

# THE FUNDER GAMES 2.0



## Explore Municipal Infrastructure Funding Opportunities Part 2: **A New Vision for the Town of Calamity Falls**

Welcome! As you're coming in...

- Grab a **Funding Matrix** and a paddle

**S** Syracuse University  
College of Engineering  
& Computer Science  
Environmental Finance Center



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## Explore Municipal Infrastructure Funding Opportunities Part 2: **A New Vision for the Town of Calamity Falls**



# WELCOME TO THE TOWN OF CALAMITY FALLS

- Vibrant community of 10,000 residents
- MHI of \$61,000
- Hotspot for tourism and remote work
- Home to Keunca Lake
- 50% of Calamity Falls connected to sewer with rest on septic systems
- Drinking water quality concerns from nearby industry



# QUESTION 1

The town would like to extend sewer services to the downtown district and upgrade their wastewater treatment plant to address these water quality concerns, but officials don't really know where to start. **What is the first step the town should take?**

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# QUESTION 1

**GOAL:** Extend sewer services to the downtown district of Calamity Falls to address these water quality concerns

- Expected to be a multimillion-dollar investment
- Local wastewater treatment plant could increase treatment capacity with a few key upgrades
- Calamity Falls population: 10,000

**What is the first step the town should take?**

**A**

Hold an exploratory meeting with town officials to define the project scope and establish a relationship with NYS EFC by listing the project on the CWSRF IUP Multi-Year List before seeking financing

**B**

Apply for a Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities and Households (SEARCH) grant administered by the US Department of Agriculture, Rural Development.

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## QUESTION 2

Great News! The Calamity Falls project team has agreed that extending sewer services to the downtown district is highly beneficial and aligns with their long-term planning document. They have also initiated conversations with NYS EFC to begin listing their project on the Clean Water SRF Intended Use Plan (IUP) Multi-Year list. They realize that they need a Map, Plan, Report (MPR) to move forward with extending sewer service boundaries, but do not have the funds to pay for its preparation.

**What should the town do next?**



## QUESTION 2

**GOAL:** Move forward with the sewer service extension. Apply for funding for Map, Plan, Report (MPR) preparation.

**What should the town do next?**

**A**

Assess eligibility and prepare an application for a Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) grant through the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

**B**

Check the latest census data to verify the town's population and apply for a Water & Waste Disposal Pre-Development Planning Grant from USDA-RD.



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## HOW ELSE MIGHT THE TOWN PAY FOR ENGINEERING & PLANNING ACTIVITIES?

- **Wastewater Infrastructure Engineering Planning Grant (NYS EFC)**
- **If located in eligible service areas, the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) or Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grants (NYS DOS)**
- **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) (NYS OCR HCR)**
- **Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning Grant (NYS DEC)**

## QUESTION 3

Congratulations! Time has passed and the Town of Calamity Falls has successfully extended its sewer district boundaries with the support of town residents. To reach this point, the town determined the district extension boundaries, used USDA funds to fund engineering services for Map, Plan, Report (MPR) preparation, received approval from the State Comptroller, and held a public hearing to assess the extension's beneficiaries and whether it's in the public's interest.

Now armed with a shovel-ready project to extend sewer service, the town also faces the need for crucial treatment plant upgrades to replace aging infrastructure and increase treatment capacity, with an estimated cost of around \$15 million. **To secure funding for this project, what should be the town's immediate next step?**



## QUESTION 3

**GOAL:** Upgrade the Calamity Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant to extend sewer service, replace aging infrastructure, and increase treatment capacity.

- Estimated cost of approximately \$15 million

**To secure funding for this project, what should be the town's immediate next step?**

**A**

Apply for a Local Government Efficiency Grant (LGE) from the NYS Department of State to improve municipal wastewater treatment capacity and efficiency.

**B**

Begin the process of listing the project on the CWSRF Intended Use Plan (IUP) Annual List.



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**WHAT OTHER NEW YORK STATE FUNDING  
PROGRAMS COULD HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED  
IN THIS SCENARIO?**

The **Clean Water (CW) Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA)** program, administered by NYS EFC

Now that the engineering report has been completed, the **Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP)** program, administered by NYS DEC

# BONUS: TRUE OR FALSE

If you have questions about getting your project listed on the Clean Water SRF Intended Use Plan (IUP), you should talk to NYS Department of Health.

