

#### **MI Water Navigator Helpdesk:**

**An Introduction to the Drinking Water Infrastructure Toolkit** 



**GRACE A. CAREY** 

Program Officer
Michigan Municipal League Foundation





A MML Foundation Initiative with Partners EGLE and EPIC









#### The MI Water Navigator Helpdesk is made possible through funding from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and Joyce Foundation







# What is MI Water Navigator?

MI Water Navigator is a resource for navigating Michigan drinking water infrastructure funding opportunities. Whether you are a public municipal water system or a private water utility, the **MI Water Navigator Helpdesk** and toolkit will provide direction in your search for state and federal funding.



#### What We Do

Our Helpdesk technical assistance team provides free individual advising across a range of state and federal funding applications including: the **Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)**; **USDA Rural Development Water and Environmental Programs (WEP)**, **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**, and **MI Clean Water Plan**.

For those applying for 2023 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) loans and grants which meet the criteria for "disadvantaged community" as defined by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) the helpdesk will have an option to request technical assistance for navigating and submitting a DWSRF application from start to finish. Requests for DWSRF technical assistance will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, space is limited.



#### Phase I

- Helpdesk services launch March 15, 2022
- Free technical assistance to help communities and utilities:
  - Assess available assets and drinking water infrastructure needs
  - Identify applicable state and federal funding sources
  - Apply for relevant funding

#### Phase II

- Additional free resources roll out in July 2022 including:
  - Downloadable toolkits covering drinking water policies/mandates, walkthroughs of popular funding applications, and frequently submitted inquiries
  - Webinars
  - Resource Library



#### **How to Get Started**

Go to www.miwaternavigator.org

STEP ONE

#### **SEND REQUEST**

STEP TWO A technical advisor from the **MI Water Navigator Helpdesk** will reach out to you to discuss drinking water affordability in your community, water infrastructure needs, and your community's funding opportunities.

STEP THREE Depending on your inquiry, the Helpdesk team will help you navigate a funding application, give advice, or connect you with resources.

STEP FOUR Our team will assess if further assistance is needed and will follow up accordingly.



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### **ERIC POCAN**

Unit Supervisor Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy

**Finance Division Water Infrastructure Financing Section** 



# Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)



# Purpose of the DWSRF Program:

To assist Michigan water suppliers in satisfying the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) by providing low-interest loans for the planning, design, and construction of waterworks projects.



## Who can borrow from the DWSRF?

COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLIERS

• NONPROFIT, NONCOMMUNITY WATER SUPPLIERS



# What types of projects qualify?

Public water supply projects and waterworks projects consisting of pipes and structures through which water is obtained, stored, treated or distributed, including:

- Intake structures
- Pumping stations, storage tanks
- Treatment plants
- Pipelines and appurtenances
- Water service lines (lead and galvanized)
- Wells and well structures
- Security Systems



# Eligible items:

- Project planning costs
- Design and construction engineering
- Legal and financial services
- Construction costs (Davis Bacon wage rates and American Iron and Steel required)
- Administration costs
- Land acquisition/easements



# Ineligible Items Include:

- "Oversized" project components beyond 20-year needs
- Site restoration beyond a return to pre-existing conditions (e.g., roadway upgrade from gravel to asphalt)
- Privately owned service lines that are not a public health threat
- Other work not related to a specific goal of the eligible project



Water system projects, or portions of projects, determined to be primarily for fire protection are not eligible for DWSRF assistance.



# Water System Expansion:

DWSRF funds cannot be used to finance the expansion of any water system if a primary purpose of the project is to accommodate future development.



# **New Water Systems**

DWSRF financing can be used to create new systems in place of private wells, only if there are documented public health problems involving serious adverse risks (e.g., contaminant exceeding a drinking water standard)



# **DWSRF Financing Advantages:**

- The interest rates are set below market rates each year.
- Loans terms can be set at either a 20 or 30-year repayment period.
- The repayment period may be extended to 40 years for disadvantaged communities.
- Principal loan forgiveness in FY22 is available for lead service line replacement, emerging contaminants, and disadvantaged communities. However, this varies from year to year.



