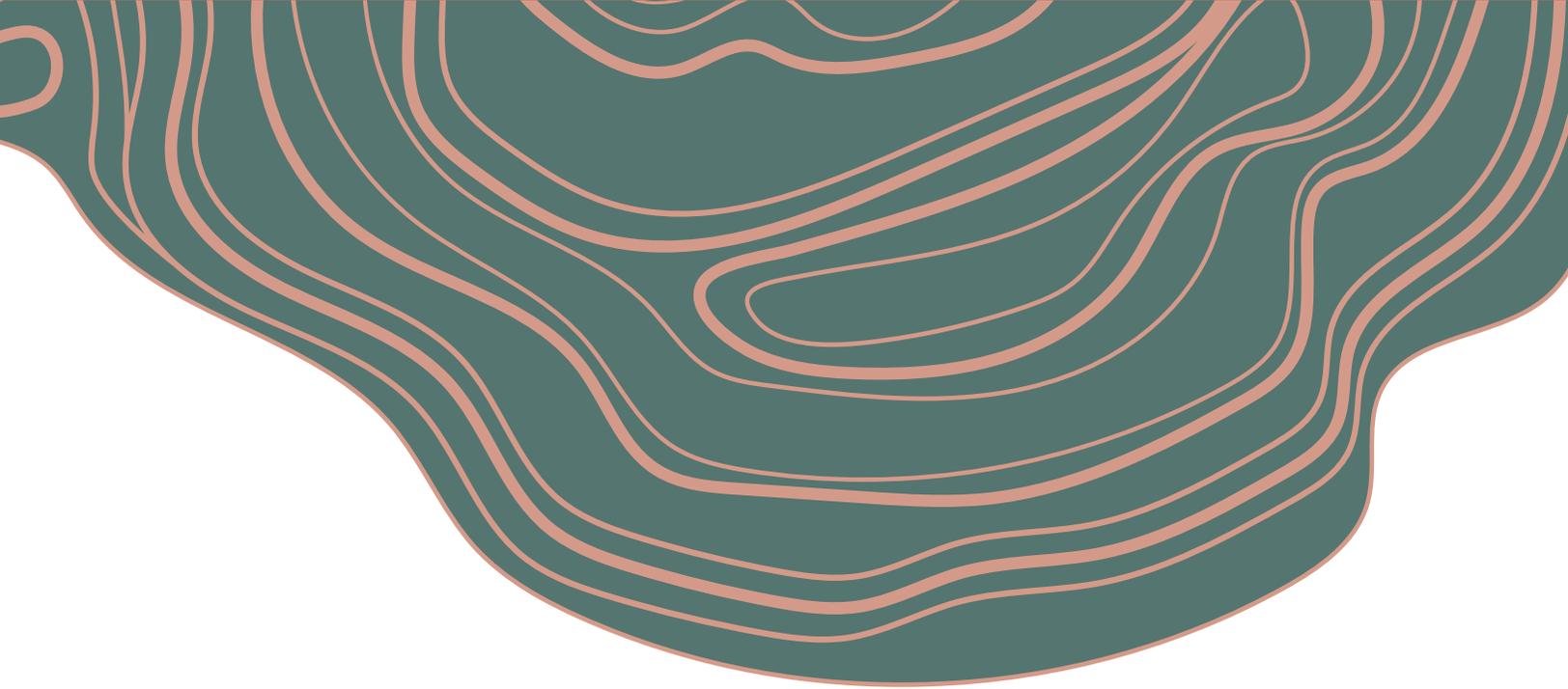


NWF in front of Mount Vernon's bypass machine, which prevents multiple apartment complexes from experiencing sewage backups.





PROJECTS



REGENESIS, SPARTANBURG, SC

SUPERFUND SITE CLEANUP AND COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT PROJECT

TOTAL POPULATION: 38,732 PEOPLE

Source: US Census Bureau

- **Black (Alone): 45.6%**
- **White (Alone): 45.6%**
- **Latino (Of Any Race): 4.3%**
- **Two or More Races: 2.9%**
- **Asian (Alone): 2.0%**
- **American Indian/Alaska Native (Alone): 0.4%**
- **Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (Alone): <.01%**

BACKGROUND

- The ReGenesis collective began as a \$20,000 EPA grant and has grown since its founding in 1997 to become a collaborative that receives over \$250 million in public and private funding from over 120 different organizations.
- ReGenesis has served the Arkwright community in Spartanburg by representing on the ground concerns in the process of spearheading a contaminated site cleanup, and it has also engaged in equitable neighborhood revitalization as well as bolstering development opportunities that support community and industry concerns.
- ReGenesis has led reinvestment in infrastructure developments such as road expansion, the construction of community health centers, 500+ affordable housing units, job training and employment programs, and the cleanup of contaminated sites/brownfields into spaces that can be further developed.
- ReGenesis is the recipient of the EPA's 2009 Environmental Justice Achievement Award, an award recognizing its achievements in confronting issues pertaining to health care, housing, economic development, and addressing other environmental hazards in the Arkwright community in Spartanburg.



REGENESIS, SPARTANBURG, SC

SUPERFUND SITE CLEANUP AND COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT

BBB APPLICATIONS

- Funding to clean up brownfield and superfund sites, reclaim abandoned coal mine lands, and plug orphan oil and gas wells, improving public health and creating jobs.
- Grants to upgrade older rail and bus systems in urbanized areas.
- Grants for states, Tribes, and utilities to enhance the resilience of the electric infrastructure against disruptive events such as extreme weather and cyber-attacks.
- Funding for Federal Emergency Management Agency hazard mitigation programs to build resilience in communities.



One of the two Superfund sites, six brownfield sites, and an operating chemical facility site that ReGenesis aided in cleaning up.



KIT CARSON ELECTRIC, TAOS, NM

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES AND BROADBAND PROJECT

TOTAL POPULATION: 6,474 PEOPLE

Source: US Census Bureau

- **White (Alone): 46.3%**
- **Latino (Of Any Race): 45.4%**
- **Two or More Races: 9.8%**
- **American Indian/Alaska Native (Alone): 3.9%**
- **Asian (Alone): 0.4%**
- **Black (Alone): 0.2%**
- **Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (Alone): <.01%**

BACKGROUND

- Kit Carson Electric Cooperative (KCEC) is the second largest cooperative in New Mexico, providing electricity to over 29,000 members across Taos, Colfax, and Rio Arriba Counties. In 2010, KCEC's members voted in support of a 100% renewable energy goal.
- The member vote catalyzed a process for KCEC's exit of their contract with their fossil fuel-based energy supplier. That supplier mandated the purchase of 95% of their power, and effectively capped the possibility of increasing renewable energy generation.
- KCEC sought out a new wholesaler, Guzman Energy, that helped KCEC navigate the buy-out of their contract, but also gave KCEC the ability to build or buy the solar needed to meet their clean energy goals.
- KCEC is set to meet their ambitious goal to provide their members with 100% daytime solar energy by July 2022.
- KCEC has also leveraged their electric infrastructure to provide broadband access to rural areas across their service area, which, in turn, has spurred economic development.



