



diversion in the Great Lakes.

- There are two in Ontario that inflow Lake Superior from Lake Nipigon.
- for hydroelectric power generation.
- 55 cubic meters per second. (5,473 cubic feet)
- 40,946 gallons. 17,000 more than the Ch diversion outflow.

US EPA Region 5 Environmental Finance Center for Water Infrastructure



Delta Institute and our partners, the American Society of Adaptation Professionals (ASAP), Current, and the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) are serving as the Environmental Finance Center (EFC) for US EPA's Region 5 (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin).

Communities need support to access State Revolving Funds (SRFs) to achieve their Clean- and Drinking- Water goals.

Delta and our partners, as one of the EPA Region 5 EFCs, are providing targeted technical assistance centered around funding for projects that achieve the goals of either the [Clean Water Act](#) (i.e. natural sources/bodies of water that benefit the public) or the [Safe Drinking Water Act](#) (i.e. water specifically for human consumption, and administered by utilities/municipalities).

These projects focus on water infrastructure for local governments, states, Tribal governments, and non-governmental organizations. Delta and our partners are engaging with historically underserved communities that have struggled to access federal water infrastructure funding.

Communities interested in receiving technical assistance can now access a wide variety of technical assistance options through a new Technical Assistance Request form on our website at delta-institute.org/epa-region-5-water-infrastructure/.

This begins the technical assistance process, which normally starts with an informational meeting to learn more about your community. Once we understand your needs, we can identify specific services that are both helpful and timely for your community's project planning and implementation.

As a brief overview, our approach to technical assistance includes:

Targeted and focused services centered on the needs of partner communities.

Our technical assistance services directly engage with water utilities and communities, resulting in concrete actions that put communities on the path to successfully accessing SRF funding. Delta and our partners are providing services to partner agencies inclusive of:

Planning and assessment: Water infrastructure project identification, planning, and set-up;

Project development: Ensuring project readiness for SRF application(s);

Funding and financing: Application assistance to secure state based SRF investment; Compliance and risk mitigation advisement;

Program management support: Project maintenance, stewardship, and long-term planning; and,

Direct Water-focused technical assistance.

Meeting technical assistance recipients where they are in their project work.

Our EFC's approach to technical assistance will commence with and will be grounded within the water utility, municipality, and community needs, to then progress and work from that starting point.

Our services will be informed by the technical, administrative, managerial, and financial realities of our partner communities. This approach directly dovetails with Delta's current and prior municipal- and community-based water infrastructure projects.

Culturally competent services that engage the broader community.

Our EFC's technical assistance will be provided in a culturally competent manner that supports partner communities to build trust. Earnest and consistent efforts will be made to support technical assistance recipients to engage the broader community, including harder-to-reach communities. This approach directly reflects

and coincides with Delta's organizational focus on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; such community engagement efforts are a cornerstone of Delta's water- and community-focused projects.

Our Goals: What We Plan to Accomplish in the Years Ahead

Community Collaboration and Support

Over the next five years of EFC operations, we plan that more than **200 communities will benefit from our eligible clean water and drinking water finance technical assistance services**. We will provide technical assistance to at least 20 communities in 2023, and at least 30 communities in 2024. We anticipate scaling in 2025-2028 (Years 3-5) to serve at least 50 communities per year.

Securing Investment

Our key goal will be assisting communities to apply to their State Revolving Funds, while ensuring comprehensive representation and collaboration with communities disproportionately impacted by climate change and/or lack of historical access to funding— inclusive of Tribal, BIPOC-majority, and environmental justice (EJ) communities.

Ultimately, we plan to assist communities to **secure at least \$250,000,000 of SRF, BIL and other public/private funding** for resilient water infrastructure; a keen focus will be on communities that are disproportionately impacted by climate change and have previously lacked funding access.

Visit delta-institute.org/epa-region-5-water-infrastructure/ to learn more about Delta Institute's EFC efforts and to set up an initial Technical Assistance screening for your community.