# Steps to Apply

Submit an Intent to Apply (ITA) Form by January 31, 2023 (for Fiscal Year 2024 consideration)

Have a pre-application meeting with a WIFS project manager and an EGLE district engineer

Project Plan submittal by July 1, 2023



#### MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY FINANCE DIVISION

CLEAN WATER AND DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND/ STRATEGIC WATER QUALITY INITIATIVES FUND

#### INTENT TO APPLY FORM

This form should be submitted by all applicants seeking funding in the next five years. Applicants participating in the ITA process receive early indication of the funding outlook for their project(s).

DATE: Click here to enter text.

PROJECT(S) NAME (Brief Identifier): Click here to enter text.

PROJECT(S) PURPOSE (Including general location and public health or water quality issue being

addressed): Click here to enter text.

Applicant Legal Name: Click here to enter text.

Applicant Contact Name: Click here to enter text. Title: Click here to enter text.

Mailing Address (street, city, state, zip+4): Click here to enter text.

Phone No.: Click here to enter text. Email: Click here to enter text.

Consulting Engineer Name (if applicable): Click here to enter text. Firm: Click here to enter text.

Mailing Address (street, city, state, zip+4): Click here to enter text.

Phone No.: Click here to enter text. Email: Click here to enter text.

#### PROJECT INFORMATION

Applicant Population: Click here to enter text. Population Served by Project: Click here to enter text.

Treatment Facility Name (if applicable): Click here to enter text.

#### Estimated Total Project Cost:

Year 1 Costs: Click here to enter text.

Estimated Year 1 Costs Financed Through SRF: Click here to enter text.

Future Year Costs (if applicable): Click here to enter

Estimated Future Costs Financed Through SRF: Click

here to enter text.

text.

□Other Financing/Funding Agency: Click here to enter text.

Other Funding Sources (check all that apply): □MDOT □MEDC □USDA Rural Development

Proposed Construction Start Date (mm/yyyy): Click here to enter text.

Completed Project-Related Planning Documents (check all that apply; do not need to submit at this time):

Capital Improvements Plan 
Asset Management Plan 
Preliminary Engineering Report

Environmental Report 
Project Plan 
Infiltration & Inflow Study 
Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Study

NASSCO Report 
Watershed Management Plan 
Master Plan 
Reliability Study 
Other: Click here to enter text.



# What is required in a

# DWSRF Project Plan?



# The Six Project Plan Components:

- 1) Project Background
- 2) Alternative Analysis
- 3) Selected Alternative
- 4) Environmental Impacts
- 5) Mitigation of Impacts
- 6) Public Participation



# **Project Background**

- Detailed description and full documentation of need for project.
- Study (and service) area characteristics including land use, environmental setting, and population (present and 20 years).
- An overview of all work necessary during the next 20 years (or other planning period used and approved by EGLE) regardless of proposed funding sources.



# **Alternative Analysis**

- Identification of all potential alternatives covered.
- Detailed and well supported analysis of principal alternatives considered (must include costeffectiveness analysis, environmental impacts, implementability, etc.).
- The cost-effective analysis (or net present worth analysis) must examine all principal alternatives, each of which addresses the same need, serves the same customers and provides the same capacity.



# Selected Alternative

- Description of the selected project and the construction site(s).
- Monetary cost estimate.
- · User costs (current & proposed).
- Demonstration of ability to implement the selected alternative.



# **Environmental Impacts**

- A comprehensive overview and evaluation of potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts.
- An evaluation of impacts to determine if they are beneficial or adverse, and short- or long-term.



# Mitigation of Impacts

 Identification of structural and nonstructural measures the applicant will take to avoid, eliminate, or mitigate adverse impacts.



# **Public Participation**

- 30-day notice of a public hearing on the project plan. Project plan must be made available for the public to review.
- Formal public hearing which includes public comment period.



