

# Leveraging the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Set – Asides for Source Water Protection

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OFFICE OF GROUND WATER  
AND DRINKING WATER



**SOURCE WATER PROTECTION**  
INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS TO  
PROTECT DRINKING WATER AT THE SOURCE

# Source Water Protection Team: Strategies



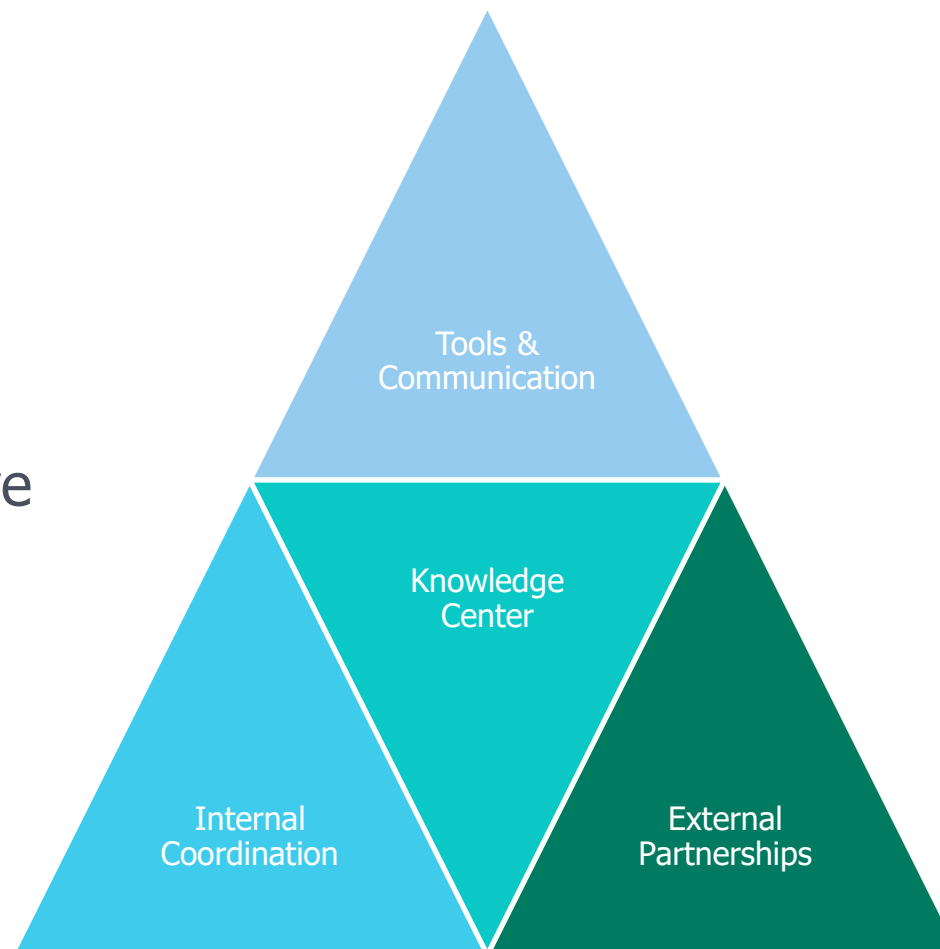
“Hardwire” Source Water Protection:  
Expand Partnerships and Program  
Coordination



Share Information and Support Effective  
Decision Making



Build a Knowledge Center



# Source Water Assessments: 1996 to Now



Changes within source water protection areas  
New tools and technology available  
New risks to consider



Inform SWP plan development  
Prioritize areas for investment  
Identify partners



Congress recognized need for updates → changed language for DWSRF set-asides



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# Drinking Water State Revolving Fund



A Public Health Protection Program



A federal/state partnership designed to create, in each state, a perpetual source of financing for drinking water infrastructure



