

Case Study: Drinking Water Project in Hicksville, NY

The Hicksville Water District, serving nearly 48,000 Nassau County residents, received \$2 million in BIL Emerging Contaminants grant funding from the DWSRF and \$3 million in co-funding from the NYS Water Infrastructure Improvement (WIIA) grant, to install an advanced treatment system safeguarding drinking water from PFAS chemicals and other emerging contaminants. The advanced system includes two UV reactors, a hydrogen peroxide storage tank, four 40,000-lb GAC vessels, and more.



Image sourced from www.hicksvillewater.org



DWSRF - WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

DWSRF projects addressing emerging contaminants, especially PFAS, are eligible for Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Emerging Contaminants (BIL-EC) funding. Eligible applicants include municipalities, school districts, Native reservations within NYS, water authorities, and privately-owned community water systems regulated by the NYS Department of Public Service.

At least 25% of funds are allocated to disadvantaged communities or systems serving populations under 25,000. Grants cover up to 100% of eligible costs for disadvantaged communities (up to \$5 million) and up to 70% for non-disadvantaged communities.

Learn more about the DWSRF Disadvantaged Community criteria by referring to the DWSRF Hardship Policy at health.ny.gov



WHAT DWSRF PROJECTS ARE ELIGIBLE?

To qualify for DWSRF funding under BIL-EC, projects must meet standard DWSRF criteria, be listed in the current IUP, primarily address emerging contaminants (regardless of PFAS MCL), and not have accrued DWSRF-eligible debt before November 15, 2021.

Eligible projects include, but may not be limited to: new or upgraded water treatment facilities, developing new water sources, consolidating with systems that manage or avoid contaminants, creating new community water systems, and connecting private wells with PFAS issues to public water systems.

⚠️ NON-COMPETITIVE FUNDING IS AVAILABLE

Non-competitive funding is available for public drinking water systems in small (<10,000) or state-defined disadvantaged NYS communities to address emerging contaminants, prioritizing PFAS. For more information, contact design@health.ny.gov

HAVE QUESTIONS? CONNECT WITH COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE TEAMS

Receive step-by-step support for accessing state and federal funding

The NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (NYS EFC) assists New York communities with critical water quality projects through eligibility consultations, project listing support, grant and financing application help, tailored funding solutions, and more. The NYS EFC Community Assistance Teams (CATs), working closely with the Departments of Health (DOH) and Environmental Conservation (DEC), host events and offer expert consultations to support planning, funding applications, and project completion.



"If you're encountering emerging contaminants within your system, and are not sure where to start, the Community Assistance Teams are a great resource. We can schedule consultations with agency staff to discuss your project and advise on eligibility under our funding programs. Through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, additional funding is available specifically targeted at emerging contaminants, and we are excited to help communities access it."

Learn more and schedule a free consultation today at: www.efc.ny.gov/cat
Or contact: efc.dl.communityassistance@efc.ny.gov



SCAN ME

TO ACCESS
ADDITIONAL
RESOURCES



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**ACT NOW! DON'T WAIT TO SECURE YOUR FUNDING AND
ADDRESS PFAS IN YOUR SYSTEM**



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efc.syr.edu

JULY
2024



PFAS Funding Demystified

*Leveraging State Revolving Fund
Emerging Contaminants Funding
in New York State*

AT A GLANCE

In April 2024, the US EPA established the first enforceable drinking water regulations for PFAS, setting Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for six compounds, including PFOA and PFOS. Public water systems have until 2029 to meet these standards if PFAS levels exceed MCLs.

This resource addresses the urgent need for funding to help communities comply with emerging PFAS regulations, exploring available funding options for PFAS treatment and remediation in New York State’s water and wastewater systems. The intended audience includes:



- Water and wastewater utility managers
- Municipal decision-makers
- Consultants
- Technical assistance providers
- Others involved in addressing PFAS contamination



What is PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) have emerged as an environmental and public health concern, earning the nickname “forever chemicals.” To learn about PFAS, scan the QR code to watch a short animation.