KIT CARSON ELECTRIC, TAOS, NM

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES AND BROADBAND

BBB APPLICATIONS

- A new grant program to support advanced energy technology manufacturing projects in coal communities.
- Grants for communities, cities, states, U.S. territories, and Tribes to develop and implement clean energy programs that will create jobs.
- Grants for states, Tribes, and utilities to enhance electric infrastructure resilience against events such as extreme weather and cyber-attacks.
- Funding for grid modernization projects such as upgrading existing transmission and distribution systems, and other actions.
- Grants to states, territories and the District of Columbia for the purposes of broadband deployment.
- Funding, loans, and grants to fund the deployment, construction, acquisition or improvement of facilities and equipment that provide broadband service in rural areas.
- Funding for a permanent Affordable Connectivity Benefit to ensure low-income families can access the internet.

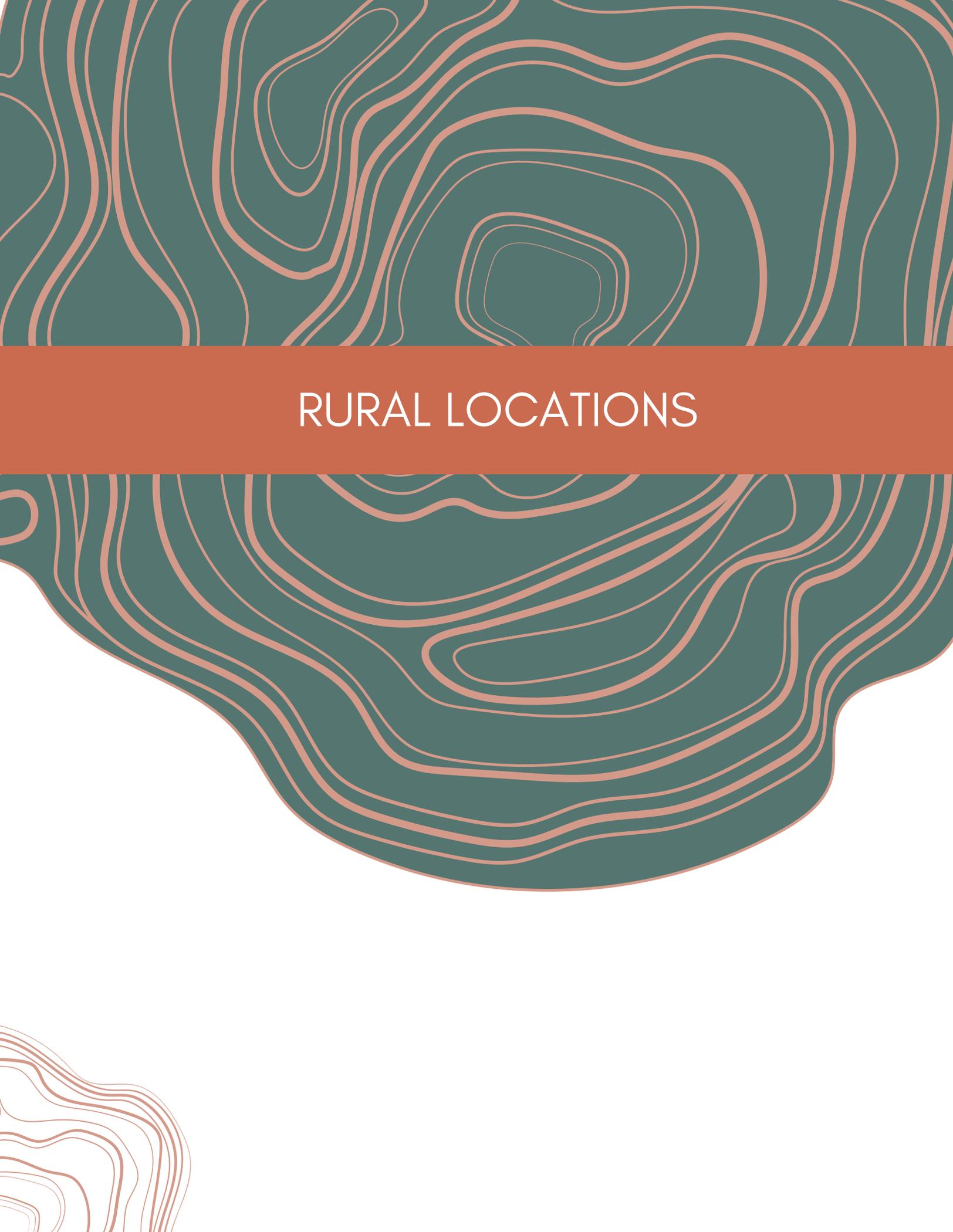


Camilla Simon on Capitol Hill discussing water and infrastructure needs.

"Cooperatives are key to facilitating the use of renewable energy in rural communities. Because co-ops already serve over 42 million people, they can play a major role in transforming our communities to better suit our needs in a way that is both responsible and reliable. Co-op participation in clean economy solutions will have significant benefits, including expanding job creation, business opportunities, and economic development."

***Camilla Simon
Executive Director of Hispanics Enjoying Camping,
Hunting, and the Outdoors***



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RURAL LOCATIONS

COCONINO COUNTY, AZ

WILDFIRES, NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE, AND FLOODING RURAL

TOTAL POPULATION: 145,101 PEOPLE

Source: US Census Bureau

- **White (Alone): 54.1%**
- **American Indian/Alaska Native (Alone): 27.4%**
- **Latino (Of Any Race): 14.3%**
- **Two or More Races: 3.1%**
- **Asian (Alone): 2.1%**
- **Black (Alone): 1.5%**
- **Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (Alone): 0.2%**

BACKGROUND

- There is a history of intense wildfires in this region. On June 20, 2021, the Schultz wildfire burned in Coconino County until July 1st. And most recently, on July 21, 2019, a mile north of Flagstaff, AZ, the Museum Fire burned for almost a month before being fully contained.
- Areas exposed to major burning had increased rates of runoff-flooding, erosion, and sediment delivery to downhill areas. Community members distributed 26,000+ sandbags to low-lying neighborhoods like Sunnyside, a densely Latine populated area of the city of Flagstaff.
- Flagstaff was hit with the biggest rainfall events to date on July 13, 14, 16, 21, and August 17, 2020. The combination of record-breaking water running off the burn scar areas on the hillside above, and the inability of the soil to absorb the water falling over the burn scar area, caused flooding in the neighborhoods and streets of Flagstaff.
- Floods caused \$1,306,000 worth of total damages to properties. Local resources for Latine community members, like Killip Elementary School, were severely damaged and permanently closed.