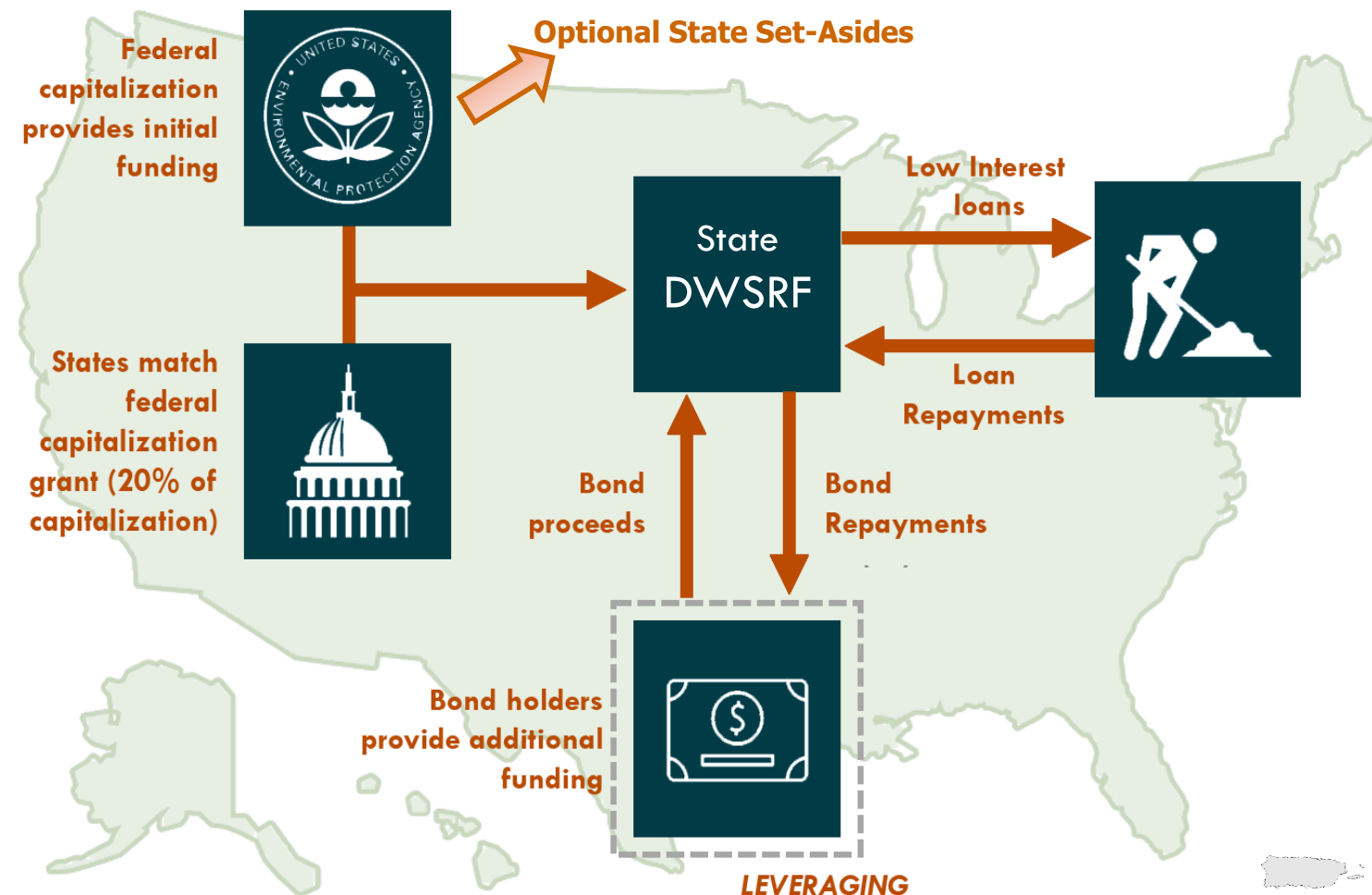
Modeled after the successful Clean Water SRF program, with notable modifications









