



Follow Up: Advancing Water Equity in Coronavirus Recovery July 2020

Federal Water Policy Updates

On July 1, the Water Foundation shared this terrific [Federal Water Policy Update](#). Please reach out to [Jennifer Sokolove](#) at the Water Foundation if you would like to regularly receive Federal Water Policy Updates. In early July, the House passed a \$1.5 trillion [infrastructure package](#) with funding to replace lead service lines. Kamala Harris also recently introduced the [Water for Tomorrow Act](#) in the Senate. Today the Water Foundation and the US Water Alliance have a webinar on [Policy Innovations to Secure Drinking Water for All](#) at 2 pm ET/ 11 am PT.

Ideas and Recommendations to Advance Water Equity in Coronavirus Recovery

- Invest in technical assistance to community-based organizations and other partners to get projects positioned for “shovel ready” status when federal or state infrastructure stimulus funding starts to flow.
- Fund grassroots and frontline community-led groups, including funding for skills building and power building.
- Fund federal advocacy campaigns through Water Equity and Climate Resilience Caucus at PolicyLink, the Clean Water for All Coalition, and other partners. See details below.
- Support strong connections between frontline groups and national advocates so the federal asks reflect priority frontline community needs.
- Support workforce training targeting women and workers of color to access jobs in water. See information below.
- Look for places where water program officers can work on social impact investing to deploy loan or investment resources to help get projects to shovel ready status or to provide seed funding for job training or workforce development programs.
- Connect funder social impact investing with community development financial institutions investing in equitable and sustainable water development opportunities, such as green infrastructure, water conservation, etc.
- Play convener or leadership roles in connecting community and water advocates to local water decisionmakers.
- Support communications assistance to amplify messaging around water equity.

State Revolving Funds

- Support research and advocacy to reform how State Revolving Funds are allocated so that they go first and most to communities with greatest need. Several participants in TFN’s Urban Water Funders working group have been collaborating on State Revolving Fund issues. Please follow up with [Diane Schrauth](#), TFN Program Consultant, if interested in learning more.
- Share information on community needs in accessing State Revolving Funds (SRF)—please see information on the new EPA municipal ombudsman position: <https://www.epa.gov/ocir/municipal-ombudsman>

Workforce and Water

- Background on the “Silver Tsunami” hitting Water Utilities and efforts to hire people in frontline communities: [Reshaping the Future of the Water Industry](#) in WaterWorld

- Blog from Global Green on various green stormwater infrastructure workforce programs nationally: [Green Stormwater Infrastructure: Opportunities for Community Engagement & Workforce Development](#)
- Groundwork USA's [Urban Waters program](#)
- Procurement and workforce development models: [Emerald Cities Collaborative](#)

Recent Opinion Pieces

- [Injustice by design: Confronting the embedded racism of America's cities](#) | The Hill
- [Rethink Resilience for the Era of COVID-19 and Climate Change](#) | Op-Ed by Jalonne White-Newsome, The Kresge Foundation | Next City
- [The next disaster for Black communities](#) | The Hill

New Reports

- [A Dual Disaster Handbook: 6 Recommendations for Local Leaders Responding to Floods During Covid-19](#) by American Flood Coalition
- [Invest in Rivers: For clean water, our communities, our future](#) by American Rivers
- [Policy Innovations to Secure Drinking Water for All](#) by Water Foundation and US Water Alliance

Some Resources for staying on top of water policy in Washington, DC

- [US Water Alliance Blog](#)
- [Circle of Blue](#)
- [NACWA's Clean Water Current](#)
- [BC Water News](#) (free subscription)
- [Federal Water Policy Update](#) from the Water Foundation. Please reach out to [Jennifer Sokolove](#) at the Water Foundation if you would like to regularly receive Federal Water Policy Updates.

Information on Coalitions and Caucuses engaging in water equity and water policy

- [Water Equity and Climate Resilience Caucus](#) at PolicyLink
This is a national network of organizations working to address water equity and climate resilience—centering frontline communities of color and low-income communities.
Contact: Ronda Chapman (preferred pronouns: she, her, they), Senior Associate, at ronda@policylink.org or 510-663-4384/202-503-7486 (cell)
ACTION: The Water Equity and Climate Caucus current advocacy requests re HEROES Act in the Senate: <https://www.policylink.org/covid19-and-race/actions/water-equity>
- [Clean Water for All Coalition](#)
This is a broad network of organizations working to elevate the importance of clean water for everyone through strategic national and regional campaigns that engage people, build collective political power, and influence decision-makers to create equitable policies.
Contact: Jenifer Collins, Acting Director, at jenifer.collins@nwf.org or 321.591.1931
You can also [fill out this form](#) to request to join the main list serv to receive regular updates regarding opportunities to engage and resources, including notice of our monthly water policy update and exchange call.

Other Resources

- Charles River Watershed Association: [How a Community Water and Energy Resource Center Works](#)
- Clean Water for All report: [Water, Health and Equity](#)

- Colorlines article: ['Hold My Earrings': Black Women Lead on Systemic Solutions in the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond](#)
- [Flood Factor](#)
- In the Public Interest: [A Guide To Understanding And Evaluating Infrastructure Public-Private Partnerships In The Water Sector](#)
- NAACP race and urban water affordability report: [Water/Color: A Study of Race and the Water Affordability Crisis in America's Cities](#)
- University of North Carolina's Environmental Finance Center: [Navigating Legal Pathways To Rate-Funded Customer Assistance Programs](#)
- [We the People of Detroit](#)