The Funding Navigator Initiative



Unlocking Funds Faster Through Technical Assistance

EPIC's Funding Navigator (FN) team works for small and under-resourced communities by providing rapid-response project management and technical assistance, driving access to capital for more safe, reliable, affordable, and resilient water, wastewater, and stormwater systems.

What Drives Us

We work to quickly uncover barriers to developing and financing water infrastructure capital projects and provide targeted solutions so we can help bolster local capacity and accelerate funding applications. We want to see small and under-resourced communities thrive, and we help connect them with the resources and investments they need for lasting water infrastructure.

Why It Matters

Financing water infrastructure capital projects—especially with government funding—is complicated, and yet it's crucial to human and environmental health, public safety, and economic prosperity. One of the quickest ways to get to more high-performing water systems is to provide direct technical assistance that addresses local priorities and expands local capacity.



How We Help

- Alternatives Analysis
- Asset Analysis & Mapping
- Contracting & Procurement
- Drinking Water Distribution & Treatment
- Emerging Contaminants Response
- Finance & Accounting
- Lead Service Line Inventory & Replacement

- Permitting & Funding Administration
- Rate Projections
- Regulatory Compliance Management
- Stormwater Management
- Wastewater Collection & Treatment
- Water Quality Sampling & Analysis
- Water Resources Management

contactwater@policyinnovation.org
policyinnovation.org/funding-navigator

Our Process

Through localized capacity support and financing expertise, we help utilities, municipalities, Tribes, and local agencies identify and develop capital projects, meet regulatory requirements, and secure public funding to improve drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure.

As a national Environmental Finance Center funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and additional philanthropic support, we serve as a connector between communities, place-based partners, technical experts, and state and federal resources.

Our step-by-step process adapts to each community's unique challenges, but follows a consistent framework that enables faster access to funds and fewer project delays. By listening first and acting quickly, we help communities navigate complex funding programs, access the right expertise, and turn essential water projects from vision into reality.

1

Screening: Interview the applicant; determine eligibility for assistance and approximate scope of work.

2

Letter of Intent: Agreement to a specific scope of work, and permission to conduct a Gap Analysis. Outline terms and conditions of service.

3

Gap Analysis: Gathering of background data and existing conditions for the system under investigation. This includes current compliance, governance, and organizational information, as well as stakeholder and community outreach.

4

Implementation: Create a scope of work to solicit for and manage contractors to collect necessary data, prepare designs, or perform administrative actions to submit a compliant proposal for project funding.

Closeout: Notification provided upon completion of activities in the Service Agreement. Where applicable, conduct post-implementation survey and project case study.