## The DWSRF Infrastructure Model

- 51 state-level “infrastructure banks” make loans with water systems for drinking water projects
  - Water systems apply for funding with their respective state DWSRF program
- States craft their DWSRF program to meet the needs of their state
  - Each of the 51 programs are unique
  - They operate within the federal framework but may target funding more narrowly



# DWSRF Set-Asides

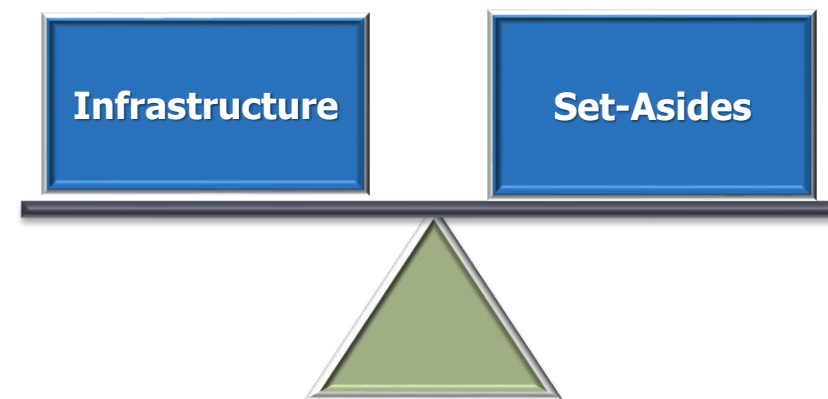
-  Optional for States
-  Trade-off with Loan Funds
-  Different Eligibilities than Loans
-  Unique to Drinking Water SRF

2%: Small Systems Technical Assistance

4%: Administration & TA

10%: State Program Management

15%: Local Assistance and Other State Programs



# State Program Management (10% Set-Aside)



**Develop and Implement** Drinking Water Protection, Capacity Development, Operator Certification, and Source Water Protection Programs



Often Used to **Fund Staff**

- Source Water Coordinators
- Hydrogeologists



Can also be used by state for source water protection activities



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# Local Assistance and Other State Programs (15%)

## Source Water Protection and Capacity Development Activities



- Loans to PWS for SWP land acquisition/easements, voluntary, incentive-based SWP measures, and source water petition programs



- Delineation, assessment, and *updates to assessments* for SWP areas



- Establishment and implementation of wellhead protection programs and *implementation of efforts to protect source water*



# Local Assistance and Other State Programs (15%)

## Source Water Protection and Capacity Development Activities



- Developing Source Water Protection Plans
- Small grant programs



- Technical Assistance through 3<sup>rd</sup> parties
- Implementation of BMPs
- Updating SWA with GIS



- Development of local ordinances
- Public outreach and education



Cover crops around high-risk public wells in Sussex County, DE

# Small Investments Can Go a Long Way



Think long-term



Account for multiple benefits



Consider funding sources outside your program



## Examples



Oregon uses set-aside funds to support staff at OHA and DEQ. Among other tasks, these staff are updating and automating SWA throughout the state. This work prepared them to apply for and receive funding for 5 NWQI Source Water Protection pilot projects. (almost \$500K)



Washington used set-aside funds for the appraisal and survey of a parcel of land critical for source water protection that was owned by a timber company. The land was then purchased by the public utility district with a CWSRF loan.



Nebraska is funding the development of groundwater-focused plans that meet the requirements of an Alternative to an EPA 9-Element Watershed Management Plan which provide access CWA 319 funds

## How to get started



Reach out to your DWSRF colleagues soon

<https://www.epa.gov/dwsrf/state-dwsrf-website-and-contacts>



States submit a Set-Aside Workplan with their Intended Use Plan every year



Identify priority areas/systems to update assessments and develop plans



# AWIA/DWSRF/SWP



- Now is the time for conversations between SWP programs and the DWSRF administrators in states about the opportunities to dedicate set-aside money for source water protection
- EPA encourages states to re-think how they are utilizing their set-asides and consider new opportunities for leveraging these dollars for source water protection



# QUESTIONS?

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