COCONINO COUNTY, AZ

WILDFIRES, NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE, AND FLOODING

BBB APPLICATIONS

- Funds for community wildfire defense grants, mechanical thinning, controlled burns, the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program, and firefighting resources.
- Grant program to make U.S. surface transportation more resilient to extreme weather, including through natural infrastructure.
- Funds to support states, local communities, Tribes and territories undertaking hazard mitigation projects to reduce the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards.
- Funding for projects that reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings insured by the national flood insurance program.



Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting, and the Outdoors team visiting with Coconino County officials to learn about the long-term impacts of the Museum Fire, and projects to restore the neighborhoods and forest.



PESHTIGO, WI

PFAS RURAL

TOTAL POPULATION: 3,336 PEOPLE

Source: World Population Review

- **White (Alone): 91.69%**
- **Black (Alone): 1.45%**
- **Two or More Races: 4.60%**
- **Asian (Alone): 0.56%**
- **Latino (Of Any Race): 2.58%**
- **Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (Alone): <.01%**
- **American Indian/Alaska Native (Alone): 1.69%**

BACKGROUND

- Detected in 2013 but not reported until four years later, PFAS contamination was discovered in the Marinette and Peshtigo areas in the soil, sediment, groundwater, surface water, private drinking water wells, and within biosolids.
- In 2017, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced that the levels of PFAS contamination in the Marinette/Peshtigo area were the highest known in the state.
- Community member's drinking water and private wells are situated in the center of the contamination plume.
- PFAS contamination had made its way into the municipal wastewater treatment system and into biosolids. For many years, those biosolids were spread onto thousands of acres of farmland in Marinette county.



PESHTIGO, WI

PFAS

BBB APPLICATIONS

- Funding to clean up brownfield and superfund sites, reclaim abandoned coal mine lands, and plug orphan oil and gas wells, improving public health and creating jobs.
- Grants to upgrade older rail and bus systems in urbanized areas.
- Grants for states, Tribes, and utilities to enhance the resilience of the electric infrastructure against disruptive events such as extreme weather and cyber-attacks.
- Funding for Federal Emergency Management Agency hazard mitigation programs to build resilience in communities.



PFAS creates unsafe aquatic environments that are harmful to the wildlife and to the people who come into contact with them. (Photo Credit: Jennifer Hill)



PINE RIDGE RESERVATION, SD

AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE INDIGENOUS RURAL COMMUNITY

TOTAL POPULATION: 19,830 PEOPLE

Source: US Census Bureau, My Tribal Area

- **American Indian/Alaska Native (Alone): 86.59%**
- **Black (Alone): 0.23%**
- **White (Alone): 11.47%**
- **Asian (Alone): 0.12%**
- **Latino (Of Any Race): 4.35%**
- **Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (Alone): <.01%**
- **Two or More Races: 1.32%**

BACKGROUND

- Pine Ridge Reservation needs an investment in housing infrastructure. It is a common occurrence for three to four families to occupy a single three-bedroom house.
- The US Department of Housing and Development's budget for housing for Indigenous Peoples was next to nonexistent from 2005–2015. There is a history of federal-level underfunding and underinvestment in housing for Indigenous Peoples.
- 22% of students on the reservation in grades 3–8 are proficient in reading, and 14% are proficient in math. Improving housing infrastructure and quality would help children perform better in school.
- There are restrictions on access to public transportation on the reservation, and this limits access to fresh food, impacting individuals' health and lifespan.
- Living conditions result in the life expectancies of individuals on the Pine Ridge Reservation to be lower than the national average. On average, Pine Ridge men live 16 ½ years less than the average man in the US, and Pine Ridge women live 13 ½ years less than the average woman in the US).



PINE RIDGE RESERVATION, SD

AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

BBB APPLICATIONS

- Funding for projects that increase energy efficiency, increase health and safety, and reduce energy costs for low-income households.
- Funding for Tribal climate resilience, adaptation, and community relocation planning, design, and implementation of projects which address the varying climate challenges faced by Tribes.
- Investments into the Brownfields program to help communities, states, Tribes and others to assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse contaminated properties.



Pine Ridge Reservation needs an investment in housing infrastructure. (Photo Credit: Jake Byk, Wind River 2019.)



OSCODA, MI

PFAS

RURAL

TOTAL POPULATION: 8,219 PEOPLE

Source: US Census Bureau

- **White (Alone): 95.1%**
- **Black (Alone): 0.5%**
- **Latino (Of Any Race): 1.8%**
- **Asian (Alone): 0.2%**
- **Two or More Races: 1.5%**
- **Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (Alone): <.01%**
- **American Indian/Alaska Native (Alone): 1.0%**

BACKGROUND

- Discovered in 2009, dangerous PFAS chemicals used in Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFF), continue to contaminate drinking water wells, surface water, groundwater, fish and wildlife in and around the former Wurtsmith Air Force Base in Oscoda, Michigan. After more than a decade, a comprehensive clean-up plan for the site is still a year out, and addressing the contaminated sites remains a top priority for community members and continues to pose a threat to people and wildlife.
- In April 2021, a broad coalition of 40 organizations, more than 20 businesses, and hundreds of individuals called on the Air Force to substantially strengthen its proposed interim clean-up plan for PFAS contamination at Clark's Marsh in the Huron-Manistee National Forest near the former Wurtsmith Air Force Base in Oscoda, Michigan.
- Contaminated PFAS groundwater plumes impacting Clark's Marsh and the Au Sable River, prompted public health warnings to be issued against eating fish and wildlife.
- The coalition urges the Air Force to abide by Michigan's new PFAS clean-up standards, include the voices and views of impacted community members in any and all planned actions siting that, "what happens in Oscoda serves as a bellwether for the hundreds of PFAS-contaminated military sites nationwide."



OSCODA, MI

PFAS

BBB APPLICATIONS

- Funding to address PFAS in drinking water, available to drinking water systems of all sizes.
- Funding for states to address emerging contaminants within water systems.
- Technical assistance and grants for emergencies affecting public water systems.
- Read NWF's blog for more information about Oscoda: [Peters, Kildee, and Over 200 Groups, Businesses, and Individuals Urge Stronger Clean-Up Plans for Air Force's PFAS Pollution in Oscoda.](#)



Frozen PFAS foam at Van Etten Lake (Oscoda, MI) near the former Wurtsmith Airforce Base. (Photo Credit: [Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.](#))



VILLAGE OF WATERPROOF, LA

LEAD IN WATER AND ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER

RURAL

TOTAL POPULATION: 501 PEOPLE

Source: World Population Review

- **Black (Alone): 89.16%**
- **White (Alone): 10.19%**
- **Asian (Alone): 0.65%**
- **Latino (Of Any Race): <.01%**
- **Two or More Races: <.01%**
- **American Indian/Alaska Native (Alone): <.01%**
- **Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (Alone): <.01%**

BACKGROUND

- Rural water supplies are often overshadowed by urban ones, directly and adversely impacting rural access to basic drinking water services. Population decline also exacerbates these challenges.
- Perhaps nowhere else does the population loss have such a direct impact on water access and quality as the Louisiana's least populous parish of Tensas. The parish lost 1 in 5 of its residents in the last decade and now has fewer than 4,200 residents.
- As of March 2021, the Waterproof Water System did not comply with health-based drinking water regulations and has had consecutive violations of federal drinking water standards.