## **DWSRF Dates to Know**

- January 31: Intent-to-Apply form deadline
- Mid March: Disadvantaged statuses determined
- Early April: Project scoring and preliminary Project Priority List (PPL) announced
- Mid May: 30 day public notice for public hearing
- July 1: Final DWSRF project plan due
- Mid-August: Draft intended use plan (IUP) and PPL published
- Late-August: DWSRF Public Hearing
- Late-September: Final PPL and IUP published



# Funds Available in Fiscal Year 2023

DWSRF	Available Loan Amount	Principal Forgiveness
Traditional	\$125 million	\$17 million
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law General	\$44 million	\$21.5 million
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Emerging Contaminants	\$18.5 million	\$18.5 million
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Lead Service Line Removal	\$69 million	\$34 million
Total	\$256.5 million	\$91 million



# **Applicant Need in Fiscal Year 2023**

New ITA Projects: \$602,360,000

**Carry Over Projects: \$554,000,000** 

Total Need: \$1,156,360,000



#### **Contact Information**

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DWSRF website: <a href="www.michigan.gov/DWSRF">www.michigan.gov/DWSRF</a>

CWSRF website: <a href="www.michigan.gov/CWSRF">www.michigan.gov/CWSRF</a>







VICKI M. PUTALA, PE

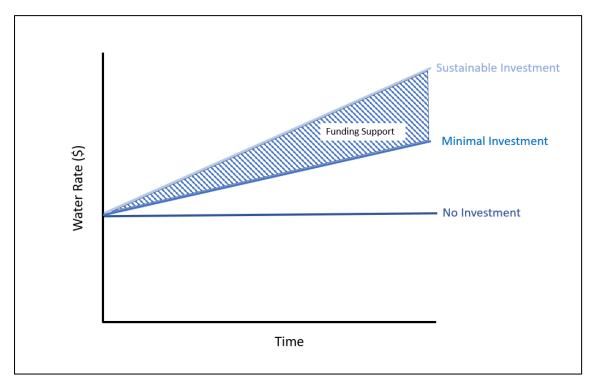
**Director Environmental & Water Resources OHM Advisors** 

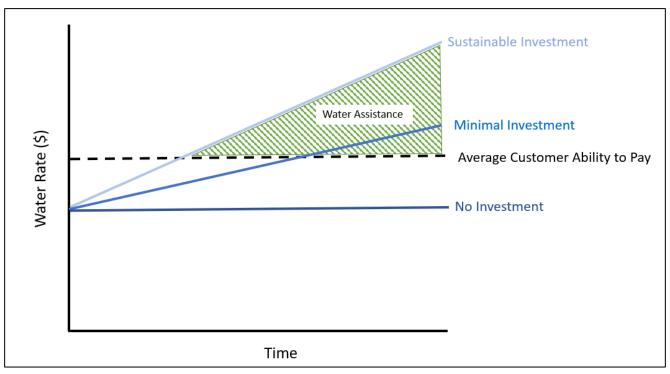






WATER UTILITIES ARE RESPONSIBLE TO PROVIDE SAFE AND RELIABLE DRINKING WATER TO THEIR CUSTOMERS. THIS REQUIRES INFRASTRUCTURE
INVESTMENT TO ENSURE REGULATORY
REQUIREMENTS ARE MET AND
DESIRED LEVEL OF SERVICE IS
ACHIEVED





Water assistance is available to customers through various local, state, and federal programs.

# Funding Programs – Things to Know and Understand

- ☐ Federal, State & Local
- ☐ Many programs, some long-term and some short-term
- ☐ Grants/Loans/Principal Forgiveness
- ☐ Eligibility Criteria
- **□** Application Process/Competitiveness
- **☐** Funding Requirements
- **□** Repayment Terms



# **Prospective Funding Programs**



# Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) AKA Building Infrastructure Law (BIL)

Water Infrastructure Funding Overview: This funding falls into 8 major programs over 5 years.

- 1. Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds (\$23.43 billion)
- 2. Lead Service Lines (\$15 billion)
- PFAS and Emerging Contaminants (\$10 billion)
- 4. Indian Water Rights (\$2.5 billion)
- 5. Indian Health Service Water and Sewer (\$1.8 billion)
- 6. Water and Sewer Tax (\$1.25 billion)
- 7. Rural Water (\$1 billion)
- 8. Western Water (\$7.1 billion)



