

ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

The Environmental Policy Innovation Center (EPIC) is focused on building policies that deliver spectacular improvement in the speed and scale of environmental progress - at a pace that matches the urgency of the problems we face. A nonprofit based in Washington, DC and founded in 2017, EPIC has a staff of engineers, municipal and policy experts, community advocates, and data scientists. Our work in partnership with municipalities, communities, and government stakeholders focuses on solving problems, cutting down on red tape, and advancing policy change. Through a combination of data and research, innovation and policy reform, and technical assistance and public engagement, we are working to change the odds for communities across the country who need access to safe, reliable drinking water.

FUNDING NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

The goal of the Funding Navigator Program is to ensure more communities benefit from government investments in safe and climate-resilient drinking water, lead service line replacement, wastewater treatment, and stormwater management. The program connects to overburdened communities and provides funding and technical assistance to local governments and water utilities to help them access public funds for water infrastructure. A diverse team of engineers and water professionals from the Funding Navigator team and led by a Funding Navigator Manager works with the water utility to conduct an analysis of local conditions, create a strategy to access financing and professional services and conduct community outreach, and help implement the strategy.

The Funding Navigator Program is rooted in deep partnerships at the national, regional, and local level, and is funded through grants from philanthropic donors and supported by the US Environmental Protection Agency through its Environmental Finance Centers (EFCs). Our Funding Navigator team works with community-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, and councils of government to identify water utilities in need of assistance.

The Funding Navigator

Public water infrastructure funding for communities in need



PROJECT PROCESS

A Funding Navigator Manager is the primary point of contact for initiating a project and can only work through eligible borrowers such as a water, wastewater, stormwater utility, or service provider. A public agency such as a utility, municipality, or other nonprofit service provider is the primary recipient of Funding Navigator assistance. Residents and community groups can request that the Funding Navigator Program reach out to their local municipality. A Funding Navigator Manager works through the following process once the referral is made and contact is established with the water utility:



The Funding Navigator Program assists water utilities by hiring technical experts, facilitating community engagement, and coordinating with state agencies, regulators, and financing authorities. The program also assists in creating funding applications on behalf of eligible borrowers. The program will not replace an engineering, environmental, or contracting firm for a municipality or utility, but may manage, fund, and complement these professional services.

To apply for assistance or learn more, visit:
policyinnovation.org/funding-navigator