VILLAGE OF WATERPROOF, LA

LEAD IN WATER AND ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER

BBB APPLICATIONS

- Funding to help low-income homeowners construct or repair failing septic systems.
- Funding to support lead service line replacement projects.
- Technical assistance and grants for emergencies affecting public water systems.
- Grants for disadvantaged communities that lack household drinking water or wastewater services.



Corroded and aged infrastructure easily leads to contaminated water.



INFRASTRUCTURE BILL BREAKDOWN

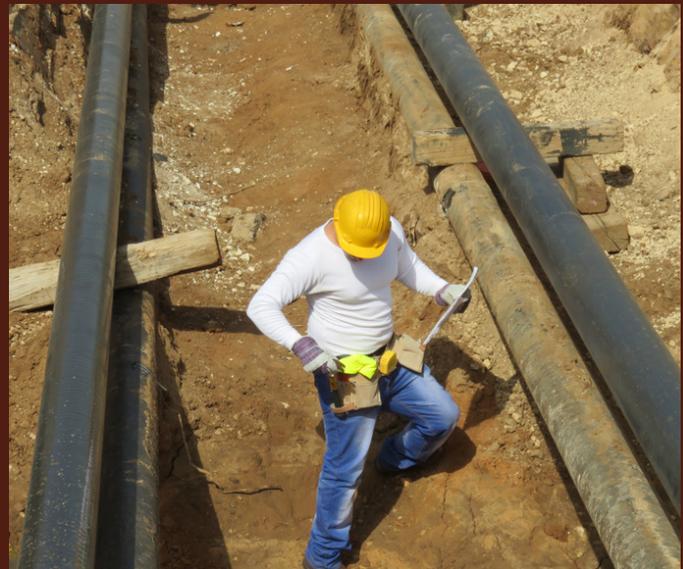
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INFRASTRUCTURE BILL BREAKDOWN

WHAT IS THE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT AND WHAT DOES IT INCLUDE?

\$1.2 trillion for infrastructure work, including authorizing \$35 billion in water infrastructure investments over five years, supplemented by over \$62 billion in additional appropriations to augment critical infrastructure programs and address public health threats.



Access to broadband and reliable internet service is an issue that has intensified due to the COVID-19 pandemic; IIJA seeks to address these long-standing broadband issues through targeted investment.



INFRASTRUCTURE BILL BREAKDOWN

WHAT ARE THE KEY AREAS COVERED?

- TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE: \$110 billion allocated overall for roads, bridges, & major projects. This funds a new, dedicated grant program to replace and repair bridges and increases funding for the major project competitive grant programs. Preserves the 90/10 split of federal highway aid to states.
- RESILIENCE: \$47 billion allocated overall for resiliency in areas such as flood mitigation, wildfire, drought, coastal resiliency, waste management, ecosystem restoration, and weatherization.
- WATER: \$55 billion allocated to upgrade and maintain our nation's drinking water and clean water infrastructure.
- WESTERN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE: Authorizes and appropriates \$8.3 billion for FY 2022-2026 for Bureau of Reclamation western water infrastructure.
- BROADBAND: \$65 billion allocated overall for grants to states for broadband deployment and other efforts to address access issues in rural areas and low-income communities.
- ENERGY: Over \$62 billion invested to increase the access to reliable, clean, and affordable power across the country and investments in energy manufactures and technological developments.
- TRIBAL ASSISTANCE: The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act includes many provisions for which Tribal Nations and Tribal organizations are eligible to receive, several of which are highlighted in sections above.



TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

ROADS/BRIDGES

- \$36.7 billion for the Bridge Investment Grant Program, a competitive grant program to assist the repair and replacement of deficient and outdated bridges and ease the national bridge repair backlog. (Section 11101)
 - In addition to the competitive program, this funding also supports a bridge formula program for States to help support the \$125 billion bridge repair backlog (as estimated by the American Society of Civil Engineers).
 - Counties can apply directly to USDOT for the competitive portion of this program.
- \$2 billion to establish a Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program, these competitive grants will be provided to eligible entities to improve and expand the surface transportation infrastructure in rural areas. (Section 11101)
 - Counties can apply directly to USDOT for these funds to carry out a wide variety of highway and bridge projects that increase connectivity, improve safety, and facilitate the movement of goods and people.
- \$7.5 billion in Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grants, which supports surface transportation projects of local and/or regional significance.(Division J, Title VIII)
- \$15 billion over 5 years for the establishment of the National Infrastructure Project Assistance grant program which supports multi-modal, multi-jurisdictional projects of national or regional significance. These are competitive grants that counties can apply for directly through USDOT to assist with a number of eligible projects, including: highway and bridge projects, at-grade rail crossings, intercity passenger rail systems, and public transit.(Division J, Title VII)



TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

ROADS/BRIDGES

- \$3.2 billion over 5 years for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program, which supports highway and rail projects of regional and national economic significance. (Division J, Title VIII)
- \$1.25 billion over 5 years for the Appalachian Development Highway System Formula Program. The Appalachian Development Highway System (ADHS) consists of a series of highway corridors connecting 13 Appalachian states, from New York to Alabama. The routes are designed as local and regional routes for improving economic development in the historically isolated region. This dedicated funding will help complete the ADHS and spur economic development in Appalachia. (Division J, Title VII)
- \$95 million for the University Transportation Centers Program, which advances the state-of-the-art in transportation research and technology. (Division J, Title VIII)
- \$1 billion for a new Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Program that will provide grants to states for the removal, replacement, and restoration of culverts to address flow of water through roads, bridges, railroad tracks, and trails. (Division J, Title VII)
- \$10 billion in funding for roadway safety. Of this, \$5 billion is set aside for a Safe Streets for All Program, which funds state and local "vision zero" plans and other improvements to reduce crashes and fatalities, especially for cyclists and pedestrians. (Division J, Title VII)



TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

ROADS/BRIDGES

- \$1 billion over 5 years for the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program. This program will provide funds for projects that remove barriers to opportunity caused by legacy infrastructure. The program will provide dedicated funding for planning, design, demolition, and reconstruction of street grids, parks, or other infrastructure. (Section 11101)
 - \$150 million for Planning Grants that counties can apply for directly through USDOT for planning funds to carry out feasibility studies on the impact of removing or mitigating physical infrastructure barriers, including within communities, to improve accessibility and facilitate economic development at an 80 percent federal share.
 - \$350 million for Capital Construction Grants for owners of an eligible facilities to apply through USDOT to carry out projects, including the removal, retrofit or mitigation of an eligible facility and the replacement of an existing facility with a new facility that restores connectivity.
- \$7.2 billion over five years for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). Counties can use TAP funds to carry out eligible projects that include planning, design and construction of trails, environmental mitigation activities to address stormwater management, and the construction of overlooks, among other approved uses. (Section 21202)
- \$2.1 billion over five years to establish a Carbon Dioxide Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation (CIFIA) Program. This loan program will provide flexible, low-interest loans for carbon dioxide transportation infrastructure projects and grants for new infrastructure to facilitate future growth. (Section 40303)



TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

PUBLIC TRANSIT

- \$66 billion for passenger and freight rail. This provides targeted funding for the Amtrak National Network for new service and dedicated funding to address repair backlogs and increases funding for freight rail and safety. (Division J, Title VIII) This also includes:
 - \$5 billion for the existing Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement (CRISI) program which funds projects that improve the safety, efficiency and reliability of intercity passenger and freight rail.
 - \$3 billion set aside for the Railroad Crossing Elimination Program.
- \$33.5 billion for the Urbanized Area Formula grant program to support transit operations in 500 communities across the country. (Section 30015)
- \$23.1 billion for the State of Good Repair program to assist in financing capital projects to upgrade older rail and bus systems. (Section 30016)
- \$5.25 billion in Low or No Emission Vehicle competitive grants to support the transition of transit vehicles to low or zero emission technologies. (Division J, Title VIII)
- \$5.1 billion in Buses and Bus Facilities formula and competitive grants. (Section 30018)
- \$4.6 billion for Rural Area Formula Grants to support transit investments and operations in rural areas communities, including \$229 million for Public Transportation on Indian Reservations formula and competitive grants. (Section 30016)



TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

PUBLIC TRANSIT

- \$7.5 billion to fund and authorizes the adoption of low-carbon and zero-emission school buses, including through hydrogen, propane, LNG, compressed natural gas, biofuel, and electric technologies. Provides support for a pilot program for low emission ferries and rural ferry systems. (Section 71101)
- \$2.2 billion for the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program. (Section 30017)
- \$966.4 million to support Metropolitan and Statewide Planning programs.(Section 30019)
- \$25 billion to increase Airport Improvement grant amounts for runways, gates, & taxiways and authorizes a new Airport Terminal Improvement program. (Division J, Title VIII)

AIRPORTS

- \$25 billion to increase Airport Improvement grant amounts for runways, gates, & taxiways and authorizes a new Airport Terminal Improvement program. (Division J, Title VIII)

PORTS/WATERWAYS

- \$16.6 billion to provide funding for waterway and coastal infrastructure, inland waterway improvements, port infrastructure, and land ports of entry through the Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Transportation, Coast Guard, General Services Administration, and Department of Homeland Security.



TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

PORTS/WATERWAYS

- \$2.25 billion over 5 years for the Transportation's Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) will allow significant improvements to improve port facilities on our coasts, rivers and Great Lakes. PIDP grants can improve port infrastructure, including intermodal connections, or reduce or eliminate pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions. (Division J, Title VIII)
- \$25 million over 5 years for the Marine Highways Program (MHP) funds will work to expand the use of America's navigable waters, working to expand marine highway service options and facilitate their further integration into the U.S. transportation system. (Division J, Title VIII)



RESILIENCE

- \$2.25 billion over 5 years for the Transportation's Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) will allow significant improvements to improve port facilities on our coasts, rivers and Great Lakes. PIDP grants can improve port infrastructure, including intermodal connections, or reduce or eliminate pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions. (Division J, Title VIII)
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INFRASTRUCTURE

- \$1 billion for the FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program. This is a pre-disaster mitigation program, supporting states, local communities, Tribes and territories undertaking hazard mitigation projects to reduce the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards. (Section 70204)
- \$3.5 billion over five years for the Flood Mitigation Assistance program, which helps provide financial and technical assistance to states and communities to reduce the risk of flood damage to homes and businesses through buyouts, elevation and other activities. (Section 70204)
- \$500 million for the Safeguarding Tomorrow Through Ongoing Risk Mitigation (STORM) Act which will provide state and local governments with the ability to create resilience revolving loan funds for infrastructure projects.
 - This FEMA grant program may finance water, wastewater, infrastructure, disaster recovery, community and small business development projects.



RESILIENCE

INFRASTRUCTURE

- \$350 million and other support for the Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program to improve habitat connectivity and reduce wildlife–vehicle collisions, including expanded eligibility within existing highway programs to include wildlife crossing and natural infrastructure projects. Counties can apply directly to USDOT for this new competitive grant program. (Section 11101 & 11123)
- \$1.4 billion toward a new Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) grant program, which will make U.S. surface transportation more resilient to extreme weather, including through natural infrastructure. (Section 11405)
 - This consists of formula and competitive grants to help States improve the resiliency of transportation infrastructure. Resilience grants comprise of resilience improvement grants, community resilience and evacuation route grants, and at-risk coastal infrastructure grants.
- \$500 million for a Healthy Streets Program which includes grants the development of “cool” and “porous” pavement and tree-cover expansion projects that will mitigate some of the impacts of rising urban temperatures and reduce stormwater risks. (Section 11406)
 - The goals of the program are to mitigate urban heat islands, improve air quality, and reduce the extent of impervious surfaces, storm water runoff and flood risks, and heat impacts to infrastructure and road users.
- \$2.55 billion for coastal storm risk management, hurricane and storm damage reduction projects, and related activities for states that have been impacted by federally declared disasters over the last six years. (Division J, Title III)



RESILIENCE

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- \$75 million for the RECYCLE Act, which authorizes a new \$15 million per year grant program at the EPA to help educate households and consumers about their residential and community recycling program. This helps decrease contamination in the recycling stream and helps support recycling infrastructure. (Section 70402)
- \$100 million for the EPA Pollution Prevention program, where the EPA provides grants and technical assistance to help businesses adopt pollution prevention practices. (Division J, Title VI)
- \$200 million for the NOAA Marine Debris program, which promotes action to reduce debris in our ocean, including clean up and response actions needed as a result of severe marine debris events. (Division J, Title II)
- \$275 million for the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act. This will provide post-consumer materials management grants, at \$55 million per year, to support improvements to local post-consumer materials management, including municipal recycling program. (Division J, Title VI)



RESILIENCE

FLOOD

- \$3.5 billion for FEMA flood mitigation assistance grants to support mitigation activities for socially vulnerable or economically disadvantaged property owners. (Division J, Title V)
 - This competitive grant program provides funding to state and local governments for projects that reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings insured by the national flood insurance program.
- \$492 million for NOAA coastal and inland flood inundation mapping, observations, and modeling including modernized precipitation frequency and probably maximum studies. (Division J, Title II)
- \$491 million for contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements to provide funding and technical assistance for restoring marine, estuarine, coastal, or Great Lakes ecosystem habitat, or constructing or protecting ecological features that protect coastal communities from flooding or coastal storms. (Division J, Title II)
- \$492 million for NOAA National Coastal Resiliency Fund (National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund). (Division J, Title II)
 - Grant program for conservation projects that restore or expand natural features such as coastal marshes and wetlands, dune and beach systems, oyster and coral reefs, forests, coastal rivers and floodplains, and barrier islands that minimize the impacts of storms and other naturally occurring events on nearby communities.