# Clean Water & Drinking Water Appropriations Overview

Table 1. Summary of BIL Appropriations (FY 2022 through FY 2026)							
Appropriation	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	Five Year Total	
CWSRF General Supplemental	\$1,902,000,000	\$2,202,000,000	\$2,403,000,000	\$2,603,000,000	\$2,603,000,000	\$11,713,000,000	
CWSRF Emerging Contaminants	\$100,000,000	\$225,000,000	\$225,000,000	\$225,000,000	\$225,000,000	\$1,000,000,000	
DWSRF General Supplemental	\$1,902,000,000	\$2,202,000,000	\$2,403,000,000	\$2,603,000,000	\$2,603,000,000	\$11,713,000,000	
DWSRF Emerging Contaminants	\$800,000,000	\$800,000,000	\$800,000,000	\$800,000,000	\$800,000,000	\$4,000,000,000	
DWSRF Lead Service Line Replacement	\$3,000,000,000	\$3,000,000,000	\$3,000,000,000	\$3,000,000,000	\$3,000,000,000	\$15,000,000,000	

(BIL Implementation Memo, pg. 10, 03/2022)



# **BIL SRF Funding Details**

SRF Funding Program	Total Funding	State Match	Additional Subsidy	Eligible for Additional Subsidy
Clean Water SRF		10% in 2022 & 2023		Assistance recipients that meet the state's affordability criteria or project types as described in
Supplemental	\$11,713,000,000	20% in 2024 - 2026	49%	section 603(i) of the CWA.
Drinking Water SRF		10% in 2022 & 2023		
Supplemental	\$11,713,000,000	20% in 2024 - 2026	49%	Disadvantaged Communities
Clean Water Emerging Contaminants	\$1,000,000,000	0%	100%	No restriction
				25% for Disadvantaged Communities or Public Water
<b>Drinking Water Emerging</b>				Systems Serving Fewer Than
Contaminants	\$4,000,000,000	0%	100%	25,000 Persons
Drinking Water Lead	\$15,000,000,000	0%	49%	Disadvantaged Communities

(SRF Implementation Memo Fact Sheet, pg. 3, 03/2022)



### **Recommended Next Steps**

- 1. Prioritize your community's capital needs and develop a project prioritization list.
- 2. Use the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Guidebook and BIL State Revolving Fund (SRF) Implementation Memorandum to identify federal funding streams to target.
- 3. Inventory and map the lead service lines in your community to be able to take advantage of funding for service line replacement.
- 4. Establish relationships with the regional offices for Rural Development, Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), who can help direct you to resources and provide technical assistance.
- 5. Consult with the MI Water Navigator Helpdesk for up-to-date information.



#### **Additional IIJA Resources**

**BIL Implementation Law SRF Memorandum** 

https://www.epa.gov/dwsrf/bipartisan-infrastructure-law-srf-implementation-memorandum

National Webinars: March 10, 2022 @ 4 p.m. EST and March 16, 2022 @ 2 p.m. EST

• Register here: https://www.epa.gov/dwsrf/forms/bil-implementation-memorandum-webinar

**American Society of Civil Engineers IIJA Resource Center:** 

https://infrastructurereportcard.org/iijaresources/

Guidebook to BIL (Issued by The White House, start at page 230)

https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/BUILDING-A-BETTER-AMERICA\_FINAL.pdf



## **USDA Rural Development**

- 1. Eligibility:
  - Rural areas and towns 10,000 and less population
  - Tribal Lands in rural areas
- 2. Funding Assistance for design & construction projects:
  - Low-interest loans and grants
  - Loan term of 40 years
- 3. Application Planning Grant
  - Maximum \$30,000 requires 25% match

For more information please see:

Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program Factsheet (usda.gov)

Water & Waste Disposal Predevelopment Planning Grants Factsheet (usda.gov)





CHRISTINE SPITZLEY, AICP

Principal OHM Advisors



# **Goal of the MI Water Navigator Helpdesk**

# Connect Communities with Funding for Water Infrastructure

- ☐ Identify needs
- ☐ Match with potential funding sources
- ☐ Serve as a source for information and resources
- ☐ If disadvantaged, provide technical assistance with applications



# **MI WATER Navigator Helpdesk Logistics**

give advice, or connect you with resources.

□ Step One
 □ Step Two
 A technical advisor from the MI Water Navigator Helpdesk will reach out to you to discuss drinking water affordability in your community, water infrastructure needs, and your community's funding opportunities.
 □ Step Three
 □ Depending on your inquiry, the Helpdesk team will help you navigate a funding application,

☐ Step Four The Helpdesk team will assess if further assistance is needed and will follow up

accordingly.



