






# Fund Water Infrastructure and Water Equity

## The Alliance for the Great Lakes urges the Biden administration and Congress:

-  The Biden administration should propose \$9.3 billion for the Clean Water (\$4.9 billion) and Drinking Water State (\$4.4 billion) State Revolving Funds (SRF) in its FY 2025 President’s Budget, and Congress should appropriate this amount, which is the authorized level of funding under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 and an increase over current funding, and make some portion of these funds available to disadvantaged communities as grants or forgivable loans.
-  The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency should ensure that states accepting federal funds from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 are increasing funding and technical assistance for disadvantaged communities so that they are equipped to advance through the SRF selection process. The goal is to stop pollution and harm
-  Congress should set aside at least 20 percent of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund as grants for green infrastructure projects such as green roofs, permeable pavement, and additional green spaces in cities.
-  Congress should enact a federal ban on residential water shutoffs due to nonpayment.
-  Congress should enact legislation to permanently establish and fund a low-income water assistance program to ensure that every household has access to safe, affordable drinking water.

**Background:** Clean water, sanitation, and freedom from flooding are basic needs. No one should be without clean, safe, affordable drinking water in their home. No one should have to worry about sewage backing up into their basement or chronic community flooding that damages property. No one should suffer from the harm caused by lead service lines. Yet communities across the Great Lakes region continue to grapple with antiquated drinking water and wastewater infrastructure compounded by adverse effects from lead service lines, with burdens falling especially hard on disadvantaged communities.

Significantly, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 includes approximately \$50 billion over five years for much-needed investments in drinking water and wastewater infrastructure that will be allocated to states through the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds and other programs.

Although the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has allocated significant additional funding to the eight Great Lakes States from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 to invest in water infrastructure, including funds to replace lead service lines and address contaminants, we know more investment is needed. Based upon the completion of the 7th Drinking Water Needs Information

and Assessment survey, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimated that Great Lakes states need at least \$225.2 billion in water infrastructure investment over the next 20 years. This amount has grown since the last survey was completed five years ago. Therefore, we continue to request additional funding for water infrastructure and ask that more of those funds go to low-income communities and communities of color in the form of grants.

Great Lake Infrastructure Needs at a Glance (\$ in billions)			
	Drinking Water Infrastructure Need	Wastewater Infrastructure Need	Total
Illinois	\$ 22.2	\$ 6.5	\$ 28.7
Indiana	\$ 11.8	\$ 7.1	\$ 19.0
Michigan	\$ 16.3	\$ 2.1	\$ 18.3
Minnesota	\$ 10.2	\$ 2.4	\$ 12.6
New York	\$ 35.1	\$ 31.4	\$ 66.6
Ohio	\$ 16.1	\$ 14.6	\$ 30.7
Pennsylvania	\$ 24.3	\$ 7.0	\$ 31.3
Wisconsin	\$ 11.8	\$ 6.3	\$ 18.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 147.7</b>	<b>\$ 77.5</b>	<b>\$ 225.2</b>

Source: EPA