RESILIENCE

DROUGHT

- \$3.2 billion over 5 years for the Aging Infrastructure Account (created in the 2020 Consolidated Appropriations bill). This provides funds and funding assistance to The Bureau of Reclamation for costs of certain major, nonrecurring maintenance of bureau owned water infrastructure at water infrastructure projects across the West that need major upgrades or replacement. (Section 40901)
 - \$100 million for reserved or transferred works that have suffered a critical failure.
 - \$100 million for dam rehabilitation, reconstruction or replacement.
- \$300 million for Colorado River Basin Drought Contingency Plan implementation, including \$50 million for Upper Basin States. (Section 40901).
- \$400 million for WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants, including \$100 million for natural infrastructure projects. (Section 40901)

WILDFIRE

- \$3.3 billion to the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service for wildfire risk reduction and management. This will provide funding for community wildfire defense grants, mechanical thinning, controlled burns, the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program, and firefighting resources. (Section 40803)
- \$225M over 5 years for the Department of Interior to carry out Burned Area Rehabilitation activities. (Division J, Title VI)
- \$200 million over 5 years for the Forest Service to carry out State and Private Forestry grants to states for hazardous fuel work. (Division J, Title VI)
 - This includes \$88 million over 5 years for State Fire Assistance Grants for hazardous fuels projects and \$20 million over 5 years for Volunteer Fire Assistance grants.



RESILIENCE

WILDFIRE

- \$500 million over 5 years for Forest Service Community Defense Grants to at-risk communities, with a priority for high wildfire hazard and low-income communities. (Division J, Title VI)
- \$50 million for wildfire prediction, detection, observation, modeling, and forecasting FY 22. (Division J, Title VI)

ECOSYSTEM HEALTH

- \$2.1 billion for ecosystem restoration. (Section 40804)
 - \$400 million shall be made available to the Secretary of the Interior to provide grants to states, territories of the United States, and Indian Tribes for implementing voluntary ecosystem restoration projects on private or public land.
- \$350 million and other support for the Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program to improve habitat connectivity and reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions, including expanded eligibility within existing highway programs to include wildlife crossing and natural infrastructure projects. (Section 11101 & 11123)
 - Counties can apply directly to USDOT for this new competitive grant program.
- \$150 million for NOAA marine debris assessment, prevention, mitigation and removal, with an additional \$50 million for marine debris prevention and removal through National Sea Grant Program. (Division J, Title II)



WATER

WASTEWATER

- \$125 billion over five years for grants under the Clean Water Infrastructure Resiliency and Sustainability program. This grant program will fund projects that address rising threats to clean water infrastructure from climate change. (Section 50205)
 - An owner or operator of a publicly-owned treatment works can use the grants to assist in the planning, design, construction, implementation, operation, or maintenance of a program or project to increase the resiliency or adaptability of water systems to natural hazards, cybersecurity vulnerabilities, or extreme weather events, including those related to climate change. The section establishes two non-federal cost shares: a 10 percent nonfederal cost-share for small or disadvantaged communities and a non-federal cost-share of 25 percent for all other communities.
- \$175 million over five years for technical assistance and grants for emergencies affecting public water systems. (Section 50101)
- \$1.4 billion over five years for the Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants amends the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to support project funding for projects in rural communities or financially distressed communities for the purpose of planning, design, and construction of treatment works for stormwater and other polluted waters. (Section 50204)



WATER

WASTEWATER

- \$100 million over the next five years for the Wastewater Energy Efficiency grant pilot program. (Section 50202)
 - Supports projects by publicly owned treatment works to create or improve waste-to-energy systems. Grants may be awarded for sludge collection systems, anaerobic digesters, methane capture or transfer, and other emerging technologies that transform waste to energy.
- \$150 million over five years for Decentralized Households grants to help low-income homeowners construct, repair, or replace or replace failing septic systems. The program gives priority to households that do not have access to sanitary sewer disposal systems. (Section 50208)
- The Small Publicly Owned Treatment Works Efficiency Grant program will be established (funding levels still to be determined). (Section 50207)
 - Owners or operators of small publicly-owned treatment works and nonprofit organizations that seek to assist small publicly-owned treatment works are eligible to receive funding under this program
- \$200 million over the next five years for connecting homes and communities to publicly owned treatment works. (Section 50208)
 - This new grant program allows the EPA to provide grants to publicly owned treatment works or nonprofit organizations to cover the costs incurred from connecting a household to a municipal or private wastewater system.



WATER

DRINKING WATER: LEAD/CONTAMINATION

- \$100 million annually for the Reducing Lead in Drinking Water Program. (Section 50105)
- \$23.4 billion to the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs), with states required to award 49 percent of their share of these funds as grants or full principal forgiveness loans. (Section 50102)
- \$15 billion through the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs) to support lead service line replacement projects, with 49 percent of funds required to be distributed by states as grants or principal forgiveness loans. (Division J, Title VI)
- A total of \$10 billion to help drinking water and wastewater systems address emerging contaminants. (Division J, Title VI)
 - \$1 billion through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund to specifically address emerging contaminants.
 - \$4 billion will be provided in grants through the Drinking Water SRF to address PFAS in drinking water, available to drinking water systems of all sizes.
 - \$5 billion through the EPA's Assistance to Small and Disadvantaged Communities program and State Response to Contaminants program to address emerging contaminants.
- Authorizes several new EPA programs supported by some water sector groups, such as a new climate resilience program for drinking water systems that has been long championed by AMWA and a low-income water ratepayer assistance pilot program. (Division J, Title VI)
 - Receives no funding through the bill, must wait for later appropriations legislation.



WATER

WATER SOURCE

- \$125 million over five years for the Alternative Source Water Pilot Program which amends the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to support projects that use water, wastewater, or stormwater or treat wastewater or stormwater for groundwater recharge, potable reuse, or other purposes. (Section 50203)
- \$75 million over five years for the Water Data Sharing Pilot Program to establish systems that improve the sharing of information concerning water quality, water infrastructure needs, and water technology, including cybersecurity technology. States, counties, or other units of local government can apply for these grants if they have a coastal watershed or water system with significant pollution levels or have significant individual water infrastructure deficits. (Section 50213)
- \$25 million over five years for the expansion of groundwater recharge and protection. (Section 50222)
 - This provides funding to carry out groundwater research on enhanced aquifer use and recharge in support of sole-source aquifers.