# What to expect

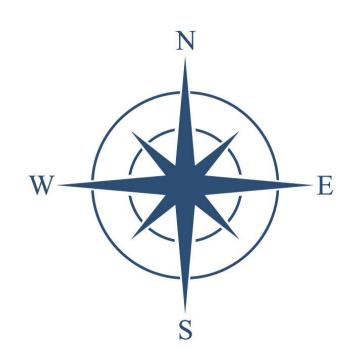
- ☐ A quick response confirming confirmation of receipt of your request
- ☐ An initial phone discussion
- ☐ A request for more information via an intake form
- ☐ A timely review of the information provided in your intake form
- ☐ A scheduled discussion with your community's team and our Helpdesk experts to further understand your needs and share potential funding options



# **Examples of Information you will need to share**

- Water Reliability Studies
- Water Capital Improvement Plans
- Water Asset Management Plans
- ☐ Lead Service Line Inventory
- ☐ EGLE Sanitary Surveys
- Water System Maps or Water GIS
- ☐ Operator Knowledge of System Condition and Known Problems





# MI WATER NAVIGATOR WATER INFRASTRUCTURE HELPDESK

MI Water Navigator - Michigan Municipal League Foundation (mmlfoundation.org)





KATY HANSEN

**Senior Water Advisor** 

**Environmental Policy Innovation Center** 



# Clean Water State Revolving Fund Projects



# Partial list of eligible projects

- Construction of publicly owned treatment works
- Nonpoint source
- National estuary program projects
- Decentralized wastewater treatment systems
- Stormwater
- Water conservation, efficiency, and reuse

- Watershed pilot projects
- Energy efficiency
- Water reuse
- Security measures at publicly owned treatment works
- Technical assistance



# Partial list of eligible applicants

- Any municipality, intermunicipal, interstate, or State agency for
  - construction of publicly owned treatment works
  - for water conservation projects that reduce the demand for POTW capacity
- Any municipality or municipal entity for
  - stormwater BMPs in municipal separate storm sewers
  - efforts of municipalities and property owners to develop or implement watershed partnerships to address nonpoint sources of pollution
- Any borrower for
  - water conservation projects that implement
    - a Section 319 NPS management program
    - a Section 320 CCMP
    - recapture stormwater or subsurface drainage
  - projects to reuse or recycle wastewater, stormwater, or subsurface drainage water.



# Sanitary and combined sewer overflows



#### Lansing Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Elimination

- City of Lansing & Lansing Board of Water and Light
- Goals:
  - Prevent sewage from entering the Red Cedar River and Grand River
  - Reduce frequency of sewer backups
- Project
  - Constructed approx. 14,605 linear feet of sanitary sewer
  - Removed 953 million gallons of sewage overflow from an area of 5,000 acres



#### **Green stormwater and natural infrastructure**

#### Camden SMART Initiative

- Goal: Address stormwater and combined sewer overflows
- Project:
  - Constructed 17 rain gardens
  - Daylighting of a stream
  - Converted an abandoned factory into 5.5 acre riverfront park for EJ community
    - Depayed impervious surfaces, removed contaminated soils
- Outcome: Eliminated contaminated run off into Delaware river, water quality & quality of life benefits

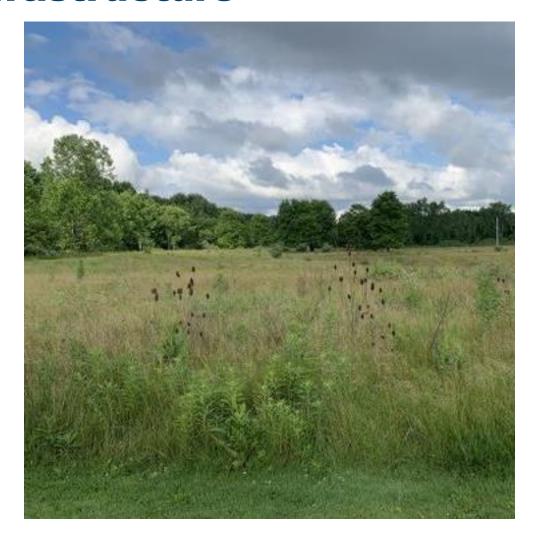




#### **Green stormwater and natural infrastructure**

#### Protection of Medina Marsh

- Partners: Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Medina County Park District
- Project: Acquired Medina Marsh
- Outcome: Provides protection for
  - ~6,000 linear feet of floodplain and forested buffer along the Rocky River & tributaries
  - 32 acres of quality wetlands and habitats