**A**

True

**B**

False

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**A**

True

**B**

False



## QUESTION 4

Ready to secure financing, town officials are working with stakeholders and other project collaborators on listing their project on the Clean Water SRF Intended Use Plan (IUP) Annual List.

**However, something goes wrong.**

The town rushes to hire an engineering firm to begin all engineering and construction services. However, it neglects to follow required procurement standards for contracting Architectural and Engineering (A/E) services. They award the contract to a firm they have worked with before without public advertisement or competitive bidding. Additionally, the contract lacks key terms and conditions, such as Build America, Buy America (BABA) compliance, and adherence to non-discrimination laws.

As a result, their project is deemed ineligible for funding, forcing them to terminate the contract, restart the procurement process, and miss the deadline to list their project on this year's IUP Annual List.

**What should the town have done differently to avoid this issue?**



**BONUS**

When can you submit your project to be listed?

A	End of the state fiscal year
B	Any time

# QUESTION 4

**GOAL:** List your wastewater project on the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Intended Use Plan (IUP) Annual List.

- First project listing attempt was deemed ineligible due to not following procurement requirements

**What should the town have done differently to avoid this issue?**

**A**

Procure a trusted firm they have worked with before without public advertisement to expedite the preliminary design and project listing process.

**B**

Review procurement standards before soliciting bids for engineering services and carefully proceed with completing a Preliminary Engineering Report, Environmental Review, and other requirements before listing project on the Clean Water SRF IUP.

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# BONUS

When can you submit a new project to be listed on the IUP?

**A**

End of the state fiscal year

**B**

Any time



# BONUS

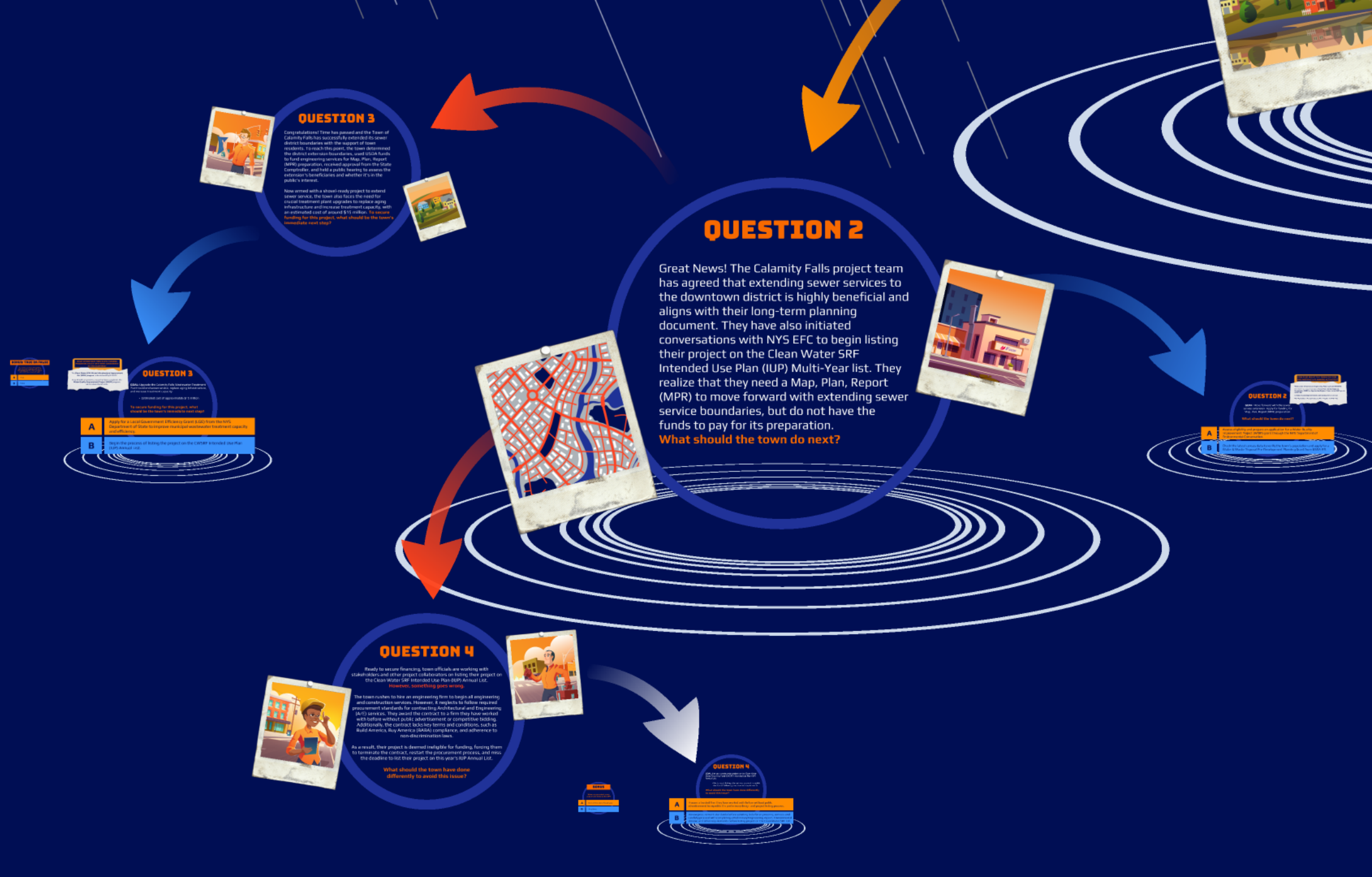
When can you submit a new project to be listed on the IUP?