WATER PROTECTIONS

- \$2.5 billion for the Indian Water Rights Settlement Completion Fund to satisfy long-neglected water rights obligations to Native American tribes. (Section 70101)



WATER

WATER PROTECTIONS

- \$250 million over five years for the Forest Service Legacy Road and Trail Remediation Program. This will fund projects that decommission and clean up old Forest Service roads to restore passages for fish and other aquatic species, taking account foreseeable changes in weather and hydrology and to support other projects in the National Forests that improve the resilience of roads, trails, and bridges to extreme weather events, flooding, or other natural disasters. (Section 40801)
- \$5 million for the EPA to complete the Clean Watershed Needs Survey at least every 4 years. (Section 50220)
 - EPA will conduct and complete an assessment of wastewater system capital improvement needs of all treatment works in the United States that are eligible for assistance from State water pollution control revolving funds established under the Clean Water Act.
- \$25 million over five years for water infrastructure and workforce investment to reduce the vulnerability of US water systems to cyberattacks, improve water-efficiency programs, and expand job training, diversity, and opportunities in the water and wastewater sectors. (Section 50211)
 - Provides a competitive grant program to promote workforce development in the water utility sector.
- \$1.2 billion over five years for brownfields competitive grants. This provides funds to help communities, States, Tribes and others to assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse contaminated properties. (Division J, Title VI)



WATER

WATER PROTECTIONS

- \$11.3 billion for the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund to provide annual grants for States and Tribes for abandoned mine land and water reclamation projects. Priority will be given to projects employing current and former coal mine employees. (Section 40701)
- \$3 billion for cleaning up abandoned hardrock mines, many of which ooze acidic, heavy metal-laden waters into streams, compromising aquatic and sometimes human health. This program provides grants on a competitive or formula basis to States and Indian Tribes that have jurisdiction over abandoned hardrock mine land to reclaim that land. (Section 40704)

STORMWATER

- \$1.4 billion over five years for the Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants amends the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to support project funding for projects in rural communities or financially distressed communities for the purpose of planning, design, and construction of treatment works for stormwater and other polluted waters. (Section 50204)
- \$25 million for the Stormwater Infrastructure Technology Program to provide grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible institutions to create five Stormwater Centers of Excellence. (Section 50217)
 - These centers will conduct research for new and emerging stormwater control infrastructure technologies, to be located in various regions throughout the United States, provide technical assistance to State, Tribal, and local governments to assist with the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of stormwater control infrastructure projects that use innovative technologies.



WESTERN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

- \$3.2 billion over five years for the Aging Infrastructure Account (created in the 2020 Consolidated Appropriations bill). This provides funds and funding assistance to The Bureau of Reclamation for costs of certain major, nonrecurring maintenance of bureau owned water infrastructure at water infrastructure projects across the West that need major upgrades or replacement. (Section 40901)
 - \$100 million for reserved or transferred works that have suffered a critical failure.
 - \$100 million for dam rehabilitation, reconstruction or replacement.
- \$1.15 billion in competitive grants to plan and construct small surface water and groundwater storage projects, which includes \$100 million for small water storage. (Section 40901)
- \$1 billion in competitive grants for water recycling and reuse projects. (Section 40901)
 - Including \$450 million for large water recycling projects.
- \$250 million for water desalinization projects. (Section 40901)
- \$1 billion for rural water projects. (Section 40901)
- \$500 million for dam safety projects. (Section 40901)
- \$300 million for Colorado River Basin Drought Contingency Plan implementation, including \$50 million for Upper Basin states. (Section 40901)
- \$400 million for WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants, including \$100 million for natural or nature-based features. (Section 40901)



WESTERN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

- \$100 million for Cooperative Watershed Management Program which provides funding to watershed groups to encourage diverse stakeholders to form local solutions to address their water management needs. (Section 40901)
- \$115 million for Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program for restoring fish and wildlife passage by removing in-stream barriers and provide technical assistance to non-Federal interests carrying out such activities. (Section 40901)
- \$100 million for multi-benefit watershed projects that improve watershed health. (Section 40901)
- \$50 million for Colorado River Fish Species Recovery Programs. (Section 40901)



BROADBAND

- \$42.45 billion to the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program, a formula-based grant program to States, territories and the District of Columbia for the purposes of broadband deployment. (Section 60102)
 - The funding includes 10% set-aside for high-cost areas and each state and territory receives an initial minimum allocation, a portion of which could be used for technical assistance and supporting or establishing a state broadband office.
 - To increase affordability, all funding recipients must offer a low-cost plan.
 - States would be required to have plans to address all of their unserved areas before they are able to fund deployment projects in underserved areas. After both unserved and underserved areas are addressed, states may use funds for anchor institution projects.
 - If a state fails to apply for funding, a local government could apply on their behalf.
- \$600 million for Private Activity Bonds (PABs) which allows states to issue PABs to finance broadband deployment, specifically for projects in rural areas where a majority of households do not have access to broadband. (Section 80401)
- \$2 billion for programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, including the ReConnect Program, that provide loans and grants (or a combination of loans and grants) to fund the construction, acquisition or improvement of facilities and equipment that provide broadband service in rural areas. (Division J, Title X)



BROADBAND

- \$1 billion for the “Middle Mile” which creates a competitive grant program for the construction, improvement or acquisition of middle-mile infrastructure. (Section 60401)
 - Eligible entities include telecommunications companies, technology companies, electric utilities, utility cooperative, etc.
 - The “middle mile” refers to the installation of a dedicated line that transmits a signal to and from an internet Point of Presence. Competition of middle-mile routes is necessary to serve areas, reducing capital expenditures, and lowering operating costs.
- \$2 billion for the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program. (Section 60201)
 - Established by the December COVID-19 relief package and is administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).
 - Grants from this program will be made available to eligible Native American, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian entities for broadband deployment as well as for digital inclusion, workforce development, telehealth and distance learning.



BROADBAND

- \$2.75 billion establishes two Digital Equity Act grant programs which are NTIA-administered grant programs, to promote digital inclusion and equity for communities that lack the skills, technologies and/or support needed to take advantage of broadband connections. (Section 60304)
 - State Digital Equity capacity grant program: Appropriates funds for planning grants to states to develop State Equity Plans and to support implementation and digital inclusion initiatives. Makes distributions to states based on their populations, demographics, and availability and adoption of broadband.
 - Digital Equity competitive grant program: Appropriates funds for competitive grants to public and nonprofit entities for a range of digital inclusion and broadband adoption activities.
- \$14.2 billion to establish a permanent Affordable Connectivity Benefit (formerly a temporary Emergency Broadband Benefit) to ensure low-income families can access the internet. (Section 60502)
 - The program provides a \$30 per month voucher for low income families to use toward any internet service plan of their choosing. It builds on the Emergency Broadband Benefit, making the benefit permanent and expanding eligibility to help more low-income households, while also making it more sustainable for taxpayers.