# Replacing or eliminating failing septic systems





- Ohio's Home Sewage Treatment System Program
- Partners: CWSRF program, local government agencies, and local health district
- Goal: improve septic systems for low-income homeowners (earnings <200% of federal poverty level)</li>
- Project: Cost-share assistance program for rehabilitation or replacement of failing onsite systems
- Terms:
  - 75% cost of improvement forgiven at project completion
  - Homeowner responsible for 25%



## **Reducing Operations & Maintenance costs**

#### **Camden County**

- Goal: address chronic pollutant discharge violations
- Project: Primary tank optimization
- Outcomes:
  - Improved effluent quality
  - Decreased energy costs (saved \$700,000 per year)
  - Decreased maintenance costs (saved \$300,000 per year)





# Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Projects



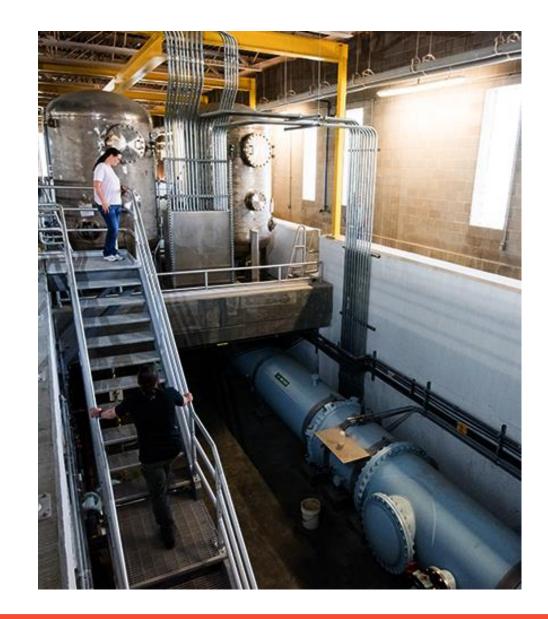
# **Asset Management**

#### Process:

- Current State of the Assets
- Level of Service
- Asset Risk
- Life Cycle Costs
- Long Term Funding

#### Benefits:

- Avoid catastrophic failure
- Reduce costs
- Reduce loss of water
- Reduce revenue losses



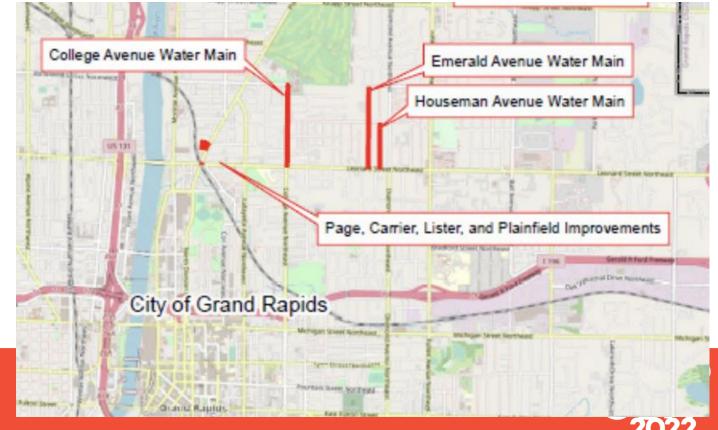


### **Lead Service Line Inventories & Replacement**



#### **Grand Rapids**

 Goal: Reduce public health hazard. Michigan Lead and Copper rule requires lead service lines to be replaced.



# PFAS and other drinking water contaminants

# Oakland Village, Rhode Island Area Water System Improvements

- Goal: remove high levels of PFAs detected in wells
- Project: DWSRF set-asides used for engineering study to determine best course of action
- Outcome: Harrisville Fire District slated to expand to provide drinking water

