

July 2024 – EPA Needs Your Assistance – Closing American’s Wastewater Access Gap Initiative

EPA is requesting your assistance to help identify disadvantaged communities in need of technical assistance to address failing or nonexistent decentralized/septic wastewater infrastructure. The information below will help get you started. This is a tremendous opportunity for SORA members to assist communities which are struggling to find solutions to substandard or nonexistent wastewater infrastructure. See the information below:

Dear MOU Partners,

We want to thank you for your help so far in spreading the word about **EPA’s Closing America’s Wastewater Access Gap Initiative**. We’d like to ask for your continued help in hopes of getting more communities interested in participating in this initiative. As part of EPA’s administration of the generational investment of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we can offer technical assistance to disadvantaged communities that are seeking resources to address failing or nonexistent decentralized/septic wastewater infrastructure.

We've prepared a template (below) for you to use and modify for your audience. Sharing this with your networks, listservs, in newsletters, etc, is incredibly helpful in getting communities the help that they need who may not otherwise be aware that it exists. Please reach out to us with any questions.

Thank you for your support!

Best regards,
EPA’s Decentralized Wastewater Program

Hello [enter name of organization/ network/ etc],

We are sharing information about an EPA initiative – Closing America’s Wastewater Access Gap – offering free technical assistance for communities with failing decentralized (septic) wastewater systems, or communities with no existing wastewater systems at all. If your community, or one you know of, needs assistance – [please request assistance via the webform below to see if you qualify:](#)

Does your community have septic system or decentralized wastewater challenges?

- Do septic systems back up into homes or cause sewage to pool in yards?
- Does the town or county struggle to provide adequate sanitation services to its residents?
- Does the community struggle to rebuild damaged or non-functioning wastewater and septic systems?

What does the assistance include?

- Free technical assistance is available for communities to assess current wastewater infrastructure, recommend options, and support development of funding applications for the community.

- The purpose of this assistance is to help communities apply for funding to address their wastewater needs.
- More information can be found here: <https://www.epa.gov/water-infrastructure/closing-americas-wastewater-access-gap>

How can I request assistance?

- Complete this webform to request assistance: <https://www.epa.gov/water-infrastructure/forms/water-technical-assistance-request-form>

Questions?

- Email SepticHelp@epa.gov

Heidi Faller

Decentralized Wastewater Program, Sustainable Communities & Infrastructure Branch (SCIB)
U.S. EPA/Office of Water/Office of Wastewater Management/Water Infrastructure Division
(202) 566-1089