NEW FUNDING STREAMS FOR EMERGING CONTAMINANTS IN NYS

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), signed into law in 2021, allocated \$50 billion to the US EPA for strengthening drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, representing the largest investment of its kind. Funds are distributed to states through the [Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds \(SRFs\)](#), with dedicated funding streams for initiatives like Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) and Emerging Contaminants (EC).

A key focus is supporting disadvantaged communities, including those considered low income or facing environmental justice concerns, with a mandated portion of funding provided as grants and forgivable loans.

Applying for CWSRF Financing

Before applying for financing through the CWSRF, you must list your project on Intended Use Plan (IUP). Project listings are screened for eligibility, scored, ranked, and listed, and a new IUP is issued annually. For more information on listing a project on the IUP, visit: efc.ny.gov/cwsrf-apply

Case Study: Clean Water Project in **Town of Hurley, NY**

The Town of Hurley, NY, has received approximately **\$1.3 million in BIL Emerging Contaminants (EC) funding** from the CWSRF program. This funding will support a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) aimed at addressing emerging contaminants detected at the town’s landfill in Ulster County. The goal of the study is to protect water quality in the nearby Ashokan Reservoir.



Image sourced from www.townofhurley.org

HOW DOES THE BIL ADDRESS PFAS IN NYS?

In New York State, projects addressing PFAS and other emerging contaminants can be funded through the **Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs) BIL Emerging Contaminants (EC) funding**.



I. CLEAN WATER PROJECTS

The [Clean Water State Revolving Fund \(CWSRF\)](#) - administered by the [NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation](#) - offers interest-free

or low-interest financing for wastewater and sewer infrastructure projects in NYS. It provides flexible financing options, including short- and long-term loans, to municipalities of all sizes. Repaid funds are reinvested to finance new projects, ensuring a continuous cycle of support for water infrastructure improvements.

Recipients of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Emerging Contaminants (BIL-EC) funds are eligible for up to 100% of eligible project costs, up to a maximum of \$25 million.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Municipalities with CWSRF projects targeting emerging contaminants, including groundwater or source water contamination, can receive BIL-EC funding. Communities facing hardship or meeting demographic and affordability criteria are eligible for additional [CWSRF Emerging Contaminants subsidies](#), including projects benefiting disadvantaged communities (DAC) or potential environmental justice areas (PEJA) as defined by the NY Department of Environmental Conservation.

Learn more about the additional subsidy hardship and eligibility criteria in the [CWSRF Hardship Policy at efc.ny.gov](#)



To be considered for BIL EC [CWSRF Additional Subsidy](#), a municipality must have:

- Been included in Category EC in the IUP;
- Not executed a CWSRF short-term project financing agreement or incurred SRF-eligible debt before November 15, 2021;
- Not executed a long-term project financing agreement; and
- Not have substantially completed construction before October 1, 2023



Are Sampling or Testing Activities Eligible?

Sampling, testing, and analysis for project planning and design are eligible under the CWSRF after the EC has already been identified. EC identification, routine monitoring, and operations and maintenance are ineligible activities.

WHAT CWSRF PROJECTS ARE ELIGIBLE?

Projects that are eligible for the base CWSRF, that address one or more emerging contaminants, and that result in a water quality benefit are eligible. **Project types include, but may not be limited to:**

- Laboratory and sampling equipment purchase
- Wastewater and biosolids treatment (centralized & decentralized), including septic-to-sewer conversions and lagoon improvements/decommissioning
- Water reuse and source water protection
- Nonpoint source pollution and stormwater management and treatment
- Landfill capping, leachate control, and contaminated site cleanup
- Groundwater and surface water protection and restoration

II. DRINKING WATER PROJECTS



The [Drinking Water State Revolving Fund \(DWSRF\)](#), administered by the [NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation](#) and the [NYS Department of Health](#), offers interest-free or low-interest financing for drinking water projects in New York State. It provides flexible short- and long-term loans to municipalities of all sizes.

BIL-EC funding supports DWSRF-eligible projects addressing emerging contaminants, prioritizing PFAS, covering up to 100% of eligible costs, up to \$5 million.

Applying for DWSRF Financing

Before you can apply for financing through the DWSRF, you must first list your project on Intended Use Plan (IUP) Annual List. For more information on listing a project on the IUP, visit: efc.ny.gov/dwsrf-apply