ENERGY

- \$1 billion over 5 years for the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program. This program will provide funds for projects that remove barriers to opportunity caused by legacy infrastructure. The program will provide dedicated funding for planning, design, demolition, and reconstruction of street grids, parks, or other infrastructure. (Section 11101)
 - \$150 million for Planning Grants that counties can apply for directly through USDOT for planning funds to carry out feasibility studies on the impact of removing or mitigating physical infrastructure barriers, including within communities, to improve accessibility and facilitate economic development at an 80 percent federal share.
 - \$350 million for Capital Construction Grants for owners of an eligible facilities to apply through USDOT to carry out projects, including the removal, retrofit or mitigation of an eligible facility and the replacement of an existing facility with a new facility that restores connectivity.
- \$750 million to create the Advanced Energy Manufacturing and Recycling grant program to support small- and medium-sized manufacturers to enable them to build new or retrofit existing manufacturing and industrial facilities to produce or recycle advanced energy products in communities where coal mines or coal power plants have closed. (Section 40209)
- \$5 billion for the Clean School Bus Program an EPA competitive grant program to replace thousands of diesel school buses with electric buses. (Section 71101)
- \$7.5 billion for alternative fuel corridors and a national build out of electric vehicle charging infrastructure. The federal funding will have a particular focus on rural and/or disadvantaged communities. (Division J, Title VIII)



ENERGY

- \$3.5 billion in the Weatherization Assistance Program to increase energy efficiency, increase health and safety, and reduce energy costs for low-income households by hundreds of dollars every year. (Section 40551)
- \$500 million to provide energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements at public school facilities. (Section 40541)
 - Local education agencies and public schools are eligible to apply to USDOE for competitive grants to carry out eligible activities. These include improvements, repairs or renovations to schools that directly decrease energy costs, improvements teacher and student health, installation of alternative fueling infrastructure on school grounds for buses or the public, etc.
- \$550 million in the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG) and \$500 million in the State Energy Program to provide grants to communities, cities, states, U.S. territories, and Indian tribes to develop and implement clean energy programs and projects that will create jobs. (Section 40552)
- \$2.5 billion over 5 years for the Transmission Facilitation Program. This revolving loan fund that allows the Department of Energy (“DOE”) to offer loans to, and enter into capacity contracts with, transmission developers in order to provide financial stability to proposed transmission projects. Counties can apply directly to USDOE for these competitive funds to carry out eligible projects. These include constructing or replacing an electric power transmission line, increasing transmission capacities, or connecting an isolated microgrid to an existing infrastructure corridor. (Section 40106)



ENERGY

- \$3 billion over five years for the new Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grid Investment Matching competitive grant program. Counties can apply directly through USDOE for projects that improve the flexibility of the grid. These include upgrading existing transmission and distribution systems, and other actions, like deploying energy storage. Together, it will help the grid accommodate a new energy future where families and businesses often generate their own clean energy through microgrids and other distributed energy sources. (Section 40107)
- \$700 million for existing hydropower facilities to improve efficiency, maintain dam safety, reduce environmental impacts, and ensure generators continue to provide emission-free electricity. (Section 40332–40333)
 - Authorizes DOE to make incentive payments to the owners and operators of hydroelectric facilities for capital improvements related to maintaining and enhancing hydroelectricity generation by improving grid resiliency, improving dam safety, and environmental improvements.



ENERGY

- Provide \$21.5 billion in funding for clean energy demonstrations and research hubs focused on next generation technologies needed to achieve our goal of net-zero by 2050, including:
 - \$8 billion for clean hydrogen, which will turbo-charge our progress toward heavy trucking and industrial sectors that run without producing carbon pollution.
 - More than \$10 billion for carbon capture, direct air capture and industrial emission reduction, providing skills-matched opportunities for fossil fuel workers.
 - \$2.5 billion for advanced nuclear, which would provide 24/7 clean electricity and create good-paying jobs.
 - \$1 billion for demonstration projects in rural areas and \$500 million for demonstration projects in economically hard-hit communities. (Division J, Title III)
- \$310.14 million over five years to establish a Carbon Utilization Grant Program. State and local governments are eligible for new grants to procure and use products derived from captured carbon oxides. It expands the DOE's Carbon Utilization Program objectives to include developing standards and certifications to support the commercialization of carbon oxide products. (Section 40302)



TRIBAL ASSISTANCE

WATER

- \$2.5 billion for the Indian Water Rights Settlement Completion Fund to satisfy long-neglected water rights obligations to Native American Tribes. (Section 70101)
- \$3.5 billion over five years for Indian Health Services Sanitation Facilities Construction Enhancement. (Division J, Title VI)
 - This funding will be provided for sanitation facilities construction within Indian Health Services at HHS. Such funds would provide for the planning, design, construction, modernization, improvement, and renovation of water, sewer, and solid waste sanitation facilities that are funded, in whole or part, by the Indian Health Service.
- \$150 million Tribal set-aside for orphaned well site plugging remediation and restoration. (Section 40601)
- \$270 million over six years for the EPA's Indian Reservation Drinking Water Program to implement projects that will improve water quality, pressure, or services through means such as connecting to, expanding, repairing, improving, or obtaining water from a public water system or improve water quality or sanitation or wastewater services. (Section 50111)
- \$230 million over six years for grants to Alaska to Improve Sanitation in Rural and Native Villages. The EPA will administer grants for the development and construction of public water systems and wastewater systems to improve the health and sanitation conditions in the villages; and training, technical assistance, and educational programs relating to the operation and management of sanitation services in rural and Native villages. (Section 50212)



TRIBAL ASSISTANCE

ROADS/TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

- \$1.2 billion over five years for brownfields competitive grants. This provides funds to help communities, States, Tribes and others to assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse contaminated properties. (Division J, Title VI)
- \$3.01 billion for the Tribal Transportation program (TPP) to provide safe and adequate transportation and public road access to and within Indian reservations, Indian lands, and Alaska Native Village communities. (Section 11101)
- \$100 million over five years as part of the Bridge Investment program for Tribal bridge projects. (Section 11118)
- \$887.5 million for tribal projects from the Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects program. This is a Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) competitive grant program that allows 100 percent Federal share for Tribal projects and requires an even split in total use of funds between Federal lands projects and Tribal transportation projects. (Section 11127)
- \$150 million for a Tribal High Priority Projects Program (reinstatement of program). This provides fund for the repair or reconstruction of eligible facilities in the national inventory of Tribal transportation facilities. (Section 11128)
- \$270 million for the BIA Road Maintenance Program. (Section 14005)
- \$229.1 million for the Public Transportation on Indian Reservations (“Tribal Transit”) program. This program provides formula grants as a set-aside from the Formula Grants for Rural Areas program. (Section 30006)



TRIBAL ASSISTANCE

BROADBAND

- \$2 billion for the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program. (Section 60201)
 - Established by the December COVID-19 relief package and is administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).
 - Grants from this program will be made available to eligible Native American, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian entities for broadband deployment as well as for digital inclusion, workforce development, telehealth and distance learning.

RESILIENCE

- \$216 million over five years for Tribal climate resilience, adaptation, and community relocation planning, design, and implementation of projects which address the varying climate challenges facing tribal communities across the country. (Division J, Title VI)
 - \$130 million is for community relocation and \$86 million is for climate resilience and adaptation projects.
- Up to \$60 million appropriated to Indian Tribes or partnerships of Indian Tribes to restore fish passage by removing in-stream barriers and providing technical assistance. (Division J, Title II)



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*On behalf of the National Wildlife Federation's
Environmental Justice Program...*

THANK YOU!

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