



# Secure Funding for Water and Broadband Projects



Record investments in water and broadband infrastructure available through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) are set to expire at the end of this fiscal year. These investments in water infrastructure have been successful, but without continued advance appropriations available through the IIJA, these programs could face a shortfall of billions of dollars over the next several years. Additionally, while projects funded by the IIJA's Broadband Equity Access Deployment (BEAD) program are beginning to break ground, their rollout remains slow and held up in red tape. Congress must continue to support these critical infrastructure programs.

- **Fully Fund the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Fund Programs.** A primary source of federal funding for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure is the Safe Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs. These programs operate like a bank by providing low interest loans to eligible recipients for water infrastructure projects. As FY2027 appropriations and the final year of IIJA supplemental funding approach, Congress should support these programs to provide long-term certainty for public works projects. Congress should also support provisions included in the Senate version of the Water Resources Development Act of 2026 (WRDA 2026) that would reauthorize and provide additional funding for both SRF programs through FY2030.
- **Expand Funding for Broadband Programs in Rural Regions.** Contractors are engaged in rural broadband projects funded by the United States Department of Agriculture's ReConnect program. This program provides loans and grants to expand broadband construction in underserved rural regions nationwide. Congress should continue funding the program to expand access to reliable, high-speed internet in rural America.
- **Expedite and Improve the Deployment of Broadband Projects.** The BEAD program provided over \$42 billion for broadband expansion in rural and underserved areas. While some construction work has begun on BEAD projects, many others across the country still face lengthy federal approval processes. Additionally, contractors have noted that changing program policies have created implementation challenges for state agencies. Congress should continue its oversight to ensure that BEAD funding results in timely construction and completion of broadband infrastructure projects.

## ACTION NEEDED

1. Fully fund the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds and support inclusion of Senate WRDA 2026 provisions that reauthorize SRF funding through FY2030;
2. Support funding for additional broadband programs, such as the ReConnect Program; and
3. Continue oversight into the deployment of the BEAD program and ensure broadband projects are not caught up in red tape.