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End of the state fiscal year

**B**

Any time



# QUESTION 5

Following the procurement setback, the Town of Calamity Falls successfully hired a new engineering firm that complied with all procurement standards. This firm completed the necessary design work, including an approvable engineering report, allowing the town to list their project in the next IUP listing cycle.

Following the project rank and scoring process, the draft Intended Use Plan was published. The Town of Calamity Falls received positive news – their project was officially listed on the Clean Water SRF Intended Use Plan Annual List! This milestone marked a turning point for a town that hadn't previously accessed State Revolving Funds. The town now qualifies for Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) General Supplemental (GS) financing by meeting hardship criteria. This critical step paves the way for much-needed updates to their wastewater treatment plant.

With additional project funds on the horizon with the help of the State Revolving Funds, Calamity Falls realizes that some residents may not have the means to pay for lateral connections to the new sewer extension. Simultaneously, the town would also like to incentivize the decommissioning of outdated septic systems.

**What funding option can address these needs?**



# QUESTION 5

**GOAL:** Apply for funding to support resident lateral connections to the new sewer extension and incentivize the decommissioning of septic systems.

- WWTP project successfully listed on the CWSRF IUP Annual List and will be fully funded
- Calamity Falls meets hardship criteria

**What funding option can address these needs?**

**A**

Apply for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program through the NYS Office of Community Renewal's housing program.

**B**

Apply for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund administered by the NYS Department of Health and NYS EFC.

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**What funding option can address these needs?**

## QUESTION 6

Several years have passed and the Town of Calamity Falls has successfully upgraded its wastewater treatment plant to improve treatment capacity and make other vital upgrades. However, a new challenge has emerged. Keunca Lake, the primary source of drinking water for Calamity Falls, has been found to contain **PFAS contaminants**.

To address this issue, town officials want to explore funding options for installing an advanced treatment system to remove PFAS. Given their



## QUESTION 6

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To address this issue, town officials want to explore funding options for installing an advanced treatment system to remove PFAS. Given their previous success with the Clean Water SRF for wastewater upgrades, they wonder what funding options might be available through the State Revolving Fund for a PFAS drinking water project.

**What should the town do next to explore their options?**



## QUESTION 6

**GOAL:** Learn about the SRF funding options for the installation of an advanced drinking water treatment system capable of removing PFAS.

- Lake Keunka, the town's drinking water source, has been found to contain PFAS contaminants

**What should the town do next to explore their options?**

**A**

Contact the NYS Department of Health (NYS DOH) to begin a conversation about this project and explore available funding sources to address PFAS contamination

**B**

Reach out to the NYS Department of State to begin a conversation about this project and explore available funding sources to address PFAS contamination

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**A**

Contact the NYS Department of Health (NYS DOH) to begin a conversation about this project and explore available funding sources to address PFAS contamination

**B**

Reach out to the NYS Department of State to begin a conversation about this project and explore available funding sources to address PFAS contamination



## QUESTION ?

During discussions with the NYS Department of Health (DOH), the Town of Calamity Falls learns about available Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Emerging Contaminants (EC) funding made available through the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law – or BIL. To be eligible for this funding, the town must first develop a project meeting the standard DWSRF criteria; primarily address emerging contaminants; be listed in the current Intended Use Plan (IUP); and not accrued DWSRF-eligible debt before November 15, 2021.

After meeting with town officials and other stakeholders, Calamity Falls decides that they would like to begin the process of listing a new project on the Intended Use Plan (IUP) Annual List with intent to pursue BIL Emerging Contaminants funding under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF).

**What should the town do next?**

# QUESTION ?

**GOAL:** List the town's drinking water project on the DWSRF Intended Use Plan (IUP) Annual List

- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding is available for Emerging Contaminants (EC)
- BIL EC funding for drinking water projects is available via the DWSRF

**What should the town do next?**

**A**

Proceed with completing the project listing form, including submitting contact information, a general description of the project scope, a budget, and a project schedule.

**B**

Review procurement standards and complete an Engineering Report before completing the project listing form.

# QUESTION ?

**GOAL:** List the town's drinking water project on the DWSRF Intended Use Plan (IUP) Annual List

- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding is available for Emerging Contaminants (EC)
- BIL EC funding for drinking water projects is available via the DWSRF

**What should the town do next?**

**A**

Proceed with completing the project listing form, including submitting contact information, a general description of the project scope, a budget, and a project schedule.

**B**

Review procurement standards and complete an Engineering Report before completing the project listing form.



## QUESTION 8

Following the Department of Health's rank and scoring process, the draft Drinking Water Intended Use Plan (IUP) was released. The town's project is now listed on the Drinking Water SRF Intended Use Plan (IUP) Annual List. Even better news – Calamity Falls is listed under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Emerging Contaminants (EC) eligible projects lists, and is eligible for grant funding or interest free financing.

With this latest milestone achieved, town officials are now ready to proceed with the application process for Drinking Water SRF financing. **What is the next step they should take?**



## QUESTION 8

**GOAL:** Secure DWSRF financing.

- Calamity Falls is listed in the DWSRF Intended Use Plan (IUP) Annual List, and under the BIL EC eligible projects list

**What is the next step they should take?**

**A**

Move forward with submitting the financing application as quickly as possible in order to maximize funding.

**B**

Carefully review and prepare all required documents and comply with all Terms & Conditions before proceeding with the DWSRF financing application.

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**What is the next step they should take?**

**A**

Move forward with submitting the financing application as quickly as possible in order to maximize funding.

**B**

Carefully review and prepare all required documents and comply with all Terms & Conditions before proceeding with the DWSRF financing application.

## WHAT OTHER NEW YORK STATE FUNDING PROGRAMS COULD HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED FOR THIS PROJECT?

The **Drinking Water (DW) Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA)** and the **WIIA-Emerging Contaminants (WIIA-EC)** programs (if PFAS levels were found to exceed state MCLs), administered by NYS EFC

The **Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP)**, administered by NYS DEC, funds **source water protection** projects like Land Acquisition and Salt Storage & Road Salt Reduction but does **not** fund drinking water infrastructure.

GOAL

Cal



## PROMPT 9

Months have passed since the Town of Calamity Falls submitted their Drinking Water SRF (DWSRF) financing application through the NYS EFC's Online Portal. Great news! Town officials have received word that their financing application has been processed and accepted. After finalizing the remaining closing documentation, including other funding award letters and current capital and operating budgets, the town will receive low-interest financing, with additional grant funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Emerging Contaminants (EC) funding.

Following **plan approval** from the Department of Health (DOH), the town will soon be able to move forward with the construction of an advanced drinking water treatment system to address PFAS contaminants. ent system to address PFAS contaminants.



# A NEW VISION FOR CALAMITY FALLS

With diligent efforts and strategic planning, the Town of Calamity Falls has successfully addressed critical infrastructure needs. By leveraging the Clean Water and Drinking Water SRF programs and accessing Emerging Contaminants funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the town successfully improved its wastewater systems and tackled PFAS contamination in its drinking water supply. With these funds, the Town now has an advanced water treatment system in the pipeline, showcasing their commitment to water quality and public health.

Thanks to funding administered by New York State, the Town of Calamity Falls has been able to meet these infrastructure challenges head-on. The story of Calamity Falls shows how communities can effectively navigate state funding programs to maximize available funding opportunities and address key infrastructure needs. By better understanding these programs and starting conversation with state and federal infrastructure funders early on, communities can secure the financing needed for critical community investments, leading to a better and more sustainable future for the Town of Calamity Falls.





THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING...

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## QUESTIONS?

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