



# Fund Water Infrastructure & Prioritize Communities Most in Need

## The Alliance for the Great Lakes urges the Trump Administration and Congress:

- 💧 Congress should appropriate the full authorized amount of \$9.3 billion for the Clean Water (\$4.9 billion) and Drinking Water (\$4.4 billion) State Revolving Funds (SRFs) in its FY 2027 budget. Congress should make some portion of these funds available to communities experiencing outsized pollution and financial burdens as grants or forgivable loans.
- 💧 Congress should reauthorize water infrastructure programs at no less than existing levels, including the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds.
- 💧 Congress should set aside at least 20 percent of the Clean Water SRF as grants for green infrastructure projects such as green roofs, permeable pavement, and additional green spaces in cities.
- 💧 The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency should ensure that states accepting federal funds increase funding and provide enhanced technical assistance during the SRF selection process to communities bearing the greatest financial and pollution burdens.
- 💧 Congress should enact a federal ban on residential water shutoffs due to nonpayment and require the reconnection of water service.
- 💧 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, wastewater, and stormwater services.
- 💧 President Trump and Congress should provide sufficient funding for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), bar further Reductions in Force, and ensure the Administration retains the staff critical to the long-term program integrity of water infrastructure programs.

## Great Lakes States Infrastructure Needs at a Glance

(\$ in billions)

	Drinking Water	Wastewater, Stormwater, Nonpoint Source, & Decentralized Wastewater Treatment	Total
Illinois	\$ 22.2	\$ 11.4	\$ 33.6
Indiana	\$ 11.8	\$ 10.1	\$ 21.9
Michigan	\$ 16.3	\$ 15.1	\$ 31.4
Minnesota	\$ 10.2	\$ 6.7	\$ 16.9
New York	\$ 35.1	\$ 53.9	\$ 89.0
Ohio	\$ 16.1	\$ 20.6	\$ 36.7
Pennsylvania	\$ 24.3	\$ 12.8	\$ 37.1
Wisconsin	\$ 11.8	\$ 12.0	\$ 23.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 147.7</b>	<b>\$ 142.6</b>	<b>\$ 290.3</b>

Source: EPA

**Background:** Access to clean, safe drinking water and freedom from flooding and sewage impacts are basic needs that should be affordable to all. Yet, communities across the Great Lakes region continue to grapple with antiquated and otherwise inadequate water infrastructure. Issues include exposure to lead in drinking water from lead service lines, sewage backups into homes, old and failing septic systems, and chronic flooding.

These harms are compounded by the growing unaffordability of water and sewer services to households, driven in part by the rising costs of maintaining water infrastructure to address such challenges. Burdens fall especially hard on households served by small water utilities in rural areas, communities with a declining customer base, less-wealthy households, and communities with longtime disinvestment rooted in historical redlining or other forms of discrimination. At the national level, 20% of households are in debt to their water utility. For tribal communities, that increases to 32% of households, according to the Department of Health and Human Services.<sup>1</sup>

Although Congress in recent years has appropriated additional funding to Great Lakes states for water infrastructure beyond historic levels through the BIL, including funds to replace lead service lines and address contaminants, we know more investment is needed. Based on the 7th Drinking Water Needs Information and Assessment survey and the 2022 Clean Watersheds Needs Survey, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimated that Great Lakes states need at least \$290.3 billion in water infrastructure investment over the next 20 years. We continue to request growth in funding for water infrastructure and that grant funds are prioritized for communities facing the most significant pollution and health burdens, and the least ability to pay for improvements to protect public health.

<sup>1</sup> Department of Health and Human Services, *Understanding Water Affordability Across Contexts, LIHWAP Water Utility Affordability Survey Report*, March 2024. Retrieved from: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/03/21/lihwap-water-affordability-report.html>