TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS/THE FUNDING NAVIGATOR
Program launched January 2023

At one of our partners' firms, they make an effort to stack eligible funding for their clients. Not all design consultants are doing this work though. They have made a decision to learn about several funding sources to offer municipalities. Once they understand the technical aspects of the project, they do the legwork to identify funding sources. It's really helpful for the engineers to also understand the funding process

Good local model: Delaware - RASCL program: Project guidance group - cohort of partners from many sectors that have a project need - can apply for "office hours". RASCL bring together the RASCL partners that are most appropriate to address that need/applicant to talk through the project or funding application

An interest in alternative structures for applicants (green projects/community projects) for water quality+ projects that might be beyond the purview of a typical utility applicant. Mechanism for stacking for funding.

Infrastructure funding - Philly responded that they could use help putting together a repository of all the funding mechanisms out there into a package.

Do existing TA programs feel that they have more capacity?

Emerging contaminant money is being underutilized. How can we help create projects that address this need as well as others to get this pot of money out on the street?

Equity is our priority but these communities are still falling through the cracks. EPA has funding opportunities for communities both big and small that are disadvantaged

Private sector has really jumped into figuring out funding opportunities. Response to growing need from smaller municipalities.

Problems appear to be combined (sewer and stormwater) - municipalities aren't always aware of the intricacies. Understanding scope/engineering is critical to overall understanding.

Can TA be given to Philly - with it's outsized underserved communities despite being a large city? Feels like these communities are falling through the cracks.

Communities are skeptical that they will not be able to overcome barriers - or that they will be heard this time around.

With additional funding and existing programs - there remains capacity for future work/TA. Additional Bandwidth Available.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP)
Potentially modeled after the TIP
What geography should we focus on?
What about this program would you like to know more about?
What would be the desired outcome?

There is a great need for a program of this kind to help prioritize projects.

Seems like a good regional approach that is needed.

The TIP is successful because it is required

NEW FUNDING SOURCES/STRATEGIC WAYS OF APPLYING FUNDING

What are some new funding sources we could utilize?
Will these new sources dictate our selected geography?
What would you like to learn more about?

Delaware River vs. Delaware Estuary

Money coming online is even more tied up and complicated to access/spend/apply for than it was before. Even for non-profits used to this kind of grant admin work

Urban waters federal partnership program - addresses urban water locations specifically. EPA approached Delaware estuary program - with funding to engage as the local ambassador. This program has grown and allowed for additional dollars to be leveraged. Mini-grants - 9 grants with $10K awards - 47 applicants.

There needs to be a way to pull together money to distribute/empower community groups and to help them manage the funds.

Geographic program ACT - released huge amount of money to implement the CCMP. Established programs can also get funding through IIJA. Large opportunity for us to come together to get an ACT passed for the Delaware River Estuary.

Help community orgs to address their overhead costs and how to pay their staff that help administer these grants.

[The National Estuary Program Clean Water State Revolving Fund: Estuary Protection and Restoration](#)

OTHER

Where else can we focus our efforts?

What can we focus on over the next two